

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 2, 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 1:15 pm due to a technical issue. Susan Barrett reminded the public of the open special public comment periods related to OneCare Vermont's FY23 budget and certification and Gather Health's FY23 budget, and the potential future All-Payer Model (APM) Agreement. There are also two new public comment periods open, one relating to the 5-year comprehensive 2023-2027 Vermont Health Information Exchange (VHIE) Strategic Plan and Connectivity Criteria for 2023 and another related to Vermont's APM Agreement extension. More information on the public comment periods can be found [here](#). Information on the APM Agreement extension and VHIE Strategic Plan and Connectivity Criteria will be presented on November 16, 2022. Susan also 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 can be found [here](#) on the premium tax credits. Also, open enrollment for the individual & small group plans for 2023 started November 1, 2022. More information on open enrollment can be found [here](#).

Minutes

The Board voted (4-0) to approve the minutes from October 24, 2022, and (5-0) October 26, 2022. Member Holmes abstained from voting on the October 24, 2022, minutes since she was not present at that meeting.

Gather Health ACO Staff Presentation

Marisa Melamed, Associate Director of Health Systems Policy, GMCB
Julia Boles, Senior Health Policy Analyst, GMCB

Marisa Melamed reviewed today's agenda and the Board's authority for reviewing Medicare-only ACOs since Gather Health is a Medicare-only ACO. In deciding whether to approve or modify the proposed budget on an ACO with fewer than 10,000 attributed lives in Vermont, the Board takes into consideration any benchmarks established under section 5.402 of this Rule,

criteria listed in 18 V.S.A. § 9382(b)(1) that the Board deems appropriate to the ACO's size and scope, the elements of the ACO's payer-specific program and any applicable requirements of 18 V.S.A. § 9551 or the Vermont All-Payer ACO Model Agreement, and any other issues at the discretion of the Board. Staff recommended factors for the Board to consider on slides 6 and 7 and Marisa explained after a vote, the Board will issue a written Budget Order.

Julia Boles reviewed the timeline and public comment period. The potential vote is scheduled for November 16, 2022. Julia also provided a high-level overview of Gather Health ACO and the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) and explained how the MSSP Model impacts Medicare beneficiaries' costs and care. Julia and Marisa walked through a review of each section of Gather Health's budget submission, including ACO information, provider network, payer program, the flow of the MSSP general funds, risk model, budget & finances, model of care, and Vermont's APM Agreement scale target ACO initiative.

In summary, staff shared 5 recommendations to the Board regarding Gather Health's budget, including that Gather Health provides 1) its shared savings/losses segmented for Vermont, 2) an updated version of their Vermont financial summary with actuals with breakouts for in-kind incentive spending, 3) its quality reporting, segmented for Vermont if possible, with appropriate restrictions to protect patient confidentiality, 4) a copy of the terms & conditions given beneficiaries upon signing up for Gather Health Platform, as well as other marketing or informational materials, and 5) a bi-annual update about how Gather Health's care model is working in Vermont, including the number of Vermont attributed patients registered to the Gather Health Platform and any unique challenges. More information can be found in the related presentation [here](#).

Board Members were concerned with Gather's financial model. They felt it would be helpful to see Gather Health's corporate organizational chart to see if there are any related entities, how they fit in a corporate structure, and learn more about their funds and potential data sharing. For recommendation 4, the Board wondered if they could have a certification signed by executives indicating whether there's a change in data use by third parties or selling of data. Board Members also wondered what the frequency would be for Gather to update their financial summary with actuals relating to recommendation 2 and asked to add a measure of usage/engagement and total number of visits & unique visitors to the Gather Health Platform to recommendation 5. The Board was also curious about the curated interactions through the template and will work with staff to add to recommendation 5.

Public Comment

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

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 2:00 pm.

Unapproved