GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD
Data Governance Council
February 1, 2022
2:00pm, via Microsoft Teams

Attendance (Voting Members)
Susan Barrett, Council Chair and Executive Director, GMCB
Tom Pelham, Board Member, GMCB
Cathy Fulton, Executive Director, VPQHC
Lauri Scharf, Manager of Informatics, Bi-State Primary Care Association
Kristin McClure, Chief Data Officer, ADS
Jessie Hammond, Public Health Statistics Chief, VDH
Sarah Kinsler, Director of Health Systems Policy

Others Present
Kate O'Neill, GMCB
Russ McCracken, GMCB
Rebecca Copans, BCBSVT
Jennifer Kaulius, UVMMC
Sarah Stepak
Matt Griffith
Craig Miskovich
Onpoint Health Data: Janice Bourgault, Benjamin Parks-Stamm, Kate Davis, Joanna Duncan, Jim Harrison

Call to Order, Chair's Report
Susan Barrett called the meeting to order at approximately 2:02 pm. Susan introduced GMCB's newest data team member, Veronica Fialkowski and reviewed the Board's meeting schedule for 2/2. Susan reported that the Board is submitting two reports to the legislature by the end of the day today (2/1): the reimbursement variation report and the sustainability report.

Approve October Meeting Minutes
The Council voted (7-0) to approve the minutes from December 7, 2021.

Announcements/Updates
Kate O'Neill announced that the data submission rule and data release rule were both adopted on January 5th and became effective on January 20, 2022. The HIE plan 2021 update was approved by the Board in December 2021, and we are working with AHS to support the development of a data strategy for the VHIE and unified health data space.

Onpoint Health Data Presentation on APCD Privacy and Security

Onpoint Health Data, GMCB's VHCURES data aggregation vendor, reviewed the three main ways they collect member identifiers: hashed data, via a lockbox vendor, and submission with direct identifiers. They reviewed the pros and cons of each method, including privacy concerns and examples of hashed data vs direct identifier data. They reviewed other states' data submission processes, lessons learned and transition strategy examples. They also presented legal protections, regulations and contractual protections, and reviewed their overall security protocols. The committee members asked questions and made comments about confidentiality concerns and learning from other states about hashing vs direct identifiers (Maine, for example, which moved from collecting hashed data to collecting direct identifiers).

Public Comment
None.

New Business

Kate shared a potential timeline through 2022 for proposing changes to the data submission manual. The technical bill in the legislature includes a proposal to remove the restriction to collect only hashed data. If this change passes into law, we would begin the process to change how the data is collected, including a public comment period, leading up to a potential DGC vote in the fall. We are also exploring requiring collection of race and ethnicity data. UVM College of Medicine is working on new request for data linkage, and they are anticipating coming to the April DGC meeting to present.

Adjourn

The Council voted (7-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:20pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday April 5, 2022. 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 wanting to attend in person.