

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 5/26/2023

Name: Frank Knoll, Board Chair

Affiliation: North Country Hospital

Town/City: Newport

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: To the Directors of the Green Mountain Care Board, The Trustees of all Vermont hospitals have a primary duty of oversight for the community hospitals we serve. Our position as a Trustee is voluntary. We serve without compensation so that our judgment and decision making is not influenced by outside interests. With this background, I am writing to weigh in on budget guidance that is currently before the GMCB to cap net patient revenue growth in FY 2024 to 8.4% over the previous year. This growth, when linked to the previous year of losses our hospital, will not allow any margin and result in another very significant operating loss year. As a business owner and investor, I know that hospitals and businesses alike must create a bottom-line profit that permits reinvestment in the underlying business or organization. The health of our communities depends on the survival of our rural access hospitals. These important centers of health care must remain solvent to continue to serve these communities. Moreover, cutting services and jobs is not an acceptable approach to improving the long term goal of improving the health of the communities we serve. Yes, inflation is running at much higher levels than in previous times. All costs are rising and hospitals understand there are limits to spending. Hospitals constantly work to limit increases and struggle to remain competitive in providing services. As Trustees, we need to point out that the "CARE" in Green Mountain Care Board needs to be underscored in making our request for the Board to reconsider its position in setting realistic goals for future fiscal year budgets that will allow hospitals to put the healthcare needs of our patients and communities first.

Respectfully, Frank Knoll Board Chair North Country Hospital

Post Comment: Yes