



SERVICES

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To whom it may concern,

This is a plea to keep the eight psychiatric beds open and functional in Morrisville, while opening the 25 beds at the new psychiatric unit in Berlin. Despite our best efforts, Vermont's medical community continues feeling long term stress related to limited mental health beds since closure of Vermont State Hospital with Hurricane Irene.

Although our systems are taxed, Vermont's emergency medical community continues stepping forward in an attempt to meet the demands of the psychiatric community. We continue feeling the strain of patients awaiting placement in excess of two hundred and fifty hours, in a small room of the emergency department. Our community emergency departments attempt to care for psychotic individuals while keeping the pediatric and invalid populations safe when only separated by a curtain. Not only is this frightening for our medical patients, but inhumane to our psychiatric patients who lack privacy and areas to shower in our emergency settings.

We also must remember that having psychiatric patients living in emergency departments affects the care of all the patients who present for emergency care and stabilization. Patients who walk in the door or arrive by ambulance must first be placed in a bed where they can be seen. Housing a psychiatric patient in an emergency bed that should house six patients per day means patients back up into the waiting room and cannot even get into the department for evaluation and treatment. We attempt to see these patients in hallways, but this is not optimal care. The psychiatric patient has received emergency treatment and stabilization and needs to be moved to a care area designed to give them the best care. As you can imagine, the chaotic and unstructured environment of the emergency department is the worst place for someone in psychiatric crisis.

Fletcher Allen Healthcare values "becoming one" throughout the organization. In an effort to be proactive, our inpatient psychiatry, emergency medicine and security services banded together hiring additional mental health care staff, increasing training, education and safety. Also small changes, such as creating a clothing closet to assist our psychiatric community and enlisting the help of recreational therapy to create a tool kit centered on the goal of coping during lengthy stays in the emergency

department, have been instituted. Additionally, the Vermont Emergency Nurses Association stepped up, in support of this critical need, to host a psychiatric educational conference this year.

Although Vermont's medical facilities are not equipped to handle both the increased number and acuity of volatile psychiatric patients, they continue to support the community. Medical and mental health employees suffer assaults from such violent patients yet continue working daily to support the needs of our challenging population.

As you can see, the medical community has left no stone unturned. Being proactive and planning for psychiatric trauma is what we do best. Presently, we clearly see that no matter how many employees are hired, educational programs are offered, or how we band together as a community, it does not make up for the lack of actual physical space, in which to treat a patient.

K Baker, RN

D Smith - McMahon

 RN

Andie Small, RN

Erica C Houghton RN

Sammy Gohn RN

William Bergeson Security Officer

 EMT

Blalighan RN

 MD

 EMT

Cynthia B. Wamsanz RN

Yana Fealy, RN



Thomas A Jones EMT

Walter L Smith J

 MD

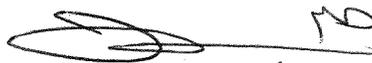
S. Suddaby RN

Kameron G. Medley RN

Jan A. G. EMT-I<sup>II</sup>

 EMT

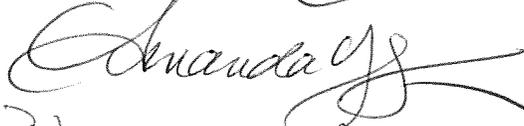
Angela Henry FMT

 MD

R. R. R. RN

Bryn Valley

Ahmad Khan



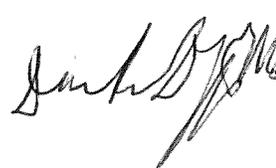
KAREN BOENAN, MD

Dan M. Lynde, RN

Agnes Bales

Jennifer Allen, RN

Rob Tolleran AEMT



John ENT  
Merrin  
Kevin Brod PA-C  
AA PA-C

James Lunn PA-C  
Lisa Santos Unit Sec.  
Dr Wendy Jones, MD  
FACEP

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G. Hentka, RN  
Subaffinalo RN  
Jamie AEMT  
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[Signature] RN  
Mimo Amy MD

Danno Rheavino, DNP, RN, CEN  
[Signature] - [Signature] EMT  
[Signature] RN  
M. M. [Signature] - ED Tech  
Duff RN  
Margaret McGarr RN  
Clare Chalky RN  
Sherry Gabor RN  
[Signature] MD  
Payton MD  
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Dana MD  
P. [Signature] PA-C  
Gilbert Helmer RN

John Pinner RN  
Kathy Bunn RN  
[Signature] MHT  
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Emily Pattison, EMT

~~Joan~~ RN (Joan CARSON, RN)

Shannon Jucy Pt. attendant

Ky Ryle, RN

Susan M. Myers, RN

Linda Kulp, RN - ED FAHC

Michelle Lafontaine - unit secretary ed

Sue Mullen; RN -

Donna Chicoine, RN, MSN, CEN

Rob Skreiner ED, secretary

Alice Barber, RN - ED FAHC

Donie BWSO - ED RN - FAHC

Patty Wright RN FAHC ER

Kathy Matthews RN FAHC

Jim ~~Stamat~~ <sup>MSW</sup> - social worker FAHC

Emily Pace RN

~~Mark~~ EMT

Mark EMT-I, MS-II

Helen Stygles LPA

Elm ~~Stamat~~ RN FAHC ER

McBristle RD

Sheena Fisher RD

Anyz

## Baker, Kristin

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**From:** Smith, Benjamin G.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 05, 2013 7:41 AM  
**To:** Baker, Kristin  
**Subject:** RE: Letter of support

Dear Kristin,

I totally support this effort to keep the Morrisville beds open. Sorry I cannot get there to sign the letter in person by Thursday.

Best,

Ben Smith MD

FAHC Emergency Services

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Ellen Lane RN  
Virginia Gray RN  
Jimmie J. J. J. RN  
Heather M. J. LNA  
Cynthia A. K. RN  
Clarissa J. G. CST  
Tyler S. H. PCA  
Keri W. Scott RN  
Dacia R. M. RN  
L. J. M.  
K. R.

John P. M.  
James L. F.  
Lance D.

M. J. M. RN  
Eamon M. M.  
D. J. Z. RN  
Janet J. B.  
Karen J. C.  
Jill J. V.  
Linda J. M. RN  
Lisa Kelley RN  
Lorie M. R. RN  
Linda L. L. LNA  
Richard L. M.  
K. M.