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Topic: ACOs

Comment:

I am a recently retired healthcare professional, who worked for many years at both The Brattleboro Retreat and Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. When I try to make sense of OneCare Vermont's request for a 40% raise in their budget, amounting to \$903 Million, all I can think of is the old "Pogo" cartoon:

"We Have Met the Enemy and He Is Us ! "

Why I say that is because OCV was set up with a clearly demarcated mission:

"ratchet down the unsustainable rise of health care costs." OCV committed to keep the rate of growth in healthcare expenditures under 3.5%.

But OneCare makes a mockery of this 3.5% figure by calling for a 40% raise in their own budget. Even accounting for the extra "attributable lives" OCV will assume this year, there is no way the GMCB should approve a budget raise which is 11 times GREATER than this 3.5% maximum. At that rate, OCV will come back to the GMCB next year looking for \$1.24 Billion. Approving this budget-busting increase will put all other Vermont programs and services at grave risk to being slashed in order to pay for such an out-of-control explosion in OCV costs.

If Vermonters are to take seriously the GMCB's solemn oversight task, the GMCB must reject this outrageous budget request.