

## GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD

Data Governance Council

June 7, 2022

2:00pm, via Microsoft Teams

### **Attendance (Voting Members)**

Susan Barrett, Council Chair and Executive Director, GMCB

Tom Pelham, Board Member, 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

Jessie Hammond, Public Health Statistics Chief, VDH

### **Others Present**

Kate O'Neill, GMCB

Russ McCracken, GMCB

Veronica Fialkowski, GMCB

Sarah Lindberg, GMCB

Geoff Battista, GMCB

Jennifer DaPolito, Vermont

Rebecca Copans, BCBSVT

Liz Kleinberg, BCBSVT

Jennifer Kaulius, UVMMC

Eric Schultheis, HCA

Caitlin Quinn, VDH

Mallory Staskus, VDH

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

Susan Barrett called the meeting to order at approximately 2:02 pm. Susan provided a brief update on current Board Activities. Susan also shared that S. 285 (*An act relating to health care reform initiatives, data collection, and access to home- and community-based services*) was signed into law, it is now Act 167. GMCB has responsibilities including addressing the next All-Payer Model agreement and conducting a hospital system transformation engagement process, both in collaboration with Agency of Human Services.

### **Approve April Meeting Minutes**

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

### **VDH-VHCURES Data Linkage Application**

Caitlin Quinn from VDH explained their request to obtain a linked VHCURES and Vital Statistics data file to understand the risk factors and interactions among Vermonters who have died by suicide during 2020 and 2021. One of the key objectives of this project is to understand healthcare-related interactions and diagnoses in the time leading up to death. The council voted (7-0) to approve this request.

### **Public Comment**

Eric Schultheis commented that for folks who have mental health issues over the long term they may be less likely to go to PCP in a crisis. This is something to keep in mind when designing the study.

### **MOU with VDH on vital records death data and VHCURES integrated file**

Kate O'Neill presented an update on the progress of this work. GMCB and VDH executed a Memorandum of Understanding to create an integrated deidentified, dataset containing information from VHCURES and the vital records system. Matching of the two data systems and creation of the integrated data file will be completed by Onpoint. The file will be updated regularly and made available upon request to staff from state agencies that have access to the secure Analytic Enclave.

## **VHCURES Reporting Manual Proposed Changes Overview**

Kate O'Neill and Veronica Fialkowski presented an overview of the proposed revisions to the Data Reporting Manual. Proposed changes are:

1. Submitters will not be required to hash identifiable data before submission.
2. Adding race and ethnicity reporting, but if the data are not collected, the submitter would report as null.
3. Adding Total Monthly Premium Amount.
4. Adding actuarial value which is the percentage of total average costs for covered benefits that a plan will cover.
5. Adding a mail-order pharmacy indicator to report whether or not the pharmacy was a mail-order pharmacy.

The estimated timeline is:

- July-August: Special public comment period.
- August 2, 2022: public hearing at 3pm.
- September/October 2022: Data Governance Council meets to vote on final proposed changes. This is when we will have a final revised reporting manual.
- Implementation date to be determined after vote, but no less than 120 days (therefore, approximately January or February 2023).

## **Public Comment**

Eric Schultheis shared that the Health Care Advocate strongly supports collecting dehashed (clear text) data. There are more than sufficient security protocols currently in place to protect the submission of the data to the APCD vendor, understanding that only deidentified data are ever released.

## **New Business**

None.

## **Adjourn**

The Council voted (7-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:25pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday August 2, 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.