

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD
Data Governance Council
August 3, 2021
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
Sarah Kinsler, Director of Health Systems Policy, GMCB (appointed during this meeting)
Absent: Mary Kate Mohlman, Health Services Researcher, Blueprint for Health
Absent: Helen Reid, Division Director, Health Surveillance, VDH

Others Present

Kate O'Neill, GMCB
Sarah Lindberg, GMCB
Russ McCracken, GMCB
Michael Durkin, BCBSVT
Rebecca Copans, BCBSVT
Mort Wasserman, University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine
Jennifer Kaulius, UVMHC

Call to Order, Chair's Report

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

Susan shared that the GMCB held a public comment forum on August 2 for the two proposed revised Rules for data submission and data release. Russ McCracken added that no verbal comments related to the Rule were received during the forum and that the written public comment period is still open on the GMCB website through August 10, 2021. Russ provided an update on the rulemaking process.

Approve June Meeting Minutes

The Council voted (4-0) to approve the minutes from June 1, 2021.

Council Member Appointment Recommendation

Susan recommended Sarah Kinsler to fill the vacancy on the Council left by Alena Berube. Susan moved to appoint Sarah. Tom seconded. The council voted (4-0) to appoint Sarah Kinsler to the GMCB Data Governance Council.

Update on State All Payer Claims Database Advisory Committee Recommendations to US DOL

Kate O'Neill shared that the committee submitted its report to the Secretary of Labor, although we do not know when the Secretary will make it available to the public. However, the following are some reflections from committee meetings.

- Recommend beginning national standard development for monthly file collection starting with the APCD Common Data Layout, and non-claim payments data collection
- States will have different current states of development and ought to be able to progress toward a national standard at their own pace
- Protect privacy and security
- Recommend an opt-in process as the only legal option
- States ought to explore multi-state aggregation for broader data use

RAND Project Overview

Kate O'Neill informed the Council that we recently approved a Data Use Agreement for RAND Corporation. VHCURES commercial data will be added into Round 4 of the National Hospital Price Transparency Study.

Researchers at the RAND Corporation will reprice commercial medical claims using Medicare's groupers and pricing algorithms and will release a public research report that includes commercial prices as a percent of Medicare prices for hospitals and hospital systems identified by name. The report will include hospitals from around the country and will be created using claims data from three sources: self-insured employers, state-based all payer claims databases (APCDs), and health plans.

<https://www.rand.org/health-care/projects/price-transparency/hospital-pricing/round4/faq.html#how-will-round-30-be-different->

Future DGC Meetings Discussion

Susan shared that the GMCB is collecting input about modality preferences for future meetings. To comply with Vermont Open Meetings law, all GMCB meetings, including DGC meetings, will have a physical location available for in-person participation, and currently that space is at 144 State Street, Montpelier. But meetings can continue to be virtual or in hybrid format. Council members shared that meeting in-person has its benefits, but we appreciate the flexibility and improved public access to meetings held on-line. Therefore, some type of hybrid approach is preferred. Susan will take these comments into consideration as she and the Board contemplate standard operating procedures around meetings.

Public Comment

Dr. Wasserman reminded the council to consult the available data when considering the best approach to meetings, and to consider surveying those who participate regularly in meetings for more input.

New Business

None.

Adjourn

The Council voted (5-0) to adjourn at approximately 2:45pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday October 5, 2021. VITL will join in this meeting to present on the collaborative services work.