

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 10/23/2023

Name: Ethan Parke

Affiliation:

Town/City: Montpelier

Topic: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167 Community Engagement to Support Hospital Transformation

Comment: The UVMHN has eradicated most of its competition, and in doing so patients have lost access to timely care. A few years ago I was looking for a primary care provider in central Vermont and I had some health issues that needed attention. I called many practices only to be told that they were not accepting new patients. Finally I found the only place that was accepting new patients: the primary care practice at UVM's Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC). I filled out a ream of new patient intake forms and then was told there was a 9-month waiting period until my first appointment. That was quite a disappointment because I was experiencing debilitating pain, fatigue, and other symptoms, but there was no alternative, other than UVM Express Care, where I might get a 10-minute check by a Physician Assistant. So I waited for that first appointment with my new doctor. The day before the appointment I got a call from CVMC: my doctor was not available and my appointment would be rescheduled in another 4 months. In desperation, I found a primary care provider in the Copley service area who could see me right away, and who was able to refer me to the specialists I needed. I now have a 50-minute drive to see a doctor, but that's better than being at the mercy of UVMHN's dysfunctional system. Despite its nominal nonprofit status, UVMHN is run based on a monopolistic profit motive, to the detriment of the communities it serves.

Post Comment: Yes