

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

**Sent on:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 6:02:39 PM

**To:** LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>; Watson, Hilary<Hilary.Watson@vermont.gov>; Melamed, Marisa<Marisa.Melamed@vermont.gov>; Barrett, Susan<Susan.Barrett@vermont.gov>; Foster, Owen<Owen.Foster@vermont.gov>; Holmes, Jessica A.<Jessica.A.Holmes@vermont.gov>; Lunge, Robin<Robin.Lunge@vermont.gov>; Murman, David<David.Murman@vermont.gov>; Walsh, Thom<Thom.Walsh@vermont.gov>; Berube, Alena<Alena.Berube@vermont.gov>; AHS - Health Care Reform<AHS.HealthCareReform@vermont.gov>

**Subject:** Public Comment: Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167 2024-07-31T18:02:36Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

**Submit Time:** 7/31/2024 6:02:36 PM

**Name:** Maureen Conrad

**Affiliation:** Addison County Home Health and Hospice

**Town/City:** Middlebury

**Topic:** Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167

**Comment:** Full disclosure: I am Director of Development for Addison County Home Health and Hospice, the VNA of Addison County. In thinking about Dr. Hamory's comments last evening we were happy that he brought up the additional brewing 7.5% cuts to home health agencies' Medicare reimbursement rates, and particularly liked his use of the "meat cleaver" terminology to describe these cuts. After suffering a 6.815% cut for CY 2023 and 2024, this additional loss in revenue is unwelcome to say the least, and there is NO WAY that we can make up for this loss with local fundraising. Dr. Hamory has a really good understanding of why this is occurring—simply put Medicare decided that the large for-profit home health and hospice companies were earning too much and so they decided to implement across-the-board cuts for all. Does anyone else find it ironic that one of the main solutions proposed to help fix hospitals' problems is to provide more care at home? While we as a society are considering another decrease in reimbursements? We at ACHHH have been privileged to provide care for AC residents right in their homes since 1968 however at some point these cuts will put agencies like ours at risk.....and then what? We intend to work with our local hospital, Porter, and help in any way we can to continue to provide the level of care that our residents expect and deserve. We employ no traveling staff and have only one nursing vacancy, and all of our employees live our mission every day. We learned a great deal yesterday from Dr. Hamory's presentation and very much appreciated the opportunity to learn from him. Thank you for your work.

**Post Comment:** Yes