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Jenney Samuelson, Secretary
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Date: August 18, 2023

Re: Public Comment for Global Commitment Register (GCR) Policy [23-098, Mental Health Consumer Support Programs](#)

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) received the following comment on GCR 23-098:

Greetings from Brattleboro!

I'm writing in support of GCR 23-098 PROPOSED Medicaid Investment: Mental Health Consumer Support Programs.

First, peer support is an evidenced based practice that is cost effective and Vermonters deserve the best possible services, especially when they are struggling. The best organizations to provide peer support are peer run organizations. Providing more funds for peer run organizations is certainly the way to increase effective services.

I'm writing in support of additional allocation to Alyssum in Rochester, VT.

Alyssum is a two bed home is a residential crisis respite and hospital diversion service funded by the Vermont Department of Mental Health. The program is free to all eligible Vermont residents. It is peer run and designed for people who need short term support while working on recovery and discovery.

Alyssum is an incredible organization that is a good investment for the state. Program evaluations consistently find that guests receive the support they need, have service reduction from their stay, and report that the stay made a difference in their lives. Alyssum is a good program to increase investment into the future of mental health in Vermont.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cheers
Katie Wilson
Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery
Brattleboro, VT