

Green Mountain Care Board

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VITL Board Chair

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Initial VITL Board Thoughts on HTS Report and Plan Going Forward:

- VITL appreciates that the report strongly recognizes the value of the health information exchange in health care reform, and recommends that Vermont continue to champion the use of technology to achieve higher quality patient care at lower cost. The report is a thoughtful, thorough review of the challenges.
- We wholeheartedly agree with its recommendations that Vermont undertake a careful and comprehensive realignment of the governance and delivery of its health information technology and exchange initiatives statewide, including VITL, to better serve providers and patients.
- We have also undertaken our own planning process knowing we must move VITL forward with the State's report scope in mind. The VITL Board's plan recognizes many of the same points in the HTS Report:
 - **Staying close to intended mission** – using HIE technology to improve patient care and outcomes – and measuring initiatives with that in mind
 - Providing **more data** within VITL and making data **more user-friendly** to access
 - **Increasing utilization**, not just access, including through **direct benefits to clinical practices**
 - Improving the **quality of data** through initiatives at VITL and with clinician/customer
 - Creating smoother opt-in processes to **increase HIE patient consent**
 - Putting in place **stable, sustainable funding** for its health information technology and exchange initiatives, using a balanced public/private economic model that has worked well in other states and based upon delivering tangible value to customers and providers.
 - **Revising governance and oversight** to ensure it is aligned with VITL's mission and operational goals.

VITL Going Forward:

- John Evans retirement announced, effective January 1, 2017; transition planning underway, in partnership with DVHA/AHS.
- VITL will use the period of transition to lay the groundwork for increasing the impact of its technology and tools in support of better health care at lower overall cost to Vermonters. VITL is committed to:
 - Developing **stronger strategic partnerships** with the State, OneCare Vermont, and VITL's other provider partners including the Blueprint for Health.
 - Focusing on **operational stability and achieving core contracted services**, including through management of operations & staff retention during transition, and excellent customer service.
 - Working with the State and its partners to **help develop the State's HIT/HIE plan**.
 - Partnering with communities to **solve local problems using Health Information Exchange solutions** (e.g. transitions of care and hospital readmissions), which will also demonstrate how to **achieve higher utilization, greater patient participation, improved outcomes, and potential return on investment**.
 - Working with the State to **develop a financial sustainability model** by demonstrating the value of VITL's services through a return on investment to its stakeholders.
 - **Shifting governance and oversight to engage multiple stakeholders in VITL's mission** in ways that best suit their unique situations and ensures each has a voice – payers; self-insured employers; larger providers, particularly health systems; smaller and independent providers; and community care and human services agencies.