

---

**DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY**

July 3, 2024

James Trimarchi, Director of Planning  
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center  
100 Hospital Drive  
Bennington, VT 05201

**RE: Docket No. GMCB-014-23con, Development of an Inpatient Mental Health Unit for Adolescents, Cost: \$9,543,006**

Dear Mr. Trimarchi:

Thank you for your responses to the second set of questions received on June 24, 2024. Please respond to the following:

1. Provide documentation or other support for the financial commitment referenced on Page 10 of the application stating that the State of Vermont will provide \$9.25M in capital to renovate the unit and \$1.0M in operational support to remediate the financial loss of the initial launch of the unit- expenses that accrue while the care team develops care protocols and during the patient volume ramp-up period (approximately the first year of operations).
2. Provide documentation or other support for the assertion that the per diem reimbursement for Vermont Medicaid patients receiving inpatient mental health services will provide sufficient revenue such that operational expenses of the mental health unit are covered and do not negatively impact SVMC's financials. The majority (78%) of the patients are anticipated to be covered by Vermont Medicaid.
3. Provide documentation or other support for the assertion that the per diem reimbursement rate for Vermont Medicaid patients receiving inpatient mental health services will be reviewed and adjusted annually to remediate the previous year's financial impact (both negative and positive) and to align the subsequent year's reimbursement and budgeted operating expenses. Alignment of reimbursement with budgeted expenses will ensure the impact of the unit on SVMC's ongoing financial position remains neutral and the unit continues to be fiscally sustainable in the long term.



In responding, restate the question in bold font and respond in unbolded font. Send an electronic copy to me at [donna.jerry@vermont.gov](mailto:donna.jerry@vermont.gov) and one hard copy (three-hole punched) with a Verification Under Oath to my attention at the Green Mountain Care Board, 1 National Life-Davis 3, Montpelier, Vermont 05633.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 802-760-8162.

Sincerely,

*s/ Donna Jerry*

Senior Health Policy Analyst  
Green Mountain Care Board

cc. Laura Beliveau, Staff Attorney, GMCB

