Introduction to the Vermont Medical Society
GMCB Primary Care Landscape Panel
October 26, 2022

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About us

- 501(c)(6) nonprofit member service organization founded in 1784
- 2600 members (MDs, DOs, PAs, students)
  - About 2/3 of practicing MDs in the State
  - All specialties and practice settings
  - Group memberships (UVMHN, Porter, CVMC, RRMC, BMH, DHMC, North Country, PCHP, CHSLV, SVMC)
  - Individual memberships
- ***Dedicated*** to ***protecting the health*** of all Vermonters and ***improving the environment*** in which Vermont physicians & physician assistants practice medicine

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Who We Are: Physician Leaders

Elected at annual membership meeting (typically early November)

President:

Simha Ravven, MD (Psychiatry, CMO, Howard Center)

President:-elect:

Ryan Sexton, MD (Emergency Medicine, NVRH)

Vice-President:

Rebecca Bell, MD (Pediatric Intensivist, UVMMC)

Immediate Past-President:

Catherine Schneider, MD (Surgery, Mt. Ascutney)

Secretary-Treasurer:

Howard Schapiro, MD (UVM Health Network)

Who We Are: Board

- The Board shall seek to establish inclusive and diverse representation of members on the Board in areas such as medical specialty, practice type, geography, group membership and individual demographics
- Meets approx. 6 times per year to discuss the policy, governance, operations, and finances of the organization
- 4 family practice, 3 PCP Internal Med, 2 peds, 2 psychiatry, 1 OBGYN

- Executive Committee (5)
- AMA Delegation (2)
- Ex Officio (VDH, LCOM) (2)
- At-Large Seats (5)
- Geographic Representatives (7)
- Specialty Representatives (13)
- PA Representatives (1 voting, 1 alt)
- Student & Resident Reps (2 voting)

Specialty Society Support

VMS provides services to specialty societies that not only serve to bolster the specialty society as an organization but also to increase the communication and collaboration between the specialty societies and the VMS.

- American Academy of Pediatrics – Vermont Chapter
- American College of Physicians – Vermont Chapter
- American College of Surgeons – Vermont Chapter
- Northern New England Society of Addiction Medicine
- Vermont Academy of Family Physicians
- Vermont Ophthalmological Society
- Vermont Orthopaedic Society
- Vermont Psychiatric Association
- Vermont Society of Anesthesiologists
- Vermont State Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons

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VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY PHYSICIAN AND PA SURVEY

JULY 2022

Full results available at:
https://vermontmedicalsociety51665.wildapricot.org/resources/2022vmssurveyresults_Final1%20(1).pdf

Results from July 2022 Survey Show the Highs & Lows of Practicing Medicine

"I LOVE my job. I have wonderful patients. They are appreciative and we have built positive relationships in my 5 years of practice. "

"The overall morale of physicians is as low as I have ever seen it."

"Taking very high level care of patients and teaching students, residents, and fellows"

"I don't have time to just be human."

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What impacts your ability to practice medicine?

Out of 292 respondents the survey results show Vermont clinicians remain committed to their patients, but many are burned out from an unsustainable workload, exacerbated by administrative burdens and overbearing EMRs.

"Shortage of healthcare personnel, both practitioners (physicians, PAs NPs) as well as support staff. We are stretched to the limit. My partner is retiring in June 2023 and I don't know if I am going to be able replace her. And we are already short two [advanced practitioners]: one retired and the other had to move out of the area for family reasons. This is the perfect storm of The Great Resignation due to the pandemic combined with the aging of primary care physicians retiring and no one coming up from behind to replace them. This a tsunami that will overwhelm our state in the next few years, and overwhelming my practice right now. "
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- *Under-staffing or Lack of Supportive Leadership Team: 91*
- *Administrative Burden/EHR/Prior Auth: 91*
- *Reimbursement/Compensation: 76*
- *Lack of Work-Life Balance or Burnout: 32*
- *Mental Health Support for Patients and Physicians: 18*
- *Loss of Autonomy/Corporatization of Health Care: 16*
- *Patient Access to Care: 9*
- *COVID: 4*

"I am a first year medical student looking at family practice. I am most concerned about being able to spend meaningful time with patients and being limited by the policies of insurance companies and hospitals that require lots of paperwork and short visit times."

"Too many work hours. Too much administrative work after a 50 hour clinical week. I am a director of a clinical service and have no administrative time. All I do is put out fires and not improve anything."

"The deluge of EMR messages that require 100's of decisions daily, responses to staff and patients in an often untimely manner, and too many requests for opinions about medical issues. This has taken on a life of its own, and is not sustainable, and is a poor model for delivering care despite the fact that it seems benign enough."

What we Do

- Legislative & Regulatory Advocacy
- Education and Outreach
- Practitioner Health
- Specialty Society Administration

ADVOCACY

See full 2022 Primary Care Platform at:
https://vtmd.org/client_media/files/primary_care_onepagers_11.2021_1.pdf

Significant investment in primary care is critical to maintaining access to affordable, quality health care in Vermont

Medicaid Payments
Increase to 100% of the 2022 Medicare rate

Primary Care Spend
Increase to 12% of Vermont's total health care spending

Payment Reform Support
Increase primary care engagement in payment reform

Workforce
Ongoing funding for primary care scholarships and increased loan repayment

Prior Authorization
Reduce administrative burden, specifically prior authorizations

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2022 Successes

Sustainability

- Medicaid payments for primary care increased to 100% of 2022 Medicare rates
- FY2023 Budget must fund primary care at 100% of Medicare or report on gap
- Study of Blueprint for Health funding for community health teams and quality improvement

Workforce

- FY23 budget continues to fund 10 primary care physician incentive scholarships
- $500,000 added to loan repayment program for primary care; $2m for PAs and nurses
- $15 million+ to be made available this fall for "workforce recruitment and retention"

Coverage

- 3 no-cost primary care and mental health visits in every standard insurance plan
- Medicaid expanded coverage for 12-months of post-partum care

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2023 AGENDA

Sustainability

- Retain Medicaid payments for primary care at least at100% of 2022 Medicare rates
- Implement recommended increases to Blueprint for Health
- Minimum primary care spend by payer, including Medicare (mechanism to support BP, CPR program)
- Pay parity for audio-only telehealth services
- Updated Workers' Compensation Fee Schedule

Workforce

- Continued funding for primary care physician incentive scholarships & loan repayment program
- Implementation of $15 million in workforce recruitment and retention payment
- Support for Family Medicine Residency program

Administrative Burden

- Expansion of payer Gold Card pilots created by Act 140 of 2020