

**State of Vermont**

Department of Mental Health  
166 Horseshoe Drive  
Waterbury, VT 05671-2010  
<http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/>

*Agency of Human Services*

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Hilary Melton  
Executive Director  
Pathways Vermont

**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

August 14, 2024

Dear Ms. Melton

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) held a public comment session on your proposed Peer Respite Project on August 13, 2024. One member of the public attended and offered support for the project. No written comments were received by August 13, 2024, following public notice of the hearing and a comment period. DMH earlier determined your application, with supplemental responses to questions posed by DMH, to be complete on July 18, 2024. Given this review and the absence of any new information that would identify potential concerns or local opposition to this proposed project, **DMH is pleased to grant Pathways Vermont a 2-year Certificate of Approval (COA)** to move forward with this project.

*Due to the lack of currently available funding beyond the initial 2-year period, DMH will require Pathway Vermont to submit an amended COA if it finds funding and is seeking the ability to continue this project beyond the initial 2 year approval.*

Depending on the scope of the project, statute delegates authority for the review and approval of Designated Agency capital expenditure projects (18V.S.A. §9435 (b)) to the Department of Mental Health and/or the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. This written approval letter, accompanied by your original Letter of Intent, should be submitted to the Green Mountain Care Board. Please note that any significant change in the nature or scope of your project, and any costs more than the approved expenditure, will require prior written approval as you move forward.

I wish you success with your project. If you have any questions about this approval, please contact Karen Barber at [karen.barber@vermont.gov](mailto:karen.barber@vermont.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Hawes".

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Emily Hawes  
Commissioner

Vermont Department of Mental Health

CC: Karen Godnick Barber, DMH General Counsel  
Samantha Sweet, DMH Deputy Commissioner  
Shannon Thompson, DMH Finance Director

