

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 10/14/2024

Name: Mary McCoy

Affiliation:

Town/City: Windham, VT

Topic: Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167

Comment:

The following comment was printed in the Brattleboro Reformer on 10/9/24 Grace Cottage is Perfectly Healthy Imagine this – a healthy, vibrant, and much-loved woman goes in for an annual checkup. Her doctor examines all of her vital signs and lab reports and expresses concern. She does not fit the statistics he likes to see for a woman her size, age, and location. He tells her she must change the way she functions and her role in her community. She needs to make more money. He concludes, “You also need heart surgery.” As ridiculous as this sounds, this is what could happen to Grace Cottage Health Care. The doctor is a consultant to Green Mountain Care who said Grace Cottage must change from being healthy, vibrant, and much-loved to fit the mold he thinks will be better and more cost-efficient. He not only wants to change the heart of Grace Cottage, he wants to break the heart of all of us who depend on Grace’s current structure. We rely on our care center to react to our community’s needs, and since 1951, Grace has responded to us, based on what we patients require to be healthy, not what is forced by some top-down dictate. Grace conducts various fundraising events each year, giving us community members a chance to join our neighbors in supporting our beloved care center. This is not a weakness. This relationship is how we have maintained a great health care home for 75 years. For more than 20 years, I have been involved with Grace Cottage as a patient and volunteer. For five decades before that, I used the health care provided in six other states. Perhaps those providers were more cost effective, but none were nearly as helpful to me as Grace Cottage. When I listen to friends in those other states tell horror stories of the services they receive, and when I think of my own previous treatment, I know I am extremely fortunate to have the services of Grace Cottage. Green Mountain Care, you need to reject the consultant’s report. Do not seek to change Grace Cottage. She is perfectly healthy as she is.

Post Comment: Yes