

Green Mountain Care Board
144 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

[phone] 802-828-2177

Kevin Mullin, Chair
Jessica Holmes, Ph.D.
Robin Lunge, J.D., MHCDS
Tom Pelham
Maureen Usifer
Susan J. Barrett, J.D., Executive Director

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

March 9, 2020

Mr. William Cats-Baril, PhD
Silver Pines Partners, LLC
P.O. Box 161
Charlotte, VT 05445

RE: Docket No. GMCB-016-19con, Proposed Development of Medically Supervised Withdrawal Treatment Center for Substance Use Disorder in Stowe.

Dear Mr. Cats-Baril,

As you know, a hearing regarding the above-referenced application is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2019, beginning at 9:30 a.m. At the hearing, the applicant should be prepared to provide more detailed information and testimony regarding:

- 1) The concerns raised by the Vermont Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP) and the Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMH) in the comments that were previously provided to you, such as:
 - a. the impacts of the proposed project on Vermont health care providers and Vermont's inpatient psychiatric system due to increased utilization;
 - b. the impacts of the proposed project on staffing at existing addiction-treatment providers in Vermont in light of a current workforce shortage;
 - c. the need for the project and the efficacy of a 7- to 10-day stand-alone medically supervised withdrawal and residential treatment program;
 - d. the degree to which Silver Pines will be connected to the specialty treatment system in Vermont and other states and countries to which patients would return after completing the program;
 - e. the degree to which machine learning and neural network models have been tested in the population to be served.
- 2) The process that Silver Pines will use to screen patients, how effective this process is at identifying patients that need a higher level of care than is available at Silver Pines, and the criteria Silver Pines will use for accepting patients.



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- 3) The ability of Silver Pines to adequately coordinate services for individuals after they complete the program given expected patient volumes and the specific follow-up services that will be provided.
- 4) The assertion that the proposed project will decrease downstream costs for Vermonters.

Please address these issues in your presentation and expect questions from Board Members on these and other areas related to the application. If you will be making a PowerPoint presentation or asking Board Members to follow any handouts, you must submit the documents electronically to the Board no later than March 20, 2020 and provide nine physical copies.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

s/ Michael Barber

Michael Barber
General Counsel
Green Mountain Care Board