

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 2, 2022
1:00 pm

Attendance

Kevin J. Mullin, Chair *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Susan J. Barrett, JD, Executive Director *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Michael Barber, General Counsel *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Robin Lunge, JD, MHCDS *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Jessica Holmes, PhD *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Tom Pelham *(via Microsoft Teams)*
Thom Walsh, PhD, MS, MSPT *(via Microsoft Teams)*

Executive Director's Report

Chair Kevin Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Susan Barrett reviewed [the open special comment period on the GMCB website](#). Susan Barrett announced that the [March 2022 Board Meeting Schedule](#) was posted on the GMCB website.

Minutes

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from February 16, 2022.

Essential Health Benefits (EHB) Benchmark Plan Update – Potential Vote

The Board Members had a brief discussion about the EHB Benchmark Plan Update, including points about diabetes prevention and other self-management programs, comparing the benefits of other states, dental benefits and exploring the ways to make them available to more Vermonters.

Board Member Lunge moved to approve the Department of Vermont Health Access' (DVHA) February 16, 2022 recommendation for plan year 2024 to create a new EHB Benchmark plan, including the existing benefits within the Blue Cross Blue Shield Consumer-Directed Health Plan (CDHP) - Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Plan and add hearing aid coverage for up to one hearing aid per year every three years and an annual hearing exam. Board Member Walsh seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Public Comment

Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate
Michael Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

Certificate of Need (CON) Threshold Discussion

Michael Barber, General Counsel, GMCB

Michael Barber presented the jurisdictional triggers for CON review, the CON dollar thresholds, conceptual CON dollar thresholds and the exclusions. Michael Barber provided a reminder of the Board's authority to adjust the dollar thresholds, the history of adjustment authority, how the cumulative Consumer Price Index (CPI) is calculated, and the rate of inflation. Michael Barber presented the CONs issued in years 2018 through 2021 and explained the CON review process in Vermont. Michael Barber compared the CON thresholds with the thresholds of surrounding states. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

The Board members asked questions about inflationary limitations and inflationary measure, the last revision dates to the dollar thresholds, how far back the Board's authority goes, the effect on the timing of the CON process, and rounding numbers down versus using the actual computed numbers. The Board members suggested opening a special public comment period to gather input from stakeholders, [which can be found here on the GMCB website.](#)

Public Comment

Dale Hackett, Health Care and Disability Rights Advocate

Old Business

None

New Business

Chair Mullin discussed the effects of the healthcare workforce shortage and how the burden gets put on the commercial ratepayers, when ultimately all payers should have to come to the table as this must be dealt with. The Board Members offered suggestions, such as meeting with legislators about one-time funding or federal resources and involving DVHA. Chair Mullin hopes to open a public dialogue on this subject and to come up with a solution or a common goal as a Board.

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 2:15 pm.