

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 26, 2022
1:00 PM

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 *(via Microsoft Teams)*
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 1:00 pm. Susan Barrett announced the open special public comment periods related to OneCare Vermont's FY23 budget and certification and Gather Health's FY23 budget. The Board is also accepting public comments on the potential future All-Payer Model Agreement. More information on the public comment periods can be found [here](#). Susan reminded the public about the expanded Health Insurance Premium Tax Credits, which can help Vermonters save money on health insurance premiums if they purchase a plan through Vermont Health Connect. More information on these subsidies can be found [here](#) on the GMCB website.

Panel Discussion: The Primary Care Landscape in Vermont

Susan Ridzon, MS, Executive Director & Operations Manager, HealthFirst
Rick Dooley, PA-C, Clinical Network Director, HealthFirst
Dr. Toby Sadkin, MD, Primary Care Health Partners
Jon Asselin, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Fiscal Officer, Primary Care Health Partners
Dr. Deanne Haag, MD, Pediatrician, Primary Care Health Partners
Mary Kate Mohlman, VT Director of Public Policy, Bi-State Primary Care
Dr. Melissa Volansky, MD, Physician & Chief Medical Officer, Lamoille Health Partners
Stuart G. May, President & Chief Executive Officer, Lamoille Health Partners
Michelle Wade, MSN/Ed, APRN, Immediate Past President Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association
Eileen Murphy, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, Family Nurse Practitioner
Jessa Barnard, Executive Director, Vermont Medical Society

Susan Barrett explained the Board convened this panel discussion to hear from providers and organizations about Vermont's primary care landscape. Christina McLaughlin provided a brief overview of the Board's Primary Care Advisory Group (PCAG) and what the group has advised the Board on in recent years. Christina also noted the PCAG is looking to expand its membership beyond nurse practitioners and doctors, and providers may reach out if anyone is interested in joining the group. Susan Barrett then turned it over to the panelists to provide background on who they are and their work.

Susan Ridzon presented an overview of HealthFirst, Dr. Toby Sadkin provided background on Primary Care Health Partners, Mary Kate Mohlman presented an overview of Bi-State Primary Care, Stuart G. May discussed Lamoille Health Partners, Eileen Murphy shared a patient's story highlighting access and the importance of primary care, and Jessa Barnard provided an overview of the Vermont Medical Society. Materials related to the panelists' introductions can be found [here](#) under the October 26, 2022 Board meeting.

Susan Barrett asked the panelists questions regarding health care workforce, telehealth & audio-only, and value-based care and payments. Panelists shared the challenges and current/potential solutions. Regarding health care workforce, panelists discussed hiring in rural areas is more difficult, especially given the lack of housing. Many of the panelists shared other incentives to recruit providers besides increasing pay, like improving the call schedule and having a team-based approach to care. Jessa Barnard shared the AHEC Office of Primary Care is expected to receive more funds that anticipated for loan repayment and more information will be shared in the next month or two.

Regarding telehealth & audio-only, panelists discussed how difficult it is to keep up with the codes and the changing information around reimbursement. Although there was a big expansion of reimbursement at the beginning of the pandemic, now there is a scaling back of reimbursement, mainly for audio-only. The panelists explained the importance of providing mental health treatment via telehealth and noted telehealth isn't less work than an in-person office visit and should be reimbursed appropriately. Regarding value-based care and payments, the panelists talked about OneCare Vermont's Comprehensive Payment Reform (CPR) program and care coordination efforts, noting there's a need for additional funds and personalization with fee-for-service and value-based payments. Rick Dooley noted OneCare has a CPR group working on how to improve the CPR program.

Board members asked questions about wait times and access issues, what Vermont loses when we lose a primary care provider in the state, and how the Board may address the issues brought up during the panel. The Board also pointed out many primary care providers are insured through the individual and small group plans and are burdened by rate increases.

Public Comment

Sam Peisch, Health Policy Analyst, Office of the Health Care Advocate
Walter Carpenter, Health Care Advocate

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:45 pm.