

Submitted on Sun, 11/27/2022

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Topic

Accountable Care Organization

Comment

This letter-to-the-editor was in the Vermont Digger on Sunday, Nov 27, 2022 in response to the Digger's article about OneCare's 2023 budget hearing on November 9, 2022.

OneCare's budget should be rejected and OneCare itself should become history so that the millions, rather billions, we're spending on it should go toward real health care and not toward more executive salaries for management and another vast layer of bureaucracy.

https://vtdigger.org/letters_to_editor/finally-the-right-onecare-question/

Finally, the right OneCare question

I heartily thank Green Mountain Care Board members, Owen Foster and Thom Walsh, for their pointed grilling of OneCare's highly paid executives for one piece of evidence that OneCare has done any good for Vermonters.

As Owen Foster, the care board's new chair, said, "Vermonters, either through taxpayer-funded health care groups, out-of-pocket expenses, copays or insurance, have borne the bulk of those staggering numbers. ... And for that they deserve results."

We health care activists have been asking this of OneCare on behalf of Vermonters ever since its birth during the Shumlin era. Exactly what good has OneCare done for us Vermonters?

Green Mountain Care Board member Thom Walsh, succinctly phrased what we've been inquiring about for so long a time: "What I'm struggling to find is an outcome that would be meaningful to Vermonters, and you may be able to say something like, 'reduced (emergency department) visits. ... Those are outcome measures that matter to patients, and I can't find them.'"

OneCare's responses seemed rather lame. Its claim that it could take years or generations to show some measurable results hardly seems germane for us footing the millions for it now. It took Medicare a year without computers to change the culture.

OneCare has failed us. Its budget should be rejected, its upcoming contract not renewed, and the savings redirected toward real health care, not more management care.

Walter Carpenter, Montpelier

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