

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD
Data Governance Council
August 14, 2020
1:00pm, 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
Lynn Combs, Associate General Counsel, GMCB
Sarah Lindberg, Health Services Researcher, GMCB
Eric Schultheis, HCA
Michael Durkin, BCBSVT
Sean Judge, VAHHS-NSO
Matt Griffith, VAHHS-NSO
Richard (Mort) Wasserman, University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine
Michelle Sawyer, Medicaid Operations Administrator, AHS

Call to Order, Chair's Report

Susan called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. No announcements.

Approve December Meeting Minutes

The Council voted (6-0) to approve the minutes from June 2, 2020.

Draft Data Linkage Policy

Kate O'Neill presented the revised Policy draft with Council members' and public feedback from the June 2 meeting incorporated. Council members asked for the following changes to the Policy draft.

Change:

- Strategies that minimize the risk of disclosure outside of the linkage process including research protocols and reporting protocols.

Add:

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

Data Validation Project Update

Sarah Lindberg provided an update on the GMCB's data validation project.

Public Comment

Mort Wasserman asked about where linked data sets reside. Kate responded that it depends and would be described within an application. For example, the linked VHCURES data approved for

DVHA is housed at Onpoint Health Data, whereas the linked VHCURES data approved for UVM College of Medicine and the cancer registry is housed at UVM-COM.

Regarding the wording at the end of subsection a. “This Policy does not address, nor will the GMCB contemplate, linking of data sets for the express purpose of creating a new, novel, or “master” database...” Dr. Wasserman inquired about this wording as it relates to his interest in integrated data systems, versus a series of one-offs to address specific research problems. Kate responded that the development new databases for broader use raises questions and issues around data ownership, ability to audit, and overall authority. For the purposes of this policy, we would like to limit requests to those for specific research requests which allow GMCB to maintain governance authority per its underlying DUA. Lynn Combs added that the intent with this language is to retain control of our authority for our data within a linked data arrangement. Mary Kate added that it is likely that in an integrated data system arrangement, agencies would retain ownership and authority of their data, but that with this language we intend to not allow new and different ownership of a linked dataset.

Cathy Fulton had to leave the meeting before the vote on the draft Policy took place, but she expressed her support of the Policy contingent on the modifications and additions as discussed earlier.

The Council voted (5-0) to approve the draft Policy with the following changes:

Change:

- Strategies that minimize the risk of disclosure outside of the linkage process including research protocols and reporting protocols.

Add:

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

New Business

Next meeting October 6th.

Adjourn

The Council voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 2:15 pm.