



**HOWARD  
CENTER**  
Help is here.

August 24, 2016

Mr. Al Gobielle  
Chair  
Green Mountain Care Board  
89 Main Street, Third Floor, City Center  
Montpelier, VT 05620

Dear Chairman Gobielle:

Like so many in the community I was saddened to learn of the current financial and regulatory challenges facing Burlington Labs. I have known their founder Michael Casarico for many years, going back to when he was a valued staff member at Howard Center, as a man who has always translated his passion and commitment to addressing addiction and recovery into tangible and meaningful action. The development of Burlington Labs as a local and accessible clinical support service was an important additional resource for our community. In addition to their commitment to hiring individuals in recovery Burlington Labs has been a consistent and generous contributor to many community organizations and agencies serving the prevention, treatment and recovery needs in Chittenden County and Vermont. As a key employer and valued service its closure would be unfortunate and have a considerable negative economic impact on our local economy. The group of investors, including the University of Vermont Health Network, brings a credible, accountable, and timely mechanism to address the current business crisis. Given the known factors in play I would encourage you and the board to support the request to grant an emergency Certificate of Need to permit the transfer of ownership.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Bick  
Chief Executive Officer

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[HowardCenter.org](http://HowardCenter.org)

Member Agency of United Way of Chittenden County