

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 30, 2022
8:30 am

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 8:30 am. Susan Barrett reviewed [the open special comment periods on the GMCB website](#). Susan Barrett announced the request for more information about potential federal funds from the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) and the Agency of Human Services (AHS) in the form of a letter had not been received as of the start of this meeting.

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

Patrick Rooney reviewed the Board's legal authority, the public comments received to date and the themes of those comments. Patrick Rooney presented the changes to the [presentation from March 23, 2022](#) which included added analyses of inflation factors and added financial comparison analysis of RRMC vs. State peer group and fitch peer groups. Patrick Rooney reviewed the RRMC request for budget modification, the Net Patient Revenue (NPR), days cash on hand and the change in charge. [The updated GMCB presentation can be seen here](#). The court reporter swore in the witnesses to begin questioning.

The Board Members discussed traveler staff compensation, the bond covenant, the impacts that a rate increase will have on premiums and ratepayers and the timing of the rate increase.

Board Member Lunge moved to deny the request from Rutland Regional Medical Center for a rate increase of 9%. 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

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

FY2023 Hospital Budget Guidance – Potential Vote

Patrick Rooney, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB

Patrick Rooney reviewed the public comment received on the FY23 hospital budget guidance process and presented the changes made to the hospital budget guidance document with the Board Members' feedback from the [presentation on March 23, 2022](#). Some of the changes included outlining steps to resolve wait times, adding provider salaries and salaries expense to NPR, and altering language to reflect a consensus between the GMCB and the HCA on Medicare reimbursement ratios. Patrick Rooney presented the four options relating to NPR growth, the updates staff recommendations and suggestion motion language. [The GMCB staff presentation and hospital budget guidance documents can be seen here on the GMCB website](#).

The Board Members discussed the options relating to NPR growth and their preferences and the importance of leaving the wait times information in the guidance.

Board Member Lunge made a motion to edit the language in the Hospital Budget Guidance and Reporting Requirements, Section D: Wait Times. It would start with the following language: The Board staff and up to two board members will establish a working group to include hospitals, the Vermont Association of Hospitals & Health Systems (VAHHS), the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR), the office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA), and other interested parties, to determine by May 2, 2022, appropriate wait time metrics that hospitals shall submit as part of the FY23 hospital budget process. If the workgroup is unable to determine appropriate metrics, the hospitals shall report the following:

For each hospital owned practice (for each primary care and specialty care), as well as, the top five most frequent imaging procedures. Specifically, please report for each practice and imaging procedure:

- i. Referral lag, the percentage of appointments scheduled within 2 days of referral.
- ii. Visit lag, the percentage of new patients seen within 2 weeks, 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months of their scheduling date.

In each case hospitals shall outline steps to resolve wait times. Board Member Holmes seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Board Member Lunge moved that the Board adopt option four on slide nine that establishes an NPR/FPP growth of no more than an aggregated 8.6% for FY23 and FY24. Board Member Pelham seconded the motion. The Board voted (3-2) by roll call to approve the motion with Board Member Holmes and Chair Mullin voting no.

Board Member Lunge moved that for the FY23 hospital budget review process, the GMCB approves the hospital budget guidance as presented by Board staff and amended during this

meeting, to be effective March 31, 2022. Board Member Walsh seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Public Comment

Jeffrey Tieman, President and CEO, VAHHS

Michael Del Trecco, Sr. Vice President of Finance & Operations, VAHHS

Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst

Dr. Dean French, CEO, Northwestern Medical Center

Marc Stanislas, Vice President of Finance, University of Vermont Health Network

Adjourn

Chair Mullin adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:10 am.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 30, 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*)

University of Vermont Health Network (UVMHN) Mid- Year Budget Adjustment Request Hearing

Rick Vincent, CFO, UVMHN
Al Gobeille, Executive Vice President for Operations (EVP), UVMHN

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. The court reporter swore in the witnesses. Al Gobeille presented the UVMHN COVID-19 pandemic response, and the impact on finances which include the high cost of travelers, the average length of stay increasing, inflation and that the margin projection for FY22 is negative because of these. Rick Vincent presented the University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMHC) and Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC) cost inflation and why the requested rate increase of 10% each is required. Rick Vincent presented the projection for UVMHC and CVMC, and how the cost inflation is currently being covered. Rick Vincent reviewed the negotiations with the payers and what steps have been taken and reviewed what the FY2023 budget submission will look like. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

The GMCB Staff and Board Members asked questions about inflation and ratepayers, if there will be significant data to aid with the FY23 budget process, the UVMHN strategic plan, the days cash on hand and bond covenants, expense growth, and how costs are being adjusted across hospitals in the network. The potential vote on the UVMHN mid-year budget adjustment will be held at a Board Meeting in April.

Public Comment

Sam Peisch, Health Policy Analyst, Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid
Rebecca Copans, Government and Media Relations Liaison, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont
Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst
Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate

Certificate of Need (CON) Dollar Thresholds Discussion Continued

Michael Barber, General Counsel, GMCB

Michael Barber presented a reminder on the statute and authority to adjust CON dollar thresholds, the jurisdictional triggers with the dollar thresholds, and the three dollar thresholds relating to the conceptual CON. Michael Barber reviewed a chart with the last time that each of the dollar thresholds was adjusted and reviewed the one public comment received on this topic. Michael Barber presented the staff recommendation which was to increase each of the dollar thresholds by 12.18%. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

The Board Members briefly discussed their support of the adjustment and made suggestions about reviewing the adjustments on an annual basis. Board Member Lunge moved to approve an increase of each of the CON dollar thresholds in 18 V.S.A. § 9434(a)-(c) by 12.18%. Board Member Walsh seconded the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Executive Director Susan Barrett reported that as of 3:30 pm we still had not received written comments from DVHA or AHS.

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from March 23, 2022.

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:35 pm.