

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 9/13/2023

Name: Laura McCray, MD MSCE

Affiliation: Professor and Interim Chair, Network Department of Family Medicine

Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont

University of Vermont Health Network

Town/City: Burlington

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment:

My name is Laura McCray, and I am a Family Physician and the Interim Chair of the Department of Family Medicine for the UVM Health Network. I have practiced for over 15 years at Family Medicine- South Burlington, a UVM Health network primary care site, and previously served as the program director for the UVM Family Medicine residency program. I see patients of all ages, from newborn to geriatrics, and I have a home visit practice for homebound patients. Through my clinical practice and leadership roles, I know that the UVM Health Network is committed to population health and health equity. We are engaging in innovative work in High Value Care- working to improve access for patients, close care gaps, and improve preventative care and chronic disease management for all patients, including the most vulnerable. To do this work, we need adequate resources through budgetary support to staff our clinics and invest in Population Health resources such as social work, case management, embedded mental health supports, and addiction care. We need the resources and infrastructure to support our care teams and providers- from the front desk staff to the cleaning crew at the end of the day. If we fail to support the work at hand now, we will see further health disparity, further challenges with recruitment and retention of nurses, staff, and physicians, which will ultimately negatively impact the patients we serve.

We also need adequate investment in information technology to support our work and our providers. This is essential to patient safety. I was caring for patients and running the Family Medicine residency program during the cyberattack in the fall of 2020. It occurred during the height of the pandemic, when patients were at their most vulnerable and our staff and providers were risking their lives on the front lines. Our computer systems and electronic health record shut down for an entire month. Funding for IT, cybersecurity, and technological support is essential to patient safety.

UVM Health Network cares. We are recovering from three years of pandemic, catching up on back logs and wait lists of the kind of care that is needed and essential. Our providers are fatigued, but are committed to putting the patient first, and the network leaders and financial teams have worked diligently on a fair and realistic budget to do the work at hand. I am confident that UVM HN has and will invest any future margin back into its care teams, infrastructure, and future in order to provide the best care for the community.

Sincerely,

Laura McCray

Laura McCray, MD MSCE

Professor and Interim Chair, Network Department of Family Medicine

Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont

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Post Comment: Yes