

THE
University of Vermont
HEALTH NETWORK

Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital

To: Wellness Center Members
From: Michelle LeBeau, President and COO
Re: Response to Power Wellness Petition
Date: September 11, 2020

While difficult, the decision to close the CVPH Wellness & Fitness Center is part of CVPH's concerted effort to care for our patients now and in the future. Since 2012, the Wellness Center at 295 New York Road has been a collaboration between CVPH and Power Wellness, a nationally-known medical fitness management company.

Faced with significant budget shortfalls before March of 2020, we paused most of our services, including the Wellness Center, for several months this year while our community faced the COVID-19 pandemic for the first time. Even with generous state and federal support, the pandemic made our already shaky financial situation worse.

It's unfortunate you are being misled into believing that this decision is not final. While none of us know what the future will hold, we must make the best decision with the information before us today. CVPH Wellness Center has lost approximately \$1.3 million in the last five years. Additionally, the facility faces more than \$1 million in infrastructure costs in the near-future for the gymnasium and pool. We can no longer sustain these losses and or incur these expenses.

Our decision to close the Center was made with the future of our hospital and the community it serves in mind. We take our commitment to provide the care this community needs seriously and have engaged in a redesign plan that will put us back on the right fiscal track. Remaining focused on patient care is the centerpiece of this effort.

We know that the Wellness Center has changed many lives and we believe that wellness and prevention is the key to good health. Unfortunately, we are unable to continue to support that effort and are exploring potential uses and partnerships for the New York Road facility.

I understand each of you has been asked to sign a petition and that you have also been asked to participate in a protest on our front lawn. Please note that this is a space for healing, not protesting. While I respect your choice to gather, should you choose to express yourselves on Monday you must do so off hospital grounds.

As CVPH works its way through these times of great change, our focus must remain on the patients who come to us for health care and those who provide it. My hope is one day we will once again be able to explore ways to help patients reduce their risk of illness and ultimately their need for our services .