

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD  
Data Governance Council  
December 5, 2023  
2:00pm, via Microsoft Teams

**Attendance (Voting Members)**

Susan Barrett, Council Chair and Executive Director, GMCB  
Cathy Fulton, Executive Director, VPQHC  
Kristin McClure, Health Care Reform Integration Manager, AHS  
Jessie Hammond, Public Health Statistics Chief, VDH  
Lauri Scharf, Manager of Informatics, Bi-State Primary Care Association  
Valerie Giroux, Chief Data Officer, Vermont Agency of Digital Services (appointed during this meeting)  
*(absent) Jessica Holmes, Board Member, Green Mountain Care Board*

**Others Present**

Attendance report available upon request.

**Call to Order, Chair's Report**

Susan Barrett called the meeting to order at approximately 2:02 pm. Susan provided a brief update on Board activities.

**Approve June Meeting Minutes**

The Council voted (6-0) to approve the minutes from October 3, 2023.

**DGC Member Appointment**

Susan announced that Sarah Kinsler, filling the designated GMCB staff seat on the DGC, has left her position at GMCB, leaving a vacancy on the DGC. Susan designated Kate O'Neill, Director of Health Systems Data and Analytics at the GMCB, to fill the seat as a voting member beginning January 1, 2024. Susan moved to appoint Kate, and Kristin McClure seconded. The Council voted 6-0 to appoint Kate to the DGC. Susan announced that Veronica Fialkowski, Director of Data Management Analysis and Data Integrity at GMCB, will staff the DGC beginning January 1, 2024.

**UVM-LCOM Data Linkage Requests**

**Cancer Registry**

Kate reviewed the UVM Larner College of Medicine request to extend the term of the VHCURES data linkage with the Vermont Cancer Registry and refresh the linked data set. UVM-LCOM researchers responded to questions related to cancer research underway and preliminary findings using the currently linked data set. Cathy Fulton moved to approve UVM-LCOM's extension and refresh request for data linkage subject to conditions, specifically, that, 1.) after the five year term ending in December 2028 provided in this specific data linkage request have expired that the Council revisit the data linkage to decide whether or not it would be appropriate to continue, that, 2.) the minimum standards that govern any and all use of this combined data set are those set forth in the VHCURES Data Use Agreement and data governance Rules, and that, 3.) the approval is subject to and inclusive of a resolution with the AHS Institutional Review Board. Kristin McClure seconded the motion. Public comment: Eric Schultheis and Rebecca Heintz asked clarifying questions. No further discussion. Council members voted to approve the motion (6-0). GMCB will issue a letter to the applicants indicating approval of this request subject to the above conditions.

## Immunization Registry

UVM-LCOM researchers summarized and responded to Council questions about the UVM Larner College of Medicine request to link VHCURES data with the Vermont Immunization Registry data for the purpose of examining how factors such as health care utilization pattern, including primary care attribution and pharmacy use relate to vaccination, where linkage between VHCURES data and Immunization Registry data will allow researchers to more accurately examine the relationship between health care utilization and vaccination. Susan moved to approve UVM-LCOM's request link VHCURES data with the Vermont Immunization Registry data subject to conditions, specifically, that, 1.) after the five year term ending in December 2028 provided in this specific data linkage request have expired that the Council revisit the data linkage to decide whether or not it would be appropriate to continue, that, 2.) the minimum standards that govern any and all use of this combined data set are those set forth in the VHCURES Data Use Agreement and data governance Rules, and that, 3.) the approval is subject to and inclusive of a resolution with the AHS Institutional Review Board. Kristin seconded the motion. No further discussion. Council members voted to approve the motion (6-0). GMCB will issue a letter to the applicants indicating approval of this request subject to the above conditions.

## VHIE/VHCURES Data Integration

Kate O'Neill from the GMCB provided a brief update on activities related to the Health Information Exchange VHCURES-VHIE Integration Project Planning led by the Agency of Human Services. Recommendations on data integration are described in the 2023 update to the [HIE Strategic Plan](#). Russ McCracken provided a process update on the planned proposed Rule 9 revision. There will be a more comprehensive update and new proposed language presented at the Feb 2024 DGC meeting. Veronica provided an update on current research projects underway by various Vermont state agency researchers and highlighted a few upcoming data products soon to be published. Kate provided a brief update on VUHDDS interstate data sharing. Our application is filed with New York State so upon approval, we anticipate receiving NY's hospital discharge data on Vermont residents soon. We are working with New Hampshire on a MOU for data exchange which is mid-way through the process.

**Public Comment** – None.

**New Business** – None.

**Adjournment** – The Council voted 6-0 to adjourn at approximately 3:07pm.

Next DGC meeting: Tuesday February 6, 2024, 2:00pm.