

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 31, 2022  
8:30 am

**Attendance**

Jessica Holmes, PhD, Interim 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*)  
Tom Pelham (*via Microsoft Teams*)  
Thom Walsh, PhD, MS, MSPT (*via Microsoft Teams*)

**Executive Director's Report**

Chair Holmes called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 am. Susan Barrett announced the Health Insurance Premium Tax Credits, which can help save money on health insurance premiums if they are purchased through Vermont Health Connect. More information on these subsidies can be found [here on the GMCB website](#).

**Minutes**

The Board voted (4-0) to approve the minutes from August 3, 2022.

**Inflation Analysis Results**

Jeffrey Carr, President & Senior Economist, EPR Economics  
Thomas Kavet, State Economist for the VT Legislature  
Dr. Nicolas Rockler, Founding Partner & CEO, KRA  
Bob Chase, Senior Economist, EPR  
Nathan Masse, Economic Research Assistant, EPR

Jeffrey Carr and Thomas Kavet presented a high-level summary and overview of the Initial Economic Analysis and Summary Consensus Recommendation Associated with GMCB Budgetary Review Process. They reviewed charts for the selected health care expenditure and economic indicators, levels and annual percent change by calendar years, and for average Medicare and Medicaid claims. [The full report can be seen here on the GMCB website](#).

**Public Comment**

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

## **FY23 Hospital Budget Deliberations**

Sarah Lindberg, Director of Health Systems Finances, GMCB  
Flora Pagan, Health Systems Finance Principal Analyst, GMCB  
Matthew Sutter, Health Systems Finance Principal Analyst, GMCB  
Russ McCracken, Staff Attorney, GMCB

Sarah Lindberg reviewed the hospital budget decision schedule, presented a summary of public comments received and reviewed the GMCB hospital sustainability and other long term hospital budget oversight and value-based care goals. Sarah Lindberg reviewed the system wide factors, staff decision tree, which helps decide whether a budget should be approved as submitted or needs further review and presented the assumption tests and a summary of each. Sarah Lindberg presented the staff recommendations for the approval of budgets. [The presentation can be seen here on the GMCB website.](#)

Chair Holmes recessed the meeting until 12:30pm.

Board Member Lunge moved to approve Southwestern Vermont Medical Center's budget as submitted, with a 6.4% increase from FY2022 to FY2023 budgeted NPR/FPP, a 9.5% increase to overall charges, and subject to the standard budget conditions as presented to the Board. Board Member Pelham seconded the motion. The Board voted (4-0) to approve the motion.

Board Member Lunge moved to approve Northwestern Medical Center's budget as submitted, with a 4.5% increase from FY2022 to FY2023 budgeted NPR/FPP, a 9.0% increase to overall charges, and subject to the standard budget conditions as presented to the Board. Board Member Walsh seconded the motion. The Board voted (4-0) to approve the motion.

Board Member Lunge moved to approve Copley Hospital's budget as submitted, with a 12.1% increase from FY2022 to FY2023 budgeted NPR/FPP, a 12.0% increase to overall charges, and subject to the standard budget conditions as presented to the Board. Board Member Walsh seconded the motion. The Board voted (4-0) to approve the motion.

Board Member Lunge moved to approve Gifford Medical Center's budget as submitted, with a 7.0% increase from FY2022 to FY2023 budgeted NPR/FPP, a 3.7% increase to overall charges, and subject to the standard budget conditions as presented to the Board. Board Member Pelham seconded the motion. The Board voted (4-0) to approve the motion.

Board Member Lunge moved to approve Mount Ascutney Hospital & Health Center's budget as submitted, with a 10.4% increase from FY2022 to FY2023 budgeted NPR/FPP, a 4.7% increase to overall charges, and subject to the standard budget conditions as presented to the Board. Board Member Walsh seconded the motion. The Board voted (4-0) to approve the motion.

Chair Holmes explained that we would adjourn for the day to give Hospital Finance staff time to prepare and gather information, and would begin deliberations again on Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 at 8:30am.

### **Public Comment**

Hamilton Davis, Journalist and Policy Analyst

Stephen Majetich, Chief Financial Officer, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center

Joe Woodin, Chief Executive Officer, Copley Hospital

Daniel Bennett, Chief Executive Officer, Gifford Medical Center

### **Adjourn**

The Board voted (4-0) to adjourn at approximately 1:10 pm.