

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS



December 12, 2018

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

Dear Chair Mullin,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on OneCare Vermont's proposed fiscal year 2019 budget. We appreciate that ACO budget oversight is new territory for both OneCare Vermont and the Green Mountain Care Board and the importance it holds for the All-Payer Model (APM).

Few if any other states are working so boldly, deliberately and collaboratively to coordinate care and redesign the delivery model to focus on wellness. This work is compelling and critical. It requires various providers to build new alliances, optimize the use of clinical data and address factors beyond health care (e.g., housing, food, transportation). OneCare Vermont plays a vital role in all of those components.

The APM is an innovative, provider-driven health care reform effort, and hospitals are leading the work. With a focus on primary care, primary prevention and better health outcomes, the APM also seeks to bend the cost curve. In fact, APM progress is already becoming evident in quality outcomes and significant savings in the first year of the Medicaid program.

This type of provider-led delivery system reform is complicated and difficult. It takes time for health care providers to change the way they practice while instituting a culture of health within their communities. Rather than being high profile, this work will often happen behind the scenes and seamlessly for patients. Real improvement in health outcomes—and financial benefit of preventing chronic conditions and other health problems—will take time to fully emerge.

As the association representing Vermont's acute-care hospitals, VAHHS supports our members' leadership and innovation, and recognizes the significant financial risk they are taking to change how health care is delivered and paid for in our state. OneCare Vermont is the hub of the transformation happening here, and we hope its work is considered in the complete context of how much coordination it takes to realize our ambition of an even better health care system at a lower cost.

Thank you as always for hearing our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Tieman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" and last name "Tieman" clearly legible.

Jeff Tieman
President and CEO