

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 5/24/2023

Name: Barbara Hatch

Affiliation: NVRH

Town/City: Saint Johnsbury

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: As a concerned resident, my family and I depend on the healthcare services provided by NVRH. I am asking GMCB to carefully reconsider the budget guidance that will result in a system (statewide) hospital growth rate of 0.1% and an operating loss (statewide) of approximately \$82M. Hospitals are challenged with staffing shortages and with inflation driving up costs, they cannot manage under this budget guidance and continue to serve their communities with optimal healthcare. In fact, NVRH's proposed FY 2024 budget far exceeds this guidance and there is no pathway to come into alignment without impacting the services they provide. The loss of services would have a negative and dramatic affect on the already strained community. Thoughtful consideration of the budget guidance as it pertains to rural hospitals must be exercised to insure equitable access and services for all of Vermont's residents.

Post Comment: Yes