

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 10/26/2023

Name: Richard White

Affiliation: Retired

Town/City: Cotuit, MA (formerly Derby, Craftsbury, Derby Line and Newport)

Topic: Relevance of community hospitals

Comment: I write as a former resident of the NEK, former board chair, former president of the local community bank, and most importantly as a former and recent patient of North Country Hospital. When I was on the board, back when we broke the room rate barrier of \$100 per day, I can attest to the fact that we tried diligently to deliver high quality care as efficiently as possible. I can personally vouch for the quality of care provided and which I received, first with a cardiac event in 2004 and then with a second in 2022. In both cases I was treated in the ER by professional, caring nursing staff and doctors, who made correct diagnoses and got me the follow-up care that I needed. Beyond my personal experiences, as a long time community banker, I believe that North Country Hospital is critical to our community in a variety of ways: it is a major employer, its presence is critical to attracting and keeping people to and in our corner of Vermont, and it is a leader in promoting public health and welfare, as evidenced by its wellness, safety and healthy food programs. In short, it is critical to the economic, social, and public health of our community. We are about 2 hours away from the tertiary hospitals in Burlington and Hanover. Without a well-equipped and staffed local hospital patients would be at significant risk of unfavorable results in many acute situations, not to mention the burden on their families of having to travel so far to visit and care for their loved ones. I firmly believe that NCH delivers "quality health care, close to home" in a community setting that is critical to the area.

Post Comment: Yes