

**From:** LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>

**Sent on:** Monday, October 30, 2023 8:20:37 PM

**To:** GMCB - ACO<GMCB.ACO@vermont.gov>; GMCB - Board Members<GMCB.BoardMembers@vermont.gov>; Bredice, Tara<Tara.Bredice@vermont.gov>

**Subject:** Public Comment: Accountable Care Organization (ACO) 2023-10-30T20:20:33Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

**Submit Time:** 10/30/2023 8:20:33 PM

**Name:** Wanda Bouvier

**Affiliation:** I am a Nurse in the field of Health care and a Mental Health Counselor as well

**Town/City:** NewHaven

**Topic:** Accountable Care Organization

**Comment:** As we are all aware the accountability of our healthcare system is trying at best. Communication between multi providers seems to have become lost, the cost associated with health care is ridiculous, finding providers is impossible and health care reform is not appearing to be of great concern at the present time. I as a nurse, see many patients and as a mental health care provider I see clients that are in crisis. They cannot afford the health care that is sometimes needed for wellness. We are whole beings and our brains perceive pain and suffering whether mental health or physical health the same. How do we make it equitable? I wonder what the system would look like if we had a voucher system for health care for those who were unable to purchase it through an employer or that were on Vermont State care. If the resources were pooled and there was a more efficient way to track the visit needs or lack thereof could we have resources that were more available and opportunistic in the event that we needed them? That being said I do believe that we are in need of more CON services. Primarily in the mental health field. Clinicians are very hard to come by in most counties. Saying that we "have enough" is less than the truth unless you can afford to pay for the clinician or wait 6 months for an opening. Kids particularly don't wait they act. 988 while it is a solution does not take care of the young person who may need a face to face conversation or that is having difficulty already seeing the issue at hand. Additionally the elderly for many years have only been able to see MSW licensed clinicians which limits their access. These limitations need to change so that all have access to any health care needed. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in. Sincerely, Wanda Bouvier RN MHC

**Post Comment:** Yes