GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD
Data Governance Council
October 6, 2020
2:00pm, via Microsoft Teams

Attendance (Voting Members)
Susan Barrett, Council Chair and Executive Director, GMCB
Tom Pelham, Board Member, GMCB
Alena Berube, Director of Value Based Programs & ACO Regulation, GMCB
Lauri Scharf, Manager of Informatics, Bi-State Primary Care Association
Cathy Fulton, Executive Director, VPQHC
Mary Kate Mohlman, Health Services Researcher, Blueprint for Health
Absent: Helen Reid, Division Director, Health Surveillance, VDH

Others Present
Kate O'Neill, Chief Data Steward, GMCB
Sarah Lindberg, Health Services Researcher, GMCB
Karen Barber, General Counsel, Department of Mental Health
Michael Durkin, BCBSVT
Sean Judge, VAHHS-NSO
Matt Griffith, VAHHS-NSO
Eric Schultheis, HCA
Mort Wasserman, University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine
Michelle Sawyer, AHS
Christopher Shenk, VITL
Jim, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center
Jennifer Kaulius, UVMMC
Rebecca Copans, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont
Becky Colgan, OneCare Vermont

Call to Order, Chair's Report
Susan Barrett called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 pm. Susan reported that we recently approved a data linkage request for UVM Larner College of Medicine Center for Health Services Research. This project is to link date of death with their VHCURES data set for two studies: Studying the effectiveness of post-discharge care following intensive care stays in Vermont hospitals, and evaluating the impact of provider payment reforms, specifically, examining the ACO and community health team impacts on service utilization and health outcomes.

Approve December Meeting Minutes
The Council voted (6-0) to approve the minutes from August 14, 2020.

AHS Data Integration/Governance Update
Karen Barber, General Counsel at Department of Mental Health provided an update on a project across four AHS departments (Department of Corrections, Department of Mental Health, Department of Children and Families and Department of Vermont Health Access) to share data related to the homeless population. Through this project they established an AHS Interdepartmental Data Charter to enable the sharing of records for individuals housed in the General Assistance emergency motel program during the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary objective of this project is to improve service delivery, coordination across departments, and efficient use of public resources. Lauri Scharf asked what data is being utilized, and Karen responded that it is AHS internal data, such as Medicaid claims data, DMH and DOC data, and DCF's General Assistance motel program

data. Karen also shared that there will be some regionally specific information, but at this time they are early in the matching phase so she is not certain what the output will look like. Tom asked about the integrated eligibility system and whether there is an opportunity here to address the questions and potential challenges related to such a system but recognizes this is different than the project Karen described.

Public Comment
Mort Wasserman asked for the Charter, and Karen said she would share it. Mort expressed interest in the AISP work and Karen shared that the longer-term goal is for a functioning integrated data system with an Enterprise MOU/data sharing agreement for everyone across the agency and ideally statewide.

Data Validation Project Update
Sarah Lindberg provided an update on the GMCB's data validation project, which has as its goal improving and enhancing the data under GMCB's stewardship. Council members asked questions about future validation work to be done and asked clarifying questions about the data currently available.

Public Comment
Michael Durkin asked for clarification on how we are taking recommendations from payers and providers. Sarah explained that the reason why we will have the providers lead the variation work is that most of the regulatory levers that the GMCB have are on a provider basis so it is important that we use services that make sense to them, but payers are expert in their claims data and they best know the associated constraints so require their input and perspective as well. Jim asked whether we will be using claims charges or claims reimbursement and is the study at risk of exposing details of payer contracts? Sarah explained that we will not be exposing any payer-level information, but we will show how allowed amounts vary. Mort asked about the challenges and opportunities to improve race and ethnicity data in VHCURES. At this time, this indicator is a voluntary element for submission to VHCURES (per VHCURES Rule), so Sarah reached out to DVHA to voluntarily submit that data to VHCURES for our Medicaid population. Next, we will talk with payers and hospitals. We may be able to integrate VITL clinical data and/or with the State's enterprise-level master person index. Sarah explained the state's rule making process at a high-level, which is required to make changes to the elements submitted for VHCURES. Sarah also suggested fielding another Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey with relevant questions may be a potential avenue. Eric recommended stakeholder engagement in the development of questions for the survey and thought the GMCB should play a role in helping facilitate the opportunity to make such improvements.

Draft Data Linkage Policy
At the August 14th meeting, the DGC voted to approve the draft Data Linkage Policy with this added item:

> "Any amendments including linkages to additional data sets would need to be reviewed and approved."

This change was made, however, in incorporating the added language, Kate made a few slight edits for clarity without changing the substance of the statement. It now reads as follows (underline added here for emphasis):

> "Any amendments _to an approved data linkage_, including linkages to additional data sets, need to be reviewed and approved _prior to any amended activity_."

Data Governance Council Issues Log

Kate walked through the Issues Log which documents for Council members the projects we have accomplished, are currently addressing, and are on hold to address at a future point in time. Susan asked Council members to weigh in on their priority requests. Recommendations are to prioritize based on work already underway, work that impacts the regulatory areas of GMCB, and by risk level. Kate will follow-up with ADS which has a team working on security policies, to learn more about those policies and how they may be helpful to the GMCB. Kate will work with the data team at GMCB to adjust this list per Council member feedback and will return to the Council with an update at an upcoming meeting. We would also like to hear from members at a future meeting whether there are issues to add to this list.

<u>New Business</u>
None.
Next meeting is Tuesday December 1st.

<u>Adjourn</u>
The Council voted (6-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:15 pm.