

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 10/22/2023

Name: Rachel Lever

Affiliation:

Town/City: Montpelier

Topic: For public health care meeting

Comment: Hello, I am a person on Social Security Disability or SSDI, and also work a small per diem job. I fall well under the income guidelines for VT Medicaid. However, because I have Medicare with part D, which is a requirement, my Medicaid was dropped after Covid. I'm writing specifically because Medicare does not cover some of the medications I need and out of pocket are in the thousands... when I lost my Medicaid, I also had to stop those medications that were improving my health and quality of life. In addition, I also lost my dental and eye insurance that Medicaid offers. I've researched and applied EVERY way to get my Medicaid back- but because I'm working minimally in addition to having Medicare, I make too much money and disqualify. I've applied numerous times to the Disabled Medicaid program, and I am immediately denied (by regular Medicaid standards, my income falls over \$1000.00 monthly, but Disability Medicaid has ridiculously low income limits) In the past, Vermont had a program called Medicaid for the Working Disabled. That program allowed both Medicare and Medicaid if you were working. Now it's the MABD, the program I keep applying to, and being denied, that offers a Medicaid supplement to aged, blind and disabled I make too much money for. They dropped the working part of it a few years ago. I've also applied for V-Pharm, which I should be eligible for, hoping that if Medicare was to deny my medication, the state insurance would pick it up. This is a paid insurance and I'd be happy to pay that small charge monthly to get back at the very least, my medications. I keep getting denied and the reason is that I have Medicare. Also, I get the Extra Help program- which covers my Medicare premiums. I appreciate that program but if offered I'd choose a Medicaid program over "Extra Help" any day. I'm aware that this isn't how things work, but it would be nice to have that type of choice. I know my letter likely can't change anything and fingers crossed that this year is the year they add my medications to the Medicare prescription drug plan BUT I know I'm not the only one that is affected by this- I wish that attention would be brought to it- it's a challenge being disabled and not being able to get your medications- and having bills and copays for other services. Thank you for taking the time for me- maybe if enough people speak up, change might come. Best, Rachel Lever

Post Comment: Yes