

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD
Data Governance Council
December 6, 2022
2:00pm, via Microsoft Teams

Attendance (Voting Members)

Susan Barrett, Council Chair and Executive Director, GMCB
Sarah Kinsler, Director of Health Systems Policy, GMCB
Cathy Fulton, Executive Director, VPQHC
Lauri Scharf, Manager of Informatics, Bi-State Primary Care Association
Kristin McClure, Chief Data Officer, ADS
Jessica Holmes, Board Member, Green Mountain Care Board (appointed during this meeting)
Absent: Jessie Hammond, Public Health Statistics Chief, VDH

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 and introduced two new staff analysts recently hired at the GMCB: Jessica Lindle and Anne Paumgarten. Susan also shared that the data and analytics team has recently developed a quarterly newsletter for state agency users of VHCURES to keep them informed on updates and learning opportunities. Staff will share the newsletter with DGC members.

Approve October Meeting Minutes

The Council voted (5-0) to approve the minutes from October 7, 2022.

Appointment of Jessica Holmes to fill the Board member seat on the DGC

Susan called for a motion to appoint Board member Jessica Holmes, replacing Tom Pelham, to fill the Board member seat on the DGC. Lauri Scharf moved, Cathy Fulton seconded, Sarah Kinsler expressed delight to have Dr. Holmes join the DGC who will bring thoughtful ideas, decision-making and connections between the work of the DGC and the work of the Board. The Council voted (5-0) to approve the appointment of Dr. Holmes. Jess Holmes introduced herself and shared information about her experience and interests.

Staff Updates

Veronica Fialkowski shared that we recently approved an application for a data use agreement for access to the VHCURES analytic file for Hammurabi Insurance Services, Inc., University of California, Berkeley SkyDeck for a research project on predictors of high-cost medical utilization and comorbidity burden among US individuals with public and private insurance.

Kate O'Neill provided an update on the Data Reporting Manual changes which are set to take effect on 2/1/2023. In collaboration with Onpoint Health Data we provided a webinar on 12/1/2022 for affected submitters to walk through the changes and another webinar is scheduled for 12/15/2022 related to SFTP & PGP encryption.

Kate shared that the Board received the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Plan submission from AHS on 10/31/2022. Board members requested changes and additions to the Plan which is scheduled to be resubmitted on 12/9/2022. The Board will vote on Plan approval at its 12/14/2022 meeting.

VHCURES Data Linkage Application – UVM Larner College of Medicine

Veronica introduced a research project that will be conducted by the UVM Larner College of Medicine which proposes to link VHCURES data with COVID testing data as well as with vital statistics data, both provided by VDH. The UVM Larner College of Medicine team presented an overview of the project to study interventions to reduce inequities in COVID-19 testing among rural, underserved, and vulnerable

populations in Vermont. They described the importance of the data linkage to accomplishing project goals, and the value to Vermonters. Kristin McClure asked about the SFTP transfer process and suggested follow-up with ADS to ensure the data vendor mentioned for secure transfer (Kiteworks) is approved by the State of Vermont. The research team offered that they are willing to use any data vendor approved by the State, such as GlobalScape, or Onpoint's preferred vendor. Lauri Scharf asked if Onpoint would conduct matching, and the team indicated that they would defer to Onpoint for help in developing the matching algorithm that will yield the best results. Lauri also asked which data types are included in the proposal for linking, and the team shared they are looking to link both commercial and Medicaid claims. Cathy Fulton asked if a potential outcome of the study would be to understand the location of testing sites and variation of the utilization of sites based on ability to access the sites, to be able to recommend better locations for testing sites for better reach. The project team said yes, this is a goal of the project.

Susan moved to approve the application for data linkage of VHCURES and Vital Statistics data conditional upon approval by VDH for vital statistics to be linked to VHCURES. Lauri seconded. The Council voted (6-0) to conditionally approve the data linkage request for VHCURES and Vital statistics data, pending approval by VDH.

VUHDDS Data Use Agreement Application – University of Southern Maine

Veronica introduced this proposed research project and the USM project team's request for VUHDDS (hospital discharge data). The USM team presented an overview of the project which seeks to study paid family leave and prevention of respiratory tract infection among young infants. This request is for access to the non-public VUHDDS data file, to include age in months under two years of age. Kristin asked about consent from individual patients in the hospital discharge data set for use in this study. Staff explained that the VUHDDS data set is deidentified data only and the collection of VUHDDS data is set in statute, GMCB Rule, and contractually between GMCB and VAHHS-NSO. Susan requested that we prepare and overview of the VUHDDS data collection for the next DGC meeting, scheduled for Feb 7, 2023. Susan asked the research team to clarify if the age data would be aggregated, and the project team explained their proposed methodology for reporting results with minimum threshold requirements.

Sarah Kinsler moved to approve application for VUHDDS data release for the paid family leave project conducted by USM. Lauri seconded. The Council voted (6-0) to approve the application for VUHDDS data release for this project.

Public Comment

None

New Business

None.

Adjourn

The Council voted (6-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:25pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday February 7, 2023. This will be a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams, although the large conference room at 144 State Street in Montpelier will also be available for anyone who wants to attend in person.