

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 10/27/2023

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Town/City: Brattleboro

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: VT is a state concerned with the rising loss of residents and workforce to neighboring states. Health care workers (HCW) are a good sample of this trend and why it is occurring. A good first step to address this issue is adding increases and exceptions for Hospital Budgets oversight. 1. Ensure all VT Hospital employees make more than a livable wage. For example, allow an increase in VT hospital budgets to match the \$17 minimum any employee of Cheshire Medical Center and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical affiliates makes. 2. Increase hospital budgets to ensure that VT Hospital employee wages are competitive with bordering hospitals in New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Hospitals need to be able to meet and offer the same salary range (and in some areas offer greater wage incentive than neighboring hospitals to promote and attract HCW). This should include at least any hospital within an hour drive of any VT hospital. Otherwise, VT will continue to lose HCW as it does many residents and employees to out of state competitors. 3. Allow an exception to Hospital budgets to include at least a yearly raise that keeps HCW above 1% > than yearly US Inflation Rate. 4. Allow increases in hospital budgets that add and maintain or increase in Emergency Department Psychiatric specific rooms and Inpatient Psychiatric Care wards and rooms. 5. Allow increase in hospital budgets that specifically allow for hiring and retaining mental health care workers to work with children, teens and adults for Emergency care, Inpatient care and consultations and counseling.

Post Comment: Yes