

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD (GMCB)
GMCB Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 16, 2022
9:30 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 *(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 9:30 am. Susan Barrett reminded the public of the open special public comment periods related to OneCare Vermont's FY23 budget and certification, Gather Health's FY23 budget, the potential future All-Payer Model (APM) Agreement, the 5-year comprehensive 2023-2027 Vermont Health Information Exchange (VHIE) Strategic Plan and Connectivity Criteria for 2023, and 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 (5-0) to approve the minutes from November 9, 2022.

Sarah Kinsler presented the terms of the short-term extension All-Payer Model (APM) Agreement the Vermont signatories negotiated with their federal partners at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). At this time, the extension has been negotiated but not signed; the Board will consider the contents and consider public comments before voting. Vermont previously submitted a request to CMMI to extend the APM Agreement for one year to allow for more time to develop a proposal for a subsequent Agreement. CMMI responded in April 2022 with an offer of a 1-year extension plus an additional year at the State's option to provide a bridge to a new federal-state model likely to start in 2025. Sarah walked through the summary of the amended and restated Vermont APM Agreement, explaining that if Vermont extends the APM Agreement for 1-year, CMMI is required to offer Vermont an additional extension year. Sarah outlined the major themes and amendments to the extension and walked through the summary of changes. More information can be found [here](#).

Board Members thanked staff for their work and asked to clarify the relationship between OneCare Vermont and the APM Agreement.

A potential vote on this topic is noticed for November 28.

Lore Health (previously Gather Health) GMCB Staff Presentation - Potential Vote

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

Julia Boles reviewed the Board's scope of review for Medicare-only accountable care organizations (ACOs) and further information from the ACO, including that on November 3, 2022, Gather Health LLC submitted a legal name change due to another entity using and trademarking "Gather Health". The legal entity name is now "Lore Health ACO LLC". Additionally, at this time the Board has not received public comment on Lore Health's FY23 budget. Julia then walked through the five recommendations and suggested motion language. More information can be found [here](#).

Member Holmes moved the Board approve Lore Health ACO's FY23 budget as submitted to the Board subject to the conditions reviewed by the Board today. Robin Lunge seconded the motion. There was no Board discussion or public comment on the motion. The Board voted (5-0) to approve the motion.

Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) & Vermont Health Information Exchange (VHIE) Overview

Maurine Gilbert, Director of Client Engagement, VITL
Beth Anderson, President & CEO, VITL
Kristina Choquette, Director of Operations, VITL

Beth Anderson reviewed VITL's mission and vision and turned it over to Maurine Gilbert to explain what the Health Information Exchange is and its benefits, including providing better care to patients. Kristina Choquette explained VHIE collects, matches, and standardizes patient data in real time from providers to create a longitudinal record, and noted how it protects the data. They walked through the data contributions to VHIE and noted connections are prioritized with the HIE Steering Committee Connectivity Criteria subcommittee, and outlined what data is in the VHIE and how its accessible to the 150 organizations using VITL's data access services.

The presenters explained how data sharing is authorized, noting since March 2020, the VHIE has been an opt-out health information exchange. Approximately 1.2% have chosen to opt-out. The presenters then discussed how VHIE is funded mostly from a contract with AHS and additional revenue is derived from custom reporting contracts, messaging services, and event notification services. Maurine Gilbert discussed working on new partnerships relating to public health, including health equity and strategic planning. In 2022, they launched a collaboration of regional HIEs with Maine and Rhode Island. They hope to share best practices and innovative thinking,

explore opportunities for joint initiatives, and access data from regional specialty centers. More information can be found [here](#).

Member Walsh noted the Idaho HIE went bankrupt and appreciated Vermont's efforts to secure funding. He also cautioned wanting to expand the Exchange while ensuring it meets the foundation of care. Chair Foster asked how patients are informed their data will be shared with VHIE and asked if there are gaps in translating data, and whether there are compliance stats.

Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) Quarterly Update

Beth Anderson, President & CEO, VITL
Maurine Gilbert, Director of Client Engagement, VITL
Robert Turnau, Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer, VITL
Kristina Choquette, Director of Operations, VITL
Sue Fritz, Director of IT, VITL

Beth Anderson presented on VITL's achievements since their last update to the Board, the upcoming contract & anticipated budget, and a financial update and staff retirement. VITL is exploring, with the Agency of Human Services (AHS), the opportunity to shift contract year to align with the State and VITL fiscal years to enact more accurate planning and budgeting. VITL anticipates a 6-month extension to their current contract. The contract submitted to CMS has not been finalized and Beth shared VITL's anticipated contract extension deliverables.

Kristina Choquette provided an overview of the 2022 updates, including accessing new data by coordinating with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) and working with health care organizations to rebuild connections with electronic health records (EHRs) that are replaced. They are also planning design and implementation of a Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resource (FHIR) Application Programming Interface (API) to expand data access, working with AHS to intake Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) data collection, and more.

Sue Fritz provided an update on the security life cycle, outlining key initiatives over the last quarter. Beth Anderson updated the Board on the FY 2022 audit and FY 2023 highlights, including revenue and expenses. Maurine Gilbert provided an overview of the quarterly metrics, noting there was a drop in patients that opted-out of VHIE. Maurine explained the VITLAccess queries by month show the change to the new VITLAccess in February 2022. Maurine also explained the charts relating to results delivery. More information can be found [here](#).

Board Members asked questions about the work with VDH immunization data and the forecast, VITL access query data numbers, timing on reconnection to the Hub, and policies around data. Board Members also noted needing to focus on actionable things, details about the VITL access users, and coordination of the data.

2022 HIE Strategic Plan and Connectivity Criteria for 2023

Kathryn O'Neill, Director of Health Systems Data and Analytics, GMCB

Kristin McClure, Health Care Reform Integration Manager, Agency of Human Services
Kristina Choquette, Director of Operations, VITL

Kate O'Neill started with a quick introduction of the Board's oversight of the HIE Plan and review process of the Connectivity Criteria. Kate noted there has been one public comment from a member of the GMCB General Advisory Committee. More information can be found [here](#).

Kristin McClure presented the 4 goals of the HIE (create one health record for every person, better health outcomes, improved healthcare operations, and use data to enable investment and policy decisions) and the composition of the HIE Steering Committee. She then outlined the 4 components of the HIE ecosystem: governance, funding, policy/process, and technology. She explained the Unified Health Data Space (UHDS) is a collaborative initiative to streamline data services required to improve health care in Vermont, noting its importance to enable value-based care.

Kristin then outlined the 2022 key accomplishments regarding funding, governance, technology, and policy/process. Kristin walked through how they developed the HIE Plan from the federal health information technology plan, current year accomplishments and status, and the HIE Steering Committee planning session. Kristin provided the strategic plan and criteria relating to the 4 goals of the HIE and the 2023-2027 roadmap. More information can be found [here](#).

Member Lunge noted certain materials were helpful and should be included in the Plan itself. She also asked questions regarding the data integration, details about the analytical tools, the work regarding the funding structures for state match, and for more details about the Data Governance Council they plan to create. Member Walsh asked if VITL could outline what the users will get and how it'll help them, and the progress of including certain data points.

Member Holmes asked to include representation from patient privacy advocates on the Steering Committee and Data Governance Council and suggested adding the Health Care Advocate as well. She also asked for clarity on the opt-out policy, the plans for consolidation and integration of data, and whether there's a risk assessment. Member Murman asked about prevention resources and advocated to add someone to the Committee and Council with equity background. He also asked if other states receive private funding and whether Vermont has considered private funding sources, advocating for strict guidelines of who can use the data if there are private funding sources.

Chair Foster followed-up about the potential private funding in the future and seconded Member Holmes' suggestion to include a privacy advocate and asked if there are challenges and issues that arise, how should VITL and the Board proceed, asking if the Board could review decision points along the way. Member Lunge asked the Plan to be resubmitted before it's approved by the Board. Russ McCracken suggested the Board take a formal action to request revisions to the Plan, which will most likely be in December.

Kristina Choquette then walked through the VHIE Connectivity Criteria approval process and outlined the future considerations for the Criteria, including opportunities for more vendors to comply with Unites States Core Data for Interoperability, social determinants of health, sexual

orientation and gender identity, and care plans. Member Lunge asked if VITL anticipates the criteria to apply to other vendors, and if there would be additional criteria in the future.

Public Comment

Susan Aranoff, Senior Planner and Policy Analyst, Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

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

Rebecca Copans, Government and Media Relations, BCBSVT

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

The Board voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:00 pm.