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Name

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Town/City

Bennington, VT

Topic

Accountable Care Organization

Comment

This comment concerns the 2022 Budget Submission by OneCare.

That OneCare allocates 1.1% of the total budget for its own operating costs does not mean that the operating costs are reasonable. Since OneCare essentially receives money from payers and parcels it out to providers, it should have very, very low operating expenses. I urge GMCB to delve into the details of those operating expenses, especially in light of the fact that OneCare's expenses are in addition to the administrative expenses of both payers and providers. If dealing with OneCare increases a provider's administrative expenses, that added cost will show up in the provider's rates. If dealing with OneCare increases a payer's costs, the added costs will show up in premiums.

How much total administrative cost is being added to healthcare expenditures by way of OneCare? That question is very important given that OneCare's operating costs do not go toward providing insurance for the uninsured, or toward making it easier for the underinsured to meet their deductibles, co-pays, etcetera.

I also urge GMCB to examine the role that the hospital dues to OneCare are playing in the well publicized financial difficulties of Vermont's hospitals.