

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

PCAG Member Attendees	Mark Peluso, Fay Homan, Robert Penney, Michelle Wade, Tim Tanner, <i>Valerie Rooney, Kate McIntosh, Christina Harlow, Deborah Wachtel, Paul Reiss</i>
GMCB Attendees	Susan Barrett, Robin Lunge, Tom Pelham, Michele Lawrence, <i>Pat Jones</i>
Other Attendees	Stephanie Winters, Vermont Medical Society; Representative Chip Conquest; Dr. Josh Plavin & Brian Murphy, BCBSVT; Dr. Elizabeth Malko & Susan Gretkowski, MVP
<i>*italics denote phone participation</i>	

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. Board Member Tom Pelham introduced himself to the group and provided brief background and work history.
- b. **Action Items:** None noted.

2. Pediatric Workforce Discussion

- a. Robust discussion led by Dr. Valerie Rooney and Dr. Kate McIntosh of current acute care practices hindering recruitment efforts, including; low costs of Medicaid reimbursement for pediatrics in rural hospitals, being generally overworked due to volume, opiate addicted babies requiring attention and treatment every few hours for a minimum of two weeks in the hospital, social work coverage, understaffing on nursery and inpatient floors in rural hospitals, and middle-of-the-night on-call shifts. Additional discussion around thoughts on how to expand the pediatric workforce included; loan repayment, equal pay for pediatricians, and increased salaries to gain provider pool in certain catchment areas.
 Money is not the issue, it's on-call shifts, coupled with practicing full-time, the combination of the two are bad for patient care.
 Neonatal nocturnist pool would be ideal – NP/Physician in nursery.
 Need to consider the holistic view of investing in children. They will become the adults of VT in the future and we need to support their development to avoid physical health needs in adulthood.
- b. **Action Items:** Valerie has introduced to her local legislators, group to advocate with other legislators. May want to consider making recommendation to Health Care Workforce Workgroup at the agency as they are updating the Health Care Workforce plan.
 GMCB to look at current composition of workforce – identify if there is a pediatrician and update group for the next meeting.
 Proposal from PCAG outlining high priority areas to get out to workforce workgroup and the full Board. PCAG will then share with legislators.

3. Creating opportunities to reduce requirements for primary care professionals to provide prior authorization for their patients to receive radiology, medication, and specialty services
 - a. Dr. Elizabeth Malko presented on MVP's current policies and procedures for prior authorization. PCAG emphasized a need for point-of-care decision tools, ideally built into the EMR system. Discussion of a "reverse gold-card" – where low-performing physicians are mandated to continue entering prior authorizations coupled with educational efforts.
 - b. **Action Items:** MVP will look into data about declined PA's that were ultimately conducted at a later date.
BCBSVT to present on imaging prior authorization data at 1/17/18 meeting.

4. Legislative Agenda/Planning
 - a. Robin Lunge presented enrollment graph across payers to show where VT legislature has regulatory authority. In thinking through prior authorization legislation, we would be hitting about 50% of people with VT insurance we can regulate, for those on state borders, that may be lower due to out-of-state insurance.
Suggestions from the group on H.342 will be incorporated and sent via the bill sponsor to legislative council. Group should be prepared to testify to legislative committees.
Robin reviewed the Board's regulatory activities and processes. Discussion of PCAG roles and responsibilities and impact after group's sunset, with the reminder that all quasi-judicial proceedings would not be included, but that public comment is always welcome. The issue of recruitment was addressed, Robin noted that we would continue to recruit if folks decided to leave PCAG, but that language doesn't need to be included in statute.
 - b. **Action Items:** send full text of H.342 to group (Complete 12/22/17).
GMCB to update 113 sec. 10 with PCAG suggestions. (Complete 12/21/17).