GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD
Data Governance Council
December 1, 2020
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
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, GMCB
Sarah Lindberg, GMCB
Geoff Battista, GMCB
Michael Barber, GMCB
Michael Durkin, BCBSVT
Sean Judge, VAHHS-NSO
Eric Schultheis, HCA
Mort Wasserman, University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine
Valerie Harder, University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine
Marianne Bottigleri, VPQHC

Call to Order, Chair's Report
Susan Barrett called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 pm.

Approve December Meeting Minutes
The Council voted (6-0) to approve the minutes from October 6, 2020.

Data Governance Issues Update
Kate provided a brief update on the current priority issues that the staff are addressing related to data and governance. including updating the data submission and data release Rules, the enhanced data validation project, redesign of the data users group/technical users group, analysis-ready data files, and industry standards for data release security.

Enhanced Data Validation Project Update
Sarah provided an update on the project. The workgroup established a charter to ensure continued focus on the goal of this work which is to better understand how well the data in in our data sets compare to providers and payers reporting, to learn the discrepancies in our administrative data. Expected outputs include recommendations for analysts using this data, improved confidence in the data, and a plan for improving data collection and enhancing the data where possible, such as through Rule revision, and voluntary collection of data such as race and ethnicity. Council members and staff discussed:
- Involving physical therapy
- Are we making perfection the enemy of the good, when in some respects time is of the essence and there needs to be a public benefit?
- A data-driven project involves a deep dive into the data to determine the margin of error which we hope will prove more efficient in the long run for projects that will use these data.
- As designed this project is a relatively straight forward and tangible process, with a good balance and variety of stakeholders, to get a handle on validity of administrative data and the value in terms of dollars, relative to what people think is being submitted.
- This project will hopefully establish more trust and confidence in VHCURES and VUHDDS.
Public comment: none

Data Users Group and Analysis-Ready Data Files

Data Users Group: The GMCB holds a bi-monthly data users group meeting for authorized State users of VHCURES to address questions and training around claims analysis and vendor-specific services and updates, so users can work with VHCURES with more skill and confidence. We anticipate going forward that we will provide two strands of support, one as a curriculum with topics set for each year, and office hours for those working on complex issues. In addition, we'd like to offer an annual or semi-annual opportunity to the Council that could include a broader audience interested in learning about VHCURES, new methodologies and analyses, and other technical aspects of VHCURES.

Analysis-ready data files: GMCB, under a contract with Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, is working on analysis-ready data files. Stakeholder interviews that took place through 2020 helped the vendor to better understand barriers, expertise, analysis needs, etc., which will inform their recommendations on data products, comparative dashboard, principles and file domains, and high-level specifications. Access to the files, once developed, will be a combination of public use research files and files that may contain sensitive data that would require a data use agreement.

Data Submission and Release Rules Update

Michael Barber provided an overview of the draft proposed Data Submission Rule 8.000. This proposed Rule would replace Regulation H-2008-01 for VHCURES submission, and incorporate submission for VUHDDS. The primary goal for revision is to move the technical requirements into a reporting manual that the council can update from time to time based on evolving needs. The proposed Rule sets a process for revising or modifying the reporting manual by the council, including public comment period, which would take effect 90 days after being voted on by the council. Mike will complete revisions for the proposed Data Release Rule 9.000 to be presented to the DGC in February 2021. Both Rules will be presented to the full GMCB and if approved, will proceed together through the rule making process.

Motion

Susan moved to recommend this draft proposed Rule 8.000 to the full GMCB for their consideration and adoption in the state's rule making process. Lauri seconded the motion.

Public Comment

Michael Durkin from BCBS-VT asked whether the reporting manuals are draft or final?
Staff clarified that they are draft but will have to be formally approved by the DGC before initiating the rulemaking process since the reporting manuals will be included in the filing documents. We are not looking to change what is required to be submitted at this time, just to update the Rule. Mike also advocated for both of the Rules being voted on together to give some more opportunity to finalize the manual.

Vote

The Council voted (6-0) to approve the motion.

New Business

None.

Adjourn

The Council voted (6-0) to adjourn at approximately 3:23 pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday Feb 2, 2021.