

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 12/2/2023

Name: Mary Barnett

Affiliation: patient at Mountain Community Health Center

Town/City: Bristol

Topic: privatization of Medicare

Comment: I just became aware of the ACO-REACH plan to significantly privatize our Federally Qualified Health Center in Bristol, Mountain Community Health, and that the Care Board may vote on it as soon as December 6. The fact that we have only been given a three-week notice to provide comments is outrageous given the potential major change to Mountain Health and that we know no details about this deal. Many providers at MCH did not even know about it. I find this concerning and troubling, as I do not want my healthcare in a managed care system steered greatly by a for-profit firm, such as Vytalize. Why is this being done in our local Federally Qualified Health Center? Why is this needed in any way other than to benefit a for-profit firm? I am against this plan until I know more. I feel at the very least you should: 1) extend the comment period beyond December 5 and the vote until later, as many other people are unaware of this and will not have time to comment on it. 2) You should make details of the contract between Vytalize and Mountain Health public so that patients and medical providers can understand what is at stake and what safeguards are in it to protect our true quality of care, not those in some cost-cutting formula. Such details should include things like the flow of money; what risk the clinic will bear if the private-equity-financed firm doesn't see the profit it wants; what incentives clinicians will have that influence care; what consequences clinicians will face if they don't act as the firm wants; what choice the clinicians have to not participate; and what changes will the clinic see regarding software and productivity measures that might affect care. What happens if MCH decides after a year it doesn't want to renew?

Post Comment: Yes