

**A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.**

**Submit Time:** 5/23/2023

**Name:** Warren Dow

**Affiliation:** NVRH Trustee

**Town/City:** Barnet, VT

**Topic:** Hospital Budget

**Comment:** I am very concerned about the budget guidelines provided to hospitals throughout the state and their ability to sustain sound operating budgets when following these guidelines. The guidance provided would result in a system (statewide) hospital growth rate of 0.1% and an operating loss (statewide) of approximately \$82M. Given the stresses hospitals are all under with staffing shortages and inflation driving up costs, I believe the guidance must be reevaluated for hospitals to keep their doors open and continue to serve their respective communities. NVRH is the largest employer in our region and has stepped in as challenges have developed with our neighboring hospital systems. As these neighboring systems reduce services, NVRH has stepped into a role to ensure not only our immediate community, but also neighboring communities, continue to receive the services and care they require. We are a critical access hospital, and access to our services requires a sound operating budget. Maintenance and upkeep of our facilities requires a sound operating budget. Recruiting and retaining providers and staff requires a sound operating budget. Please reconsider the budget guidelines and help ensure our hospital systems will still be here in 20 years.

**Post Comment:** Yes