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Sent on: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 12:16:17 PM

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Subject: Public Comment: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167 Community Engagement to Support Hospital Transformation 2023-10-24T12:16:13Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 10/24/2023 12:16:13 PM

Name: Wyll Everett, MD

Affiliation: Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital

Town/City: Proctorsville

Topic: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167 Community Engagement to Support Hospital Transformation

Comment: While completing my medical training and residency at the University of Vermont, I had a unique opportunity to glimpse the care that Grace Cottage provides for the communities of southern Vermont. Since that point I have held Grace Cottage as the example of what primary care can be. The medical providers and staff at this institution have consistently provided the highest level of community-based care which has been reflected in their consistent reviews as well as the fact that our patient numbers continue to swell based on our reputation. Compared to larger centers where my patients consistently had difficulty navigating the complexities of the modern medical system and generally felt that their PCP was disconnected, the community based Grace Cottage has consistently provided well-rounded care for our patients. Particularly, unique to our patient population—which is similar to much of the state—the fact that we can offer inpatient care closer to home with coordinated follow-up as well as more extended rehab stays have kept our patients functional and in the community. This is compared to other locations where many people view a rehab stay as a commitment to never returning home, except for things like acute orthopedic problems. Our well staffed emergency department has seen increased volumes as has the rest of the state in recent years. They have taken this transition in stride and my patients continue to feel that they have a meaningful visits with the ED providers and, importantly, they feel that their PCP is involved in their care. Even for patients not established with our office, we consistently coordinate emergency room follow-up visits to ensure appropriate care as everyone recognizes this as a clear way to reduce ED burden and healthcare cost. With the recent closing of numerous private local pharmacies, the pharmacy associated with Grace Cottage has picked up an incredible increase in prescriptions per month and continues to provide diligent personal care. A number of patients continue to drive over 30 minutes to use this pharmacy, let alone seeks their care at Grace cottage, because of the services that we provide. In summary, my motivation for training in family medicine was to be able to take care of my community and practice with a well-rounded scope of medicine to help people feel cared for and heard. Grace Cottage provides this unique opportunity where I have autonomy in my practice with a very strong support system of resources, despite our size and rural location, so that my colleagues and myself can make appropriate medical decisions for our patients and community.

Post Comment: Yes