

GMCB Public Comment**Submit Date:** 3/18/2023**Name:** Representative Anne Donahue**Topic:** UVMMC 2017 enforcement action

Comment: Brief supplement to my previous comments: I urge the Board to permit the funds from the enforcement action to be re-designated for broader mental health needs in consultation with the Department of Mental Health, BUT WITH required prioritization of, first, feasibility of developing the critically-needed integrated pediatric psychiatric inpatient beds as a part of its Children's Hospital (the children waiting for days in emergency rooms should come as an absolute priority); and second, to invest in services that divert adults from requiring an emergency department visit and/or that reduce the length-of-stay pressures that reduce current inpatient capacity through expansion of community step-down support. The decision before the Board has significant implications for understanding and beginning to address the deeply-rooted systemic barriers to the full integration of mental health into a more holistic health care system, as discussed at length in my prior comments.

Post Comment: Yes