

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)  
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 24, 2022  
10:00 AM

**Attendance**

Owen Foster, Board Chair *(via Microsoft Teams)*  
Susan J. Barrett, JD, Executive Director *(via Microsoft Teams)*  
Michael Barber, General Counsel *(via Microsoft Teams)*  
Jessica Holmes, PhD *(Absent)*  
Robin Lunge, JD, MHCDS *(via Microsoft Teams)*  
David Murman, MD *(via Microsoft Teams)*  
Thom Walsh, PhD, MS, MSPT *(via Microsoft Teams)*

**Executive Director's Report**

Chair Foster called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am. There was no Executive Director's report.

**Minutes**

The Board voted (4-0) to approve the minutes from October 12, 2022.

**Gather Health ACO Hearing**

Marisa Melamed, Associate Director of Health Systems Policy, GMCB  
Julia Boles, Senior Health Policy Analyst, GMCB  
Russ McCracken, Staff Attorney, GMCB  
Mark Briesacher, MD, ACO Executive Director, Gather Health  
Mark Atalla, PharmD, MBA, ACO Quality Assurance and Compliance Director, Gather Health

Marisa Melamed, Julia Boles, and Russ McCracken started the hearing with a brief introduction. They provided an overview of the budget review process for a Medicare only accountable care organization (ACO), noting certification is not required. Staff recommended factors for the Board to consider from 18 V.S.A. § 9382, reviewed the timeline of the review and public comment period, and outlined the agenda for today's meeting. More information can be found [here](#). Russ McCracken swore in the witnesses Mark Briesacher and Mark Atalla and a court reporter was present for the hearing.

Mark Briesacher and Mark Atalla presented an overview of Gather Health's Medicare Shared Savings Program, background on Gather's ACO Care Model, and their budget and financial model. The Shared Savings Program is a voluntary program that encourages groups of doctors, hospitals, and other providers to come together as an ACO to provide coordinated, high-quality care to their Medicare beneficiaries. They outlined the Medicare Shared Savings Program statutes

and federal regulations, including beneficiary protections, compliance, payment rule waivers, quality performance standards and financial risk.

Gather Health's ACO Care Model aims to address beneficiaries' chronic diseases through support with evidence-based lifestyle interventions, access to technology, and feedback loops with care provided by Gather's partners. Gather Health also focuses on transitions of care, addressing the needs for beneficiaries who are seriously ill or high-needs, and ensuring access to palliative care. Mark Briesacher and Mark Atalla also reviewed Gather's budget and financial model. More information can be found [here](#).

Board members asked for more information on the Care Model, the in-kind incentives, tracking for depression screenings, revenue sources, lifestyle medicine, and care coordination and appropriate utilization. The Board also asked questions regarding concerns for equity and inclusion in the group activities and bias training. The Board then moved to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential matters with the related GMCB staff, witnesses, and Health Care Advocate.

### **Public Comment**

Mike Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate, Office of the Health Care Advocate  
Sam Peisch, Health Policy Analyst, Office of the Health Care Advocate

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Adjourn**

The Board voted (4-0) to adjourn at approximately 12:30 pm.