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Sent on: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 7:28:11 PM

To: GMCB - Health Systems Finances<GMCB.HealthSystemsFinances@vermont.gov>; Foster, Owen<Owen.Foster@vermont.gov>; Barrett, Susan<Susan.Barrett@vermont.gov>; Barber, Michael<Michael.Barber@vermont.gov>; Walsh, Thom<Thom.Walsh@vermont.gov>; Murman, David<David.Murman@vermont.gov>; Lunge, Robin<Robin.Lunge@vermont.gov>; Holmes, Jessica A.<Jessica.A.Holmes@vermont.gov>; Hengstler, Mark<Mark.Hengstler@vermont.gov>; LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>

Subject: Public Comment: Hospital Budget 2024-09-25T19:28:08Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 9/25/2024 7:28:08 PM

Name: Sarah Gibbs

Affiliation: UVMMV Resident

Town/City: Burlington VT

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: While I do not know the utmost detail regarding our or other hospital budgets, I strongly encourage the board to at least not reduce the budget of the University of Vermont Medical Center. As a new resident here coming from the West Coast, I have been very surprised at the lack of financial support and resources provided for care here. For instance this is the first hospital I have ever worked at (9 hospitals prior to UVM) that that did not have an ultrasound machine on every medicine unit. While I chose the University of Vermont because of my interactions with the people here, I will say the cost of living to salary ratio was something that did test me when deciding if I wanted to do my medical residency training here. All other medical residencies that I interviewed with a cost of living similar to Burlington, offered 20–\$30,000 more in yearly salary or housing stipends. I will also say the hospital staff here are the least wasteful functioning group I have ever met. Constantly taking notes on paper from the recycling, sharing computers when there are not enough for every resident medical student and attending to have their own, saving and reusing masks to reduce waste, limiting unnecessary traffic into rooms requiring personal protective equipment, and the list goes on and on. I do not know what the numbers look like on the outside but from the inside I can tell you that I was completely shocked to hear anyone would consider decreasing the funding to this hospital instead of increasing. People here work really hard with so much less than other places. You cannot treat a hospital budget simply as numbers unless you expect anything but poor outcomes, staff burnout, and overall a steady decline in patient care. I do not know how all the other hospitals I have worked at have managed to provide more resources to employees and medical care with their own budgets but before decreasing the budget for the only tertiary Medical Center servicing the state of Vermont, you might ask around to learn how other hospitals to manage to provide so much more support and funding to its staff and operations and the improved outcomes that are associated with such supports. It obviously cost money to run a hospital, but were not just any business. We are the business that keeps you, your friends and family alive, well, and at home. All I ask is that you consider the value in that alone before making a change that will increase the burden of those who work here and ultimately cause staff burnout, decreased retention and low quality patient care.

Post Comment: Yes