

**From:** LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>

**Sent on:** Monday, August 28, 2023 10:57:01 PM

**To:** GMCB - Health Systems Finances<GMCB.HealthSystemsFinances@vermont.gov>; Bredice, Tara<Tara.Bredice@vermont.gov>; LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>

**Subject:** Public Comment: Hospital Budget 2023-08-28T22:56:57Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 8/28/2023 10:56:57 PM

Name: Lee Morissette

Affiliation: Mt Ascutney Hospital

Town/City: Windsor Vermont

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: Mt Ascutney Hospital continues to see increasing number of patients each year, even during COVID, the ED volume consistently increased, as did our number of mental health patients being boarded in the ED awaiting placement and other patients boarded in the ED due to lack of beds to admit in house to or other facilities to transfer them to. Adding to the challenge is the nursing staff shortages as outlined have resulted in high traveler utilization, but even with this off-set we are many times staffed at 50% of our nursing staff both inpatient and in the ED, significantly impacting the number of patients that we can care for thereby boarding patients in the ED as they have no where else to go given the lack of LTC facility beds. The staff at the hospital have stepped up and maintained high levels of quality care but at the cost of staff burnout and leaving health care as a profession due to stress. We need to be able to full staff our facility with full time staff and not have to rely of travelers. Would request the GMCB take into consideration of specifically what each facility is providing and the challenges they are facing and approve a budget in support of these very real needs that hospitals have, as we cannot continue down this road much longer without serious repercussions.

Post Comment: Yes