

DATA GOVERNANCE COUNCIL (DGC)
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2016
GMCB 2nd Floor Board Room
3:00 PM

Present (Voting Members)

Susan Barrett, Executive Director & Data Governance Council Chair
Mike Davis, Director of Health Systems Finances
Ena Backus, Deputy Executive Director
Allan Ramsay, GMCB Board & DGC Member

Non-Present (Voting Members)

Betty Rambur, GMCB Board & DGC Member

Present (Non-Voting Members)

Brian E.J. Martin, Associate General Counsel
Zach Sullivan, Health Policy Analyst
Roger Tubby, Data & Analysis Director

Others Present

Laura Doe, GMCB
Casey Cleary, DII
Steve Kappel, Policy Integrity
Kaili Kuiper, VLA/HCA
Tom Crompton, GMCB
Annie Paumgarten, GMCB
Anne Galloway, VT Digger
Sean Judge, VAHHS-NSO
Liz Winterbauer, VPQHC

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Susan Barrett (DGC Chair) called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. The Council approved the minutes from January 12, 2016.

January 12, 2016 Minutes

Member	Motion	Second	Vote
Susan Barrett			Yes
Allan Ramsay		X	Yes
Mike Davis	X		Yes
Ena Backus			Yes

Chair Report

Susan announced the absence of Betty Rambur (DGC Council Member) and thanked the DGC staff for all the work that went into preparation for today's DGC meeting.

Data Release Update (Roger Tubby, Zach Sullivan)

A) Review of recent data requests

Roger Tubby gave an update on the number of data requests that have been submitted (some under the Moratorium) and identified the types of entities that have submitted these requests. He gave an overview of the process of handling data requests with the Moratorium being lifted. He also explained there are some requests more urgent or easier to process than others and that communicating with the requestors may help determine if the data request is still needed. Brian Martin mentioned that there will be compliance terms set by the DGC in which requestors must adhere to before entering into a DUA. A possible Public Use File may be able to provide the data that requestors need and decrease the amount of documentation involved with data requests. The Council inquired about the backlog of data requests and priority level of handling them. There was discussion how to determine if a request is more urgent than others. Zach Sullivan explained that factors could include policy needs or a current health reform issue in the state.

B) Public Use File discussion

Zach Sullivan explained that a Public Use File would be beneficial in satisfying the needs of most requests dealing with price, based on the types of requests already received. It would not include sensitive information, such as patient information. The Council expressed concern for whether a Public Use File available to the press would create responsibility by the DGC to filter information. Zach Sullivan mentioned that New Hampshire has a good way of reporting data where they use ID numbers on providers and do not identify individuals, but large facilities such as hospitals are reported. The Council inquired if this Public Use File would have certain sections of information removed and DGC staff indicated that would be likely, at least in the beginning stage. It would be a matter of making useful information available while still adhering to HIPAA standards. Zach Sullivan brought up a suggestion made by Steve Kappel (Policy Integrity) which was to make non-overlapping samples available. This could allow a portion of more tailored information to be available without releasing the entire data set. There was discussion on the idea of having some critical analysis done or customization so that the information on the Public Use File is more useful.

C) Public comment

Steve Kappel discussed Medicare data release and that not releasing enough data can be a problem. Some elements can look problematic when you only have an aggregate number, but are actually understandable when you have more detail. He raised the examples with the Medicare release of multi-provider practices where all Blueprint payments went in under the name of a single doctor, making that person look like they were billing an exorbitant amount when the detail would have shown what was really happening.

Moratorium Discussion (Susan Barrett, Zach Sullivan, Roger Tubby, Brian Martin)

Susan Barrett discussed the questions that staff was asked during the prior DGC meeting. There was one public comment from Vermont Legal Aid which Brian Martin presented.

- a. Brian Martin presented work that was done to assist in the lifting of the moratorium. The Vermont Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA) sent a written comment regarding the lifting of the Data Release Moratorium. Brian Martin stated that any data requestor needs to adhere to state and federal laws. The DGC staff found HCA’s recommendations to be sound and consistent.

Going forward, a public comment period of approximately 10 days will be applied and requests will be published on website. It needs to be made clear for any future applications.

Mike Davis inquired about organization and the process of ongoing projects. There was discussion of standard reporting, All-Payer work and Expenditure Analysis. Brian Martin said that we will focus on the paperwork flow, storage and display of the data requests. Mike Davis asked about what other states are doing.

Allen Ramsay asked about requests in the queue and if there will be any fast-track. Brian Martin stated they will be developing a process without fast-tracking.

A question was raised about anti-trust and competitive harm. GMCB is not regulator. That is the responsibility of the VT Attorney General’s office and the US Federal Trade Commission.

Susan Barrett proposed a recommendation to the Council that they move forward in presenting the Board to lift Moratorium and that the data release authority be given to the Council.

The Council moved to vote that data release authority be given to the DGC and to present the GMCB Board with lifting the Moratorium.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Motion</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Susan Barrett			Yes
Allan Ramsay	X		Yes
Mike Davis			Yes
Ena Backus		X	Yes

Backlog Discussion (Roger Tubby)

Prior implementation was an “agile” method – first-in, first-out. No priorities in queue. It is better to treat the backlog as a set of requests and deal with as soon as possible, reconstituting our previous workflow system.

Zach Sullivan asked how the Council should manage work. Allan Ramsay mentioned that Board has priorities that will require release of information to entities and the Council should be responsive to the Board's strategic priorities. Susan Barrett mentioned that the Council will be working more with data requests with the release of the Moratorium. The council can assist in setting priorities. Roger Tubby mentioned that backlog will still exist and they will put together a sample of how requests will be handled and inform the applicant of how they can get data info.

Public Comment

No public comment.

The Council moved to adjourn this meeting.

Member	Motion	Second	Vote
Susan Barrett			Yes
Allan Ramsay	X		Yes
Mike Davis			Yes
Ena Backus		X	Yes

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.

*The next DGC meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2016.