

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 17, 2022
8:00 am

Attendance

Kevin J. Mullin, Chair (*via Microsoft Teams*)
Susan J. Barrett, JD, Executive Director (*Absent*)
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*)

Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) Mid-Year Budget Adjustment Hearing

Claudio Fort, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), RRMC
Judi Fox, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), RRMC
Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB
Russ McCracken, Staff Attorney, GMCB

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 am. The court reporter swore in the witnesses from RRMC, Claudio Fort, CEO and Judi Fox, CFO. Judi Fox presented the 2022 forecast for RRMC, where they are projecting a loss of 7.5 million dollars. Judi Fox explained the major drivers in terms of the deficit which included increased staffing costs, the impact of travelers, and inflationary pressures. Judi Fox reviewed the retention and recruitment challenges, which is the most significant operational challenge, and shared some recruitment strategies.

Judi Fox presented the revenue, expense and operating margin trends based on first quarter results. Judi Fox reviewed the balance sheet strength and explained the days of cash on hand along with the investment return. Judi Fox concluded with a summary of the budget adjustment request, targeted rates and RRMC's historical rate of increase. [The RRMC presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

The Board Members asked questions about spending on advertising, use of reserves, total margin projections, the limiting of clinical services in the event that the increase is not approved, rate increases, polling staff for ideas, and the payer mix details.

Russ McCracken reviewed the GMCB rule 3.000 regarding budget performance review and adjustment. Patrick Rooney presented the reason for the RRMC budget modification request and an overview of the financial updates. Patrick Rooney presented the request from RRMC which would be a 9.0% change in rate, and the financial impact of that change. Patrick Rooney provided history on the NPR/FPP, operating margins, cash on hand and age of plant from 2017-present. Patrick Rooney stated the GMCB staff recommendation is to approve the request and provided suggested motion language. [The GMCB staff presentation can be seen here on the](#)

[GMCB website](#). RRMC will reappear in front of the Board for a potential vote on the budget adjustment on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

Public Comment

Sara Teachout, Director, Government and Media Relations, BCBSVT

Joe Kraus, Chair, RRMC Board of Directors

Sam Peisch, Health Policy Analyst, Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 10:05 am.