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VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

Timely Access to Level One Inpatient Psychiatric Care in Vermont

Adopted October 25, 2014

9 Whereas, since the closing of Vermont State Hospital (VSH) following Tropical Storm Irene deprived
10 the state at one stroke of its entire level one inpatient psychiatric capacity; and

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12 Whereas, in the wake of the VSH closure, Vermont Hospital emergency rooms immediately became
13 overwhelmed by large number of acutely mentally ill patients who had no recourse to appropriate care,
14 resulting in lengthy emergency room stays, endangering patients and staff, leading to the premature
15 discharge of these acutely ill patients untreated, and interfering with the treatment of other emergency
16 room patients; and

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18 Whereas, within the past year, the Vermont Legislature adapted legislation streamlining access to
19 involuntary psychiatric admission and pharmacotherapy and a new level one facility, the Vermont
20 Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) was opened; therefore be it

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22 **RESOLVED, That the Vermont Medical Society work with the Department of Mental Health,**
23 **the General Assembly and the Vermont Association of Hospital and Health Systems to assess the**
24 **current status of access to level one inpatient psychiatric care in Vermont and, if deemed to still**
25 **be inadequate, urge the State to adopt further measures to enhance level one psychiatric**
26 **inpatient treatment resources.**