

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 11/6/2023

Name: Allison Niemi, MD

Affiliation: SVMC

Town/City: Pownal, VT

Topic: Certificate of Need

Comment: I have been a practicing primary care provider in Bennington County for 20 years. It has always been difficult to get adequate psychiatric care for patients, but in the past 5 years it has become even harder. I have been informed that per capita it appears VT has an adequate number of psychiatrists, but what I can tell you on a practical level is that many of these psychiatrists are inaccessible to patients for a number of reasons including insurance, not open to new patients, or not practicing general psychiatry. This places a huge burden on primary care physicians to prescribe medications and treat adult and pediatric conditions they are not equipped to treat. This also results in inadequate care for patients with complex psychiatric conditions, increased burden on emergency departments and hospitals, and increased total cost of care both financially and socially.

Post Comment: Yes