

Green Mountain Care Board Member Job Description

Overview

Vermont's landmark health care health reform law (18 V.S.A. Chapter 220) sets out a process to move the state through several stages of health system change leading to a publically financed, single payer, health insurance benefits program, Green Mountain Care. When completed, the program will provide affordable access to high quality health care for all Vermonters, separate from their employment.

Green Mountain Care Board

The law establishes an independent, five-member, Green Mountain Care Board to approve the design and implementation of Green Mountain Care and to create a cost-containment system for health care. The Board consists of a full-time Chair and four members. The Chair shall be a health care expert and is responsible for leading the process. This includes developing a collaborative environment, assuring thoughtful and informed deliberations, excellent communication and administrative efficiency. The Chair supervises the staff. The chair will be paid \$131,045 annually. Side members will be paid \$87,360 annually and may have outside work, although all members must comply with conflict of interest and recusal requirements noted below.

Responsibilities of the Board

In developing Vermont's new program, the first charge to the Board is controlling the growth of health care costs by revamping the way doctors and hospitals get paid. This includes moving away from a fee-for-service model.

The Board's oversight responsibilities include reviewing a health information technology plan, a health care workforce development plan and a resource allocation plan. The Board will also have the final approval for insurance rate requests, hospital budgets and capital projects requiring certificates of need.

Subject to legislative approval of a financing mechanism and budget, the Board will oversee the design of a benefit package providing Vermonter residents timely, high quality health care from the provider of their choice.

Principles

Candidates must be committed to the principles outlined in the law:

- The State of Vermont must ensure universal access to and coverage for high-quality, medically necessary health services for all Vermonters.

- Overall health care costs must be contained and growth in health care spending must balance the health needs of the population with the ability to pay for such care.
- The health care system must be transparent in design, efficient in operation, and accountable to the people it serves.
- Primary care must be preserved and enhanced so that Vermonters have care available to them, preferably within their own communities.
- Every Vermonter should be able to choose his or her health care provider.
- Vermonters should be aware of the costs of health services. Costs should be transparent and easy to understand.
- Individuals have a personal responsibility to maintain their own health and to use health resources wisely.
- The health care system must recognize the primacy of the relationship between patients and their health care practitioners.
- Vermont's health delivery system must seek continuous improvement of health care quality and safety and promote and incent healthy lifestyles.
- Vermont's health care system must include mechanisms for containing all system costs and eliminating unnecessary expenditures.
- The financing of health care must be sufficient, fair, predictable, transparent, sustainable, and shared equitably.
- The system must consider the effects of payment reform on individuals and on health care professionals and suppliers.
- Vermont's health care system must operate as a partnership between consumers, employers, health care professionals, hospitals and government.

Qualifications

Candidates must have demonstrated knowledge or expertise in health care policy, health care delivery or health care financing and openness to alternative approaches to health care. It is expected that candidates will be familiar with financial statements and budgets, health care policy at the national and state level, have an understanding of quantitative methods and the ability to oversee complex research and evaluation. It is expected that the expertise, knowledge and characteristics of individual members will complement each other and that members contribute to public confidence in the Board's decisions and process.

Board members may not serve as an officer, director, consultant or attorney for an entity regulated by the Board. Board members may practice medicine and be a non-management employee of a hospital or other health care facility, but would be required to recuse themselves from any Board matters which involve their employer. Candidates need not resign these positions prior to accepting a position.

Appointment Process

The position for Chair of the Green Mountain Care Board will be vacant in September 2013. The Governor may appoint a person to fill the Chair vacancy from the current members of the Green Mountain Care Board or from a list of qualified candidates submitted to him by the Green Mountain Care Nominating Committee. The Chair's term expires in September 2018. If the Chair position is filled by a current member of the Green Mountain Care Board, a newly selected member would fill out the term of the member becoming Chair. The Nominating Committee consists of nine members, appointed by the Speaker of the House, Senate President Pro Tempore and Governor to identify candidates for these positions. An appointment by the Governor to the Green Mountain Care Board is subject to confirmation by the Senate in the 2014 legislative session. The application process is confidential.