

GMCB Primary Care Advisory Group

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

5:30 – 7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

PCAG Member Attendance	Eileen Murphy; Elliot Rubin; Fay Homan; Leigh LoPresti; Michelle Wade; Robert Penney; Tim Tanner; John King; Emilija O. Florance; Paul Reiss; Kristen Sheehan
GMCB Attendance	Susan Barrett; Julia Boles

1. GMCB Summer Schedule

Julia Boles gave an overview of GMCB’s summer schedule for regulatory processes (ACO, rate review, hospital budgets), a CON hearing next week, and the upcoming community engagement meetings to support hospital transformation under Act 167 in July.

2. 2024 Legislative Outcomes that Impact Primary Care

Stephanie Winters from the Vermont Medical Society reviewed legislation affecting primary care providers that was passed or is pending from the 2024 legislative session:

- H.766 which relates to prior authorization. PCAG members had questions about which plans the bill will apply to (not self-insured or Medicare Advantage plans), how the bill will apply in practice, and whether the cost estimates are taking into account the provider burden of prior authorizations and the potentially avoidable ED visits that currently happen because of prior authorization denials/delays.
- H. 721 related to Medicaid Expansion, most parts did not pass but part of the bill – an expansion of the Medicare Savings Program – related to helping with out-of-pocket costs for people on Medicare moved forward in the budget.
- H.861 for telehealth reimbursement, which was signed by the Governor.
- S.18 related to banning flavored tobacco was vetoed by the Governor and did not have a veto-proof majority.
- H.612 was about cannabis and was turned into studies and rulemaking. It was passed by both chambers and is waiting to go to the Governor.
- H. 469 was signed by the Governor and allows remote and electronic execution of advanced directives.
- Two prevention screening bills to expand screening coverage to align with clinical guidelines: H. 741 was about colorectal screening and H. 621 was about mammograms. Both were signed by the Governor.
- S. 109 was related to Medicaid coverage for doula services. The bill became a study by DVHA to look at cost and licensing. The bill was signed by the Governor.
- S. 164 would have created coverage for obesity treatment. There were concerns from DVHA about the high costs of this bill. VMS tried to get a study or find another path forward this year but the bill did not advance. VMS is continuing to work on a cost analysis before next session.
- H. 72 relates to overdose prevention centers. It was passed by both chambers but is awaiting

the Governor's decision. The bill would require VDH to create guidelines and would create one pilot prevention center in Burlington.

- S. 302 is a bill about public health programs regarding dementia risks. It passed and is awaiting delivery to the Governor.
- H. 870 is the "Housekeeping" bill for the Office of Professional Regulation and would allow naturopaths to sign death and birth certificates. The bill also forms an advisory group to look into Act 39 and DNR/COLST orders. The bill passed and is awaiting delivery to the Governor.
- Child specific legislation:
 - S.298 has protections for children under 18. This is part of a larger data privacy bill that has passed but is waiting to be delivered to the Governor.
 - S. 187 relates to student application of sunscreen in schools with written permission of their parents. It was passed and signed by the Governor.
 - S. 309 is a miscellaneous DMV bill which updates the child safety seat laws to align with AAP guidelines. It passed and is waiting to be delivered to Governor.