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Sent on: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 12:36:11 PM

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Subject: Public Comment: Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167 2023-11-01T12:36:08Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 11/1/2023 12:36:08 PM

Name: Paul Cooker

Affiliation: None

Town/City: Tunbridge VT

Topic: Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167

Comment: During my most recent visit to Laura Barber M.D. at the Chelsea Health Center, she announced that she has been laid off, and will be replaced by a nurse instead. This comes as a terrible shock to my wife and me, as we have been her patients for eight years, and cherish her experience, acumen and humanity very much. She has guided me through several serious hospitalizations, and I greatly appreciate the convenience and efficiency of local care. The replacement of Dr. Barber by a nurse, regardless of ability, is not the level of service we are paying for. If her redundancy is some sort of cost saving measure, it is extremely shortsighted, and radically affects the many patients under her care. At a time when the availability of therapy in Vermont is under tremendous pressure, with services constantly eroding, the loss of a physician in a critical role illustrates a total lack of respect and is a false economy. I would therefore urge her many patients to voice their gross displeasure at this diabolical move, and help retain a very experienced doctor we desperately need. The medical industry must put the provision of care first and foremost. We cannot withstand a loss that would result in the degradation of the nurturing required.

Post Comment: Yes