



Northern Counties

HEALTH CARE

Administrative Office

Dear Chairman Mullin,

I write to offer Northern Counties Health Care's support for OneCare Vermont's Calendar Year 2022 budget. NCHC is a federally qualified health center (FQHC) and a non-profit organization serving the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont with a rural network of five community health centers, a walk-in care center, three dental practices, and a home care and hospice division. NCHS is a member of OneCare Vermont's provider network, and I serve as the FQHC representative on OneCare Vermont's Board of Managers and as a member of the Finance Committee.

OneCare Vermont provides valuable support and four major benefits:

- Significant population health funding that supports both primary care and home health, which we invest in increased services and care coordination,
- The option to use a shared care coordination platform that helps a multi-organization team work together in service of our mutual patients,
- Timely and useful population health data, and;
- The opportunity to work on payment and delivery system reform every day with our peers in the OneCare provider network.

OneCare Vermont's support is important, timely, and consistent with national trends that likely make the future of health care more data driven, integrated, and value based. Furthermore, it is unlikely that our organization could make these investments on its own. Our ability to enhance our wrap-around services and support community activities is a direct and critical benefit of our partnership with OneCare.

OneCare Vermont has challenges; however, I believe that all of these same challenges would apply to any serious reform effort. As I have said before, the ACO could wind down operations today and the State's next reform effort would need to address these exact same challenges. Except, the State would do so without alignment between Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial payers, a robust provider network, and years of progressively responsible experience designing, implementing, administering, and regulating accountable entities. Also, I believe that OneCare continues to address challenges in good faith while supporting the State's chosen vision for aligned, multi-payer health care reform. It is important that the State acts in good faith as well and provides the reform effort with the support and stability it requires.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Costa, CEO

Compassionate Care in Our Home or Yours

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www.NCHCVT.org