

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

Sent on: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 2:34:21 AM

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Subject: Public Comment: Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167 2024-08-06T02:34:19Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 8/6/2024 2:34:19 AM

Name: Wendi McNaughton

Affiliation:

Town/City: Cavendish

Topic: Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167

Comment: I use health services in both the Rutland and Springfield areas. In 2019, one week before I my second child was due, Springfield hospital closed their birthing center, where I had planned to be. Not only was this a dramatic change, but it was made without sufficient time. I was shifted to Dartmouth where I did not know any of the physicians or practices. It was incredibly stressful. Since then services our communities have continued to decrease, with our Ludlow walk-in clinic closing their weekend hours (When they are most needed). We are losing services that keep people out of the ER. As a middle school teacher, I see limited health care causing issues for students and families and an increase in mental health needs on top of it. Also as a teacher, I have seen health insurance costs rise dramatically and seen my coverage lower and seen the school budgets voted down because of the increase in the health care portions of the budgets. A member of my family was a licensed MD but due to life circumstances, let her license expire. With our high medical need, is a way to utilize people who have non-traditional medical backgrounds in our state?

Post Comment: Yes