

THE  
University of Vermont  
HEALTH NETWORK

July 5, 2022

The Honorable Kevin Mullin, Chair  
Green Mountain Care Board  
114 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05062

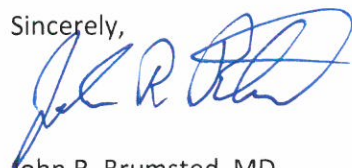
*Delivered electronically*

Dear Chair Mullin:

I am writing in response to your letter on June 24 regarding the use of self-restricted funds for inpatient mental health capacity. As my colleagues and I discussed in our presentation to you on April 27, the need for increased capacity to serve patients with mental illness remains significant, and in some areas, growing. But for the deteriorating financial position of the UVM Health Network, the significant capital cost for the Psychiatric Inpatient Capacity facility (PIC), and the chronic under-funding of mental health services by public and private payers (which is, in many ways, the biggest hurdle of all), we would be in a very different position as it relates to creating this necessary capacity. Sadly, in light of all of these things, our effort regarding PIC remains on hold indefinitely.

As has been the case throughout our process, making progress in improving systems for Vermonters with mental illness will require significant collaboration with the Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMH). I appreciate the increased flexibility you noted in your letter regarding the uses of the self-restricted funds, and commit to continuing to engage with DMH in understanding and responding to the most pressing needs of Vermonters. Through those discussions, we will develop alternatives for the use of the balance of the self-restricted funds that meet this increasingly urgent need.

Sincerely,



John R. Brumsted, MD  
President and CEO  
The University of Vermont Health Network