

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 23, 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 Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm and announced the order of agenda items for the Board meeting had changed and the Clover Health Partners Budget presentation would be first. Susan Barrett reviewed [the open special comment periods on the GMCB website](#). Susan Barrett announced the hearing for the University of Vermont Medical Center's request for a mid-year budget adjustment was added to the agenda on Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

Minutes

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from March 16, 2022 and March 17, 2022.

Clover Health Partners (CHP) Budget – Potential Vote

Marisa Melamed, Associate Director of Health Systems Policy, GMCB
Russ McCracken, Staff Attorney, GMCB

Marisa Melamed announced two public comments about the CHP budget were received since the [March 16, 2022 presentation](#) and reviewed the themes from those comments. Marisa Melamed presented a review of the staff presentation with changes made from suggestions by Board Members. Marisa Melamed presented the GMCB final staff recommendation which was to approve the CHP FY22 Budget with conditions and reviewed next steps for after the vote. [The presentation and recommendations can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

The Board Members asked questions about the audit and quality reporting. Board Member Lunge moved to approve the Clover Health Partners FY22 budget as submitted, subject to the conditions outlined by GMCB staff during the presentation. Board Member Walsh seconded the motion. The Board voted (4-1) by roll call to approve the motion, with Board Member Pelham voting no.

Public Comment

Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate

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

Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) Mid-Year Budget Adjustment Request – Potential Vote

Claudio Fort, Chief Executive Officer, RRMC

Judi Fox, Chief Financial Officer, RRMC

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB

The court reporter began by swearing in the witnesses. Patrick Rooney presented an overview of public comment received on the budget request. Patrick Rooney presented the changes to the presentation from the Board Meeting on March 16, 2022, which included updates about RRMC's total margin, the current margin projection, the FY22 rate impact, and how RRMC plans to implement their requested increase on a service level. Patrick Rooney reviewed the reason for the budget modification request and the impact from a 9% change in rate. [The GMCB staff presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

The Board Members asked questions and discussed the confidence in current projections, if RRMC has reached out to the carriers, if there is any indication of them granting their request for a rate increase, and the possibility of approving an increase lower than the requested 9%. The Board Members also asked questions about the non-operating revenue, the upcoming FY2023 budget process, the debt service ratio, and reducing traveler costs.

The Board Members decided they did not have enough information to make a decision and would like to gather information from the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) and the Agency of Human Services (AHS) before any motion would be made. RRMC will return for a potential vote at a later Board Meeting.

Public Comment

Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate

FY2023 Hospital Budget Guidance – Potential Vote

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB

Russ McCracken, Staff Attorney, GMCB

Patrick Rooney reviewed the public comment received on the FY23 hospital budget guidance process and reviewed the hospital budget guidance discussion topics and changes. Patrick Rooney presented the changes made to the hospital budget guidance document with the Board Members' feedback from the [presentation on March 16, 2022](#), which included, but not limited to, building out the language around sustainability planning, adding productivity statistics, adding language on requesting more detail on subsidiary, amount of need and financial impact. Russ

McCracken presented a brief review on the [GMCB Policy on Budget Amendments and Adjustments](#). Patrick Rooney presented the staff recommendations. [The GMCB staff presentation and hospital budget guidance documents can be seen here on the GMCB website](#).

The Board Members asked questions and made suggestions about the findings of [H.654](#), the reimbursement analysis, the NPR target, the possibility of a two-year target instead of a one-year, occupancy rates per staff beds and per licensed beds, and the wait times and workforce challenges. The potential vote on hospital budget guidance is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

Public Comment

Michael Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid
Jeffrey Tieman, President and CEO, VAHHS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 4:00 pm.