

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 8/15/2023

Name: Roger Brown

Affiliation:

Town/City: Richmond

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment:

What are we doing here? Twenty plus percent increases to health care costs are just not a serious proposal. Is the negotiating tactic to propose an increase so big that negotiating back to a low double-digit level seems reasonable? No! 28% increase is not a real offer! What does a level funded budget look like for UVMHN? "This will result in a loss of critical services." Ok, which services? Can one of them be the loss of administrators who seem to be laughably out of touch with the needs of the people of the state of Vermont? What is the limiting factor on these budgets? Shame? UVMHN is a public utility that threatens its users with loss of service if it does not receive the exorbitant increases it demands. Is there a word for this behavior other than extortion? This seems like a strange service where there is a negative economy of scale - as the hospital gets bigger it costs more per unit of service. I have a proposal. a) As mentioned above, require a level funded budget to be presented with every extortionary one; b) revoke all unfilled Certificates of Need and require replication with a demonstration of why the facility is more efficiently done by a health network than an independent group (and no, negotiating leverage with insurance companies does not count); c) set a per-outcome spending cap where the revenue allowed is inversely proportional to the total revenue controlled (smaller hospitals are allowed to spend more per patient than big ones); d) literally anything - throw darts at the wall, shout into the wind, who knows - but even considering these increases is offensive to hardworking people (including those who work at the hospitals), who have to deal with these costs. In the state of Vermont we are literally changing laws to try to address the housing crisis (oh the housing crisis!) but legislators are strangely silent when it comes to a cost that is outpacing housing is size and increase in many cases. So it's on you GMCB members. Good luck!

Post Comment: Yes