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Affiliation: National Alliance on Mental Illness of Vermont

Town/City: Williston

Topic: FY17 UVMMC Enforcement Action Regarding Self-Restricted Funds for Inpatient Mental Health Capacity

Comment: Dear Green Mountain Care Board, The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Vermont (NAMI Vermont) supports the flexibility for the University of Vermont Health Network to invest the \$18 million on mental health needs. We strongly urge the Board to consider supporting a 24-hour crisis stabilization (adult and youth) unit/facility in our most populated Chittenden County. Individuals are not getting the right care at the right time in the right environment. There are major gaps and barriers accessing treatment. We need to strive for a preventative approach that includes: 1. Someone to call – 988 is now available 24/7 in our state. 2. Someone to respond – mobile crisis response is beginning to be established in the state, but is not 24/7. 3. Somewhere to go – 24 hr. crisis stabilization facilities – we need to divert people away from the emergency department and intervene earlier with immediate access to care and treatment. There should be “no wrong door”. Right now, the emergency department is the ONLY place to go 24/7 – we need to change this. Additionally, we need parity in financing psychiatric care. Psychiatry should not have to operate at a loss. We need to prioritize mental health care and funding – at the same rate as we do for physical health care. Parity also includes that both mental health and physical health be integrated. We need to embrace integration and reimagine our health care system. Thank you for listening to our comments. Respectfully Submitted, Laurie Emerson, Executive Director NAMI Vermont

Post Comment: Yes