

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 5/26/2023

Name: Louise Bonvechio

Affiliation: Trustee North Country Hospital, Finance Chair

Town/City: Newport

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: Members of the Green Mountain Care Board: I am writing to share my concerns about the limitations that the Green Mountain Care Board is placing on Vermont hospital budgets with the proposed budget limitations. As a member of the North Country Hospital board, I intimately understand the challenge of balancing expenses with affordability. However, I feel a sense of responsibility to provide some insight into what 2-year budget guidance of essentially 0.1% from FY 2023 would look like in the NEK. The GMCB's current FY 24 budget guidance is not grounded in the realities our hospitals are facing. Hospital costs for salary inflation, contract labor to cover workforce shortages, and pharmaceutical increases and specialty drugs are all higher than ever before, and with general inflation at 8%, purchasing basic supplies comes at staggering costs. The proposed limitations would not come close to covering the rate of inflation therefore resulting in an anticipated net operating loss of many millions of dollars for NCH. I implore you to reconsider your approach so that Vermont hospitals can survive. Our communities need us. Local hospitals are a pillar in those communities that they serve. Decimating our healthcare system in the name of affordability will harm our communities and our economies here in the NEK and across the state.

Thank you for your consideration, Louise Bonvechio, Trustee North Country Hospital EVP | CFO, Community National Bank

Post Comment: Yes