

September 1, 2020

Kevin Mullin, Chair
Green Mountain Care Board
via email to kevin.mullin@vermont.gov

Dear Chair Mullin:

In past years, the Green Mountain Care Board's hospital budget process has largely focused on financials. This year, Vermont's hospital health care providers, including the Chief Medical Officers, Chief Nursing Officers, and Emergency Department Medical Directors, are taking the unprecedented step of underscoring the efforts of our hospital community during this unique time of COVID-19 and asking for your support of the hospital budgets as submitted.

Although not reflected as a large increase in cost in some budgets, all of Vermont's hospitals have utilized substantial resources to prepare for COVID-19, including:

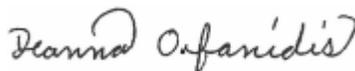
- Established and sustained incident command
- Parking lot and off-site testing
- Retrofitting spaces and creating new areas of the emergency department- one hospital converted its ambulance bay, other hospitals have put up walls
- Creating negative pressure rooms, moving units, creating alternatives to ICU and ventilation
- Bringing on other providers to the emergency department shift so that they are prepared to practice once a surge hits and ED providers get sick
- Housing providers who don't want to expose their families or have been working long hours in nearby hotels
- Surge planning and training
- PPE procurement efforts including on behalf of the State and other health care providers
- Testing supply procurement efforts
- Crisis standards of care planning
- Working with congregate living facilities such as long-term care facilities and nursing homes to share staff, implement infection controls, and plan transfer protocols

This list reflects only a fraction of the work undertaken by our colleagues across Vermont. While we continue to have a low incidence of COVID-19, the work of preparing for outbreaks while simultaneously providing the same quality of care our communities expect continues to happen every day. We respectfully request that you pass our budgets as submitted. We need our hospitals financially strong to support this work.

Sincerely,



Kathleen McGraw, M.D., Chair
VAHHS Chief Medical Officers



Deanna Orfanidis, M.S., R.N., Chair
VAHHS Chief Nursing Officers



Todd Gregory, M.D., Chair
VAHHS Emergency Department
Medical Directors