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August 12, 2021

Green Mountain Care Board
144 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Re: Pre-hearing Questions, FY22 Hospital Budgets

Dear Hospital Leadership and Members of the Green Mountain Care Board,

In advance of the hospital budget hearings, we ask the hospitals to prepare for the following questions, listed below. We hope these questions can be addressed through the hospital budget presentation itself, a verbal response during the hearing, or through a separate written response.

- How much funding in your current and future budgets has been allocated to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and/or racial equity focused projects, trainings, or collaborations?
- What percentage of staff and administrative leadership have received training in language access needs, implicit bias, and cultural competency?
- In what languages are your patient satisfaction the surveys available? Is race/ethnicity data collected as a part of these surveys?
- For hospitals that have experienced a significant change in trends related to bad debt and free care before vs during the pandemic, we are interested in your perspectives about the causes of these changes. What happened on the ground? Were there any issues with patients' ability to learn about or apply for free care during the shut-down?

Thank you for considering our questions and your attention to these topics.

Sincerely,

Policy Team
Office of the Health Care Advocate