



Brattleboro Memorial Hospital
EXCEPTIONAL CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

October 27, 2021

Kevin Mullin, Chairman
Green Mountain Care Board
144 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Chairman Mullin,

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Brattleboro Memorial Hospital (BMH) I'm writing to offer my organization's support of OneCare Vermont's fiscal 2022 budget proposal. BMH's ongoing alignment with OneCare continues to provide tangible dividends in the form of cost reduction, higher quality of care, better patient outcomes, and enhanced care coordination between providers.

OneCare Vermont's investments in innovation, community-based services, and population health clearly benefit the communities served by our hospital. Here are just a few examples that illustrate my point:

- Using statistics and analytics made available through OneCare (i.e., population-based information that is *not* provided in the electronic medical record), BMH established that our highest cost services correlated to cardiac emergencies. Thanks to an Innovation Fund Grant from OneCare, we were able to establish a unique, one-of-a-kind Cardiac PreHab Program that allows clinicians to identify and intervene on behalf of select patients *before* experiencing a heart attack. It is built on a series of modules in which patients are guided through proven education, exercise, and healthy dietary strategies aimed at preventing patients from experiencing an acute cardiac event.
- OneCare payments have allowed BMH to embed a full-time RN to oversee care coordination in each one of our primary care practices.
- BMH's Community Health Teams remain intact and viable thanks to OneCare funding. Otherwise, approximately \$1.5 million in Blueprint for Health dollars would be in jeopardy.
- Through the Skilled Nursing Facility Medicare Waiver with OneCare, BMH inpatients can be discharged and directly admitted to a skilled nursing facility without the otherwise-required three day wait. This waiver has now expanded to include discharges from the Emergency Department and primary care providers, all of which means that patients can have appropriate access to rehab services and receive the right level of care at the right time.

The initiatives described above demonstrate how OneCare Vermont continues to serve as a positive force in our state's healthcare reform journey—by reducing administrative costs, supporting community health initiatives and preventive care, and curbing expensive hospital admissions. I urge you to approve OneCare's FY2022 budget proposal, and ensure their ongoing role in southern Vermont's efforts to reimagine healthcare.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Gordon
BMH President & CEO