

**From:** Katharine Hikel <hikelbreck@gmavt.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2018 12:31 PM

**Subject:** Re: Form submission from: Public Comment

Yesterday I had a moment of conviction about the ACO hierarchy when I heard on VPR that 'OneCare is a supporter...' - is THAT the best use of our healthcare dollars - or just part of the propaganda machine? Dismantling these hierarchies and restoring local control - community-based independent hospitals, clinics, birth centers - is the only way to make healthcare affordable and patient-centered. Brumsted is the worst example in our profession. It's a disgrace that corporate management need & greed is more important than patient-centered care (which means patient-centered economics). Vermont could lead the way; yet GMCB and the 'industry' swells ignore all rational voices, models, and input (as we've seen at every public meeting) in favor of the corporate hierarchy's.

Resistance is more effective than sucking up. And there can be no reform without critical thinking. If GMCB ever needs help with a patient-centered survey I'd love to assist. We need a survey that's actually accessible to those most exploited by the current model - perhaps we could work with the VT AG's Consumer Complaints sector to organize a joint effort that would reach the actual patient population (and not be corrupted by the management class). The best patient population to start with would be the VT Department of Health - where a nurse colleague in the Medical Reserve Corps recently told me, 'You wouldn't believe how badly our patients are treated in this system.' This could also be a chance for the Dartmouth Institute (inventors of the ACO) to redeem its trashed reputation\* and provide academic support (a student project?) for a strictly-defined patient survey.

Reform will not happen without that best catalyst for anyone laboring for progress: KEEP PUSHING! And in this effort it's probably wise to keep one's chocolate levels up. Let me know if the Board ever needs help with that. KH