

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD

Data Governance Council

June 1, 2021

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

Cathy Fulton, Executive Director, VPQHC

Mary Kate Mohlman, Health Services Researcher, Blueprint for Health

Absent: Helen Reid, Division Director, Health Surveillance, VDH

Absent: Lauri Scharf, Manager of Informatics, Bi-State Primary Care Association

Others Present

Kate O'Neill, Chief Data Steward, GMCB

Sarah Lindberg, Health Services Researcher, GMCB

Geoff Battista, GMCB

Russ McCracken, GMCB

Lindsay Kill, GMCB

Sarah Kinsler, GMCB

Jessica Mendizabal, GMCB

Michael Durkin, BCBSVT

Mort Wasserman, University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine

Eric Schultheis, Health Care Advocate

Johanna Bandler

Call to Order, Chair's Report

Susan Barrett called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 pm.

NAHDO Conference September 2021 (National Association of Health Data Organizations)

GMCB's data and analytical team (A-Team) submitted an abstract for the upcoming NAHDO virtual conference which was accepted for the pre-conference event tentatively titled "Health Data Forum: Access, Sustainability, Privacy and Security." This forum is scheduled for Friday, September 24, 2021

Federal Legislation Update

Advisory Committee

The State All Payer Claims Databases Advisory Committee (SAPCDAC) was established in 2021. The SAPCDAC was established by the No Surprises Act, enacted as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 and will advise the U.S. Secretary of Labor on the standardized reporting format for the voluntary reporting by group health plans to State APCDs, as well as guidance provided to States on the process by which States may collect such data. The SAPCDAC must submit a report that includes recommendations on the establishment of the format and guidance by June 25, 2021.

APCD Grants

We continue to closely monitor the grant opportunity provided in the No Surprises Act. We anticipate the application to be released sometime in the fall.

Proposed Rule Update

We pre-filed the proposed draft Rules for data submission and data release with the Secretary of State, and they are included for presentation on the [June 14th draft ICAR agenda](#)

Approve February Meeting Minutes

The Council voted (6-0) to approve the minutes from February 2, 2021.

Presentation and Discussion

Jessica Mendizabal shared an update to the work on developing specifications for analysis-ready health care data products. The goal of this work is to expand access to and the usability of VHCURES and VUHDDS by producing a set of specifications for the development of data files tailored toward analytic interest. GMCB contracted with Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care (VPQHC) to complete this work which began in February 2020 and was completed by February 2021 with a report including recommendations. (The report can be found on the GMCB website [here](#).)

Sarah Lindberg summarized work already underway related to the recommended actions, including the enhanced data validation project, onboarding and training, and diversifying data assets.

Council members provided guidance for prioritization of recommendations that will inform future work of the GMCB data and analytical team. Council members identified the following four areas as priority, and consider them to be foundational to the rest of the recommendations:

- Have access to more timely data.
- Enhanced provider data (additional data points, standardization, etc.).
- Improve data quality / trust in data.
- Develop mechanism to increase total number of lives in VHCURES.

Tom expressed that we must be very cautious about how we engage around linkage to supplemental sources such as VITL stats and social determinants of health (an expressed desire from the stakeholder interviews which in part informed the final report) as there is a potential to have what we are trying to do with SDE misinterpreted. Also, because we are on a slower path toward transitioning from fee-for-service to fixed prospective payments, anything that we can do to support that transition is very important as it is a cornerstone of our health care reform effort. He also made a request that we consider what we can do with our data to better understand where the higher cost providers are and where the lower cost providers are, such as through a price variation database, so that we can better understand the marketplace in Vermont.

Susan reminded the Council that there is a federal evaluation of the All-Payer Model, though that is still a few years from now.

Public Comment

Eric Schultheis would like the GMCB to address training, particularly for policy makers and the public, as we expand access to our data assets.

Dr. Wasserman asked about adding race and ethnicity data into VHCURES as a priority. Sarah explained that is work currently underway as a next step after Rule change which will allow the GMCB to revise the data submission manual.

New Business

None.

Adjourn

The Council voted (6-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:15pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday August 3, 2021. At this meeting (which will be virtual via Microsoft Teams) we will discuss and consider future meeting modalities.