



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 Zedg, RN



Thomas A Jones EMT

Walter L Smith J

 MD

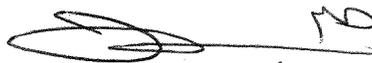
S. Suddaby RN

Kameron G. Medley RN

Jan A. G. EMT-I^{II}

 EMT

Angela Henry FMT

 MD

R. R. R. RN

Bryn Valley

Ahmad Khan



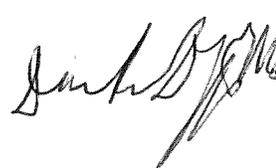
KAREN BOENAN, MD

Dan M. Lynch, RN

Agnes Bales

Jennifer Allen, RN

Rob Tolleran AEMT



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

Junealance PA-C
Lisa Santos Unit Sec.
Dr Wendy Thomas, MD
FACEP

~~Handwritten signature~~
J. Hentka, RN
Subaffinalo RN
Jamie AEMT
~~Handwritten signature~~
Ann RN
Mimo Amy MD

Danno Rheavino, DNP, RN, CEN
~~Handwritten signature~~ - EMT
Timm RN
M. M. - ED Tech
Duff RN
Margaret McGarr RN
Clare Chalky RN
Shirley Gabor RN
Handwritten signature MD
Payke MD
Handwritten signature MD
Dana MD
P. J. PA-C
Gilbert Helmer RN

John Pinner RN
Kathy Bunn RN
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Handwritten signature

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, MSW, 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~~ ^{MSW} - 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

Anty 

Baker, Kristin

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. RN
Heather M. Green LNA
Cynthia A. K. RN
Clarissa J. G. CST
Tyler S. H. PCA
Keri W. Scott RN
Dacia Ruzelli, RN
Linda J. M.
K. R.

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

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