

December 12, 2018

Kevin Mullin
Chair, Green Mountain Care Board
144 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Chair Mullin and Members of the Green Mountain Care Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY2019 OneCare budget. The members of the VNAs of Vermont support the goals of the all-payer model waiver and are working closely with OneCare to achieve them.

There are several elements of the FY2019 OneCare budget on which we want to highlight our strong support:

- (1) **Innovation Fund:** The innovation fund represents an important opportunity for home health agencies to demonstrate the role they could play in prevention, population health and controlling health care costs if some of the limits that Medicaid and Medicare place on our services were removed. Community providers like home health agencies don't have funds available for demonstration projects. At the same time, our services are so cost-effective that even a relatively small grant program presents a significant opportunity to test new models and demonstrate our value.
- (2) **Complex Care Coordination:** Home health and hospice agencies are active participants in OneCare's complex care coordination program. We support the continuation of per member per month payments for participating community providers.
- (3) **Post-Acute Home Discharge Waiver:** OneCare staff play a pivotal role in the development and implementation of this waiver opportunity under which home health nurses make prevention-focused home visits after a hospitalization that would not otherwise be covered by Medicare. Visits might include a safety evaluation of the home, medication reconciliation, and explaining discharge instructions. The project management provided by OneCare has been instrumental in keeping the program moving forward. We look forward to the program spreading beyond the initial pilot site in 2019.
- (4) **Blueprint for Health, SASH, and Accountable Communities for Health:** Home health and hospice agencies are partners in these statewide and regional population health and initiatives and support their continued funding.

In addition to the specific budget comments, the VNAs of Vermont recommends that, as part of its ongoing oversight of ACOs, the GMCB invite community providers like home health and hospice agencies

to participate in hearings on the all-payer model. It's important for the board to hear directly from OneCare provider partners who are not otherwise regulated by the board. We very much appreciated the opportunity the board provided in July for the VNAs of Vermont to present.

Sincerely,

Jill Mazza Olson, MPA
Executive Director