

**STATE OF VERMONT
GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD**

**AMENDMENT TO FY2023 VERMONT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LEADERS
(VITL) BUDGET ORDER**

In re: Vermont Information Technology)
Leaders (VITL) FY2023)
Budget Amendment)
_____)

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to condition B. of VITL’s FY2023 budget order, VITL publicly presented an updated budget for Fiscal Year 2023 at the February 22, 2023, Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB or Board) meeting. VITL’s budget update reflects an extension of funding for six months with the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), to align with VITL’s fiscal year timeline. VITL’s updated budget anticipates an increase of \$543k in revenue (a 5% increase from their original approved FY2023 budget) and an increase in expenses of \$541k (a 5.09% increase).

The GMCB held a public comment period from February 13-February 22nd prior to VITL’s presentation and no public comments were received. On February 22nd, the Board voted to approve/disapprove VITL’s FY2023 budget amendment for the reasons set forth below.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

VITL operates Vermont’s statewide health information exchange network (VHIE) – a critical component of Vermont’s Health Information Technology Plan (HIT Plan or HIE Plan). 18 V.S.A. § 9352(c)(1); *see also* 18 V.S.A. § 9351. The Vermont Legislature has tasked the Board with oversight of VITL’s annual budget.¹ Specifically, the Board must:

[a]nnually approve the budget, consistent with available funds, of the Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. (VITL). This review shall take into account VITL’s responsibilities pursuant to section 9352 of this title and the availability of funds needed to support those responsibilities.

18 V.S.A. § 9375(b)(2)(C); *see also* 18 V.S.A. § 9352(c)(1).

VITL’s budget has been subject to the Board’s review since FY2017.

¹ In its 2015 session, the Vermont Legislature charged the Board with oversight of VITL’s budget *and* its core activities. 2015 Sess., No. 54. The Legislature amended the statute in 2018, limiting the Board’s oversight of VITL to reviewing and approving VITL’s annual budget. *See* 2018 Sess., No. 187 (effective May 28, 2018).

The Board's review of VITL's budget is governed by four principles, set out in the VITL Budget Guidance approved on April 14, 2021:

- Transparency: The review process will be transparent.
- Public/Stakeholder Input: The review process will allow for stakeholder and public input.
- Alignment with HIE Plan Goals: The Board will review VITL's budget in order to determine whether it reflects a strategy and priorities consistent with the State's health care reform goals and the Health Information Technology (HIT) Plan. The Board will not direct the technical details of VITL's work or the details of VITL's contractual relationship with the State.
- Alignment with VITL/DVHA Process:
 - The Board's review process will be structured and timed in order to assist the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) and VITL in negotiating timely, effective agreements each year.
 - The process will result in Board decisions that are sufficiently clear to enable VITL to do its work and DVHA to support that work without requiring repeated clarification or intervention by the Board.

See GMCB Website: VITL Budget Guidance, *available at* <https://gmcboard.vermont.gov/document/vitl-budget-guidance> (VITL Budget Guidance).

REVIEW PROCESS

VITL submitted the budget amendment to the GMCB on February 10, 2023. VITL publicly presented an updated budget for FY2023 at the February 22, 2023 public meeting (VITL presentation)². GMCB staff provided analysis to the Board and presented a recommendation on February 22, 2023. The Board voted to approve the amended budget on February 22, 2023.

FINDINGS

1. The GMCB unanimously approved VITL's FY2023 budget on June 22, 2022.
2. VITL's FY2023 revenue increased by \$543,056 which includes extended funding for Vermont Rural Health Alliances, expanded bi-directional immunization registry, work to support the Designated Agencies as well as a shift in revenue from FY22 to FY23 and a decrease of Maintenance and Operations revenue. See VITL presentation slide 13.
3. VITL's FY2023 expenses increased by \$541,741, which includes increases for use of outside support increased project expenses and extended contract with Vermont Rural Health Alliance, recruiting and training costs as well as previously incurred contract costs from the prior fiscal year, and decreases from lower staffing due to vacancies, decreased maintenance costs and a decrease in contingency. See VITL presentation slide 14.
4. VITL presented its FY2023 budget amendment request to the GMCB at a public meeting held February 22, 2023.

² Presentation materials are available at: <https://gmcboard.vermont.gov/2023-meetings>

5. Though the GMCB accepts public comment at any time, the GMCB held a special public comment period regarding VITL’s FY2023 budget amendment February 13-22nd. No written public comments were submitted.

CONCLUSIONS

The Board reviewed VITL’s FY2023 budget amendment request in accordance with statutory requirements and the four enumerated review principles. The Board’s review process was transparent and incorporated public comment. The budget as modified does not change the Board’s prior conclusions related to VITL’s FY2023 budget therefore the Board approves VITL’s amendment to its FY2023 budget. *See* Review Process, *supra*; Findings, ¶¶ 1-5.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, the Board APPROVES the Vermont Information Technology Leaders FY2023 budget amendment request, subject to the conditions set out in the original budget order.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 3, 2023
Montpelier, Vermont

s/ Owen Foster, Chair)
)
s/ Jessica Holmes)
)
s/ Robin Lunge)
)
s/ David Murman)
)
s/ Thom Walsh)

GREEN MOUNTAIN
CARE BOARD
OF VERMONT

Filed: March 3, 2023

Attest: s/ Jean Stetter
Green Mountain Care Board
Administrative Services Director

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