



May 31, 2023

The Honorable Owen Foster
Green Mountain Care Board
144 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Chair Foster:

In accordance with the Board's order of March 22, 2023, we hereby submit for your consideration a proposal for investment of the remaining funds (\$18 million) that were set aside pursuant to the Board's order of April 18, 2018.

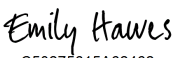
This proposal has been developed through a collaboration between the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the University of Vermont Health Network (UVMHN). Our shared goal is to address some of the most pressing needs in the state by increasing capacity for mental health services, with particular attention to services that will reduce the need for inpatient care. These investments also likely will reduce the frequency of hospitalization and length of stay for adults, adolescents and children experiencing a mental health episode.


We recognize mental health treatment needs – like all types of health care – evolve and change over time. While we have submitted a three-year plan for the expenditure of these funds, emerging needs may arise requiring modifications to our proposal. In order to track these investments and any potential pivot, we suggest filing an annual report to the Board tracking progress and modification, in collaboration with DMH.

Consistent with the Board's order, we have shared this proposal with numerous stakeholders for input. These include the DMH Adult Program Standing Committee, the UVMHN Psychiatry Program Quality Committee, advocates for children and families, individuals with lived experience with mental health treatment, and representatives of the National Alliance for Mental Illness.

We stand ready to discuss this proposal with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Emily Hawes, LADC
Commissioner
Vermont Department of Mental Health


Robert Althoff, MD, PhD
Department of Psychiatry, Chair
UVM Health Network

cc: Members of the Green Mountain Care Board
Jenney Samuelson, Secretary, Agency of Human Services
Rick Vincent, Chief Financial Officer, UVM Health Network