

STATE OF VERMONT
GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD

In re: 2023 Update to the Health Information)
Exchange Strategic Plan and 2024 VHIE)
Connectivity Criteria)
_____)

**DECISION AND ORDER APPROVING THE
2023 UPDATE TO THE HIE PLAN AND 2024 VHIE CONNECTIVITY CRITERIA**

Vermont law requires that the Health Information Exchange Strategic Plan (HIE Plan) be revised annually and comprehensively updated every 5 years. 18 V.S.A. § 9351(a)(1). The Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB or Board) must review and approve the HIE Plan annually “to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to enable the State to achieve the principles expressed in section 9371 of [Title 18].” 18 V.S.A. § 9375(b)(2)(A). In addition, Vermont law requires Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) to “establish criteria for creating or maintaining connectivity to the State’s health information exchange network” and to provide those criteria (“Connectivity Criteria”) to the Board by March 1 each year for the Board’s review and approval. 18 V.S.A. §§ 9352(i)(2), 9375(b)(2)(B). Since 2018, the Board has reviewed the Connectivity Criteria for the coming year in conjunction with its annual review of the HIE Plan.

At a public GMCB meeting on November 15, 2023, the Agency of Human Services presented the 2023 update to the HIE plan and VITL presented the 2024 Connectivity Criteria. Following Board discussion, the Board requested changes to the HIE Plan. AHS addressed the Board’s requested changes and resubmitted a revised HIE Plan on November 30, 2023. See UPDATED HIE Strategic Plan 2023 and Connectivity Criteria for 2024 – with Modifications (Nov. 30, 2023).¹

At a public meeting on December 13, 2023, Board staff recommended that the Board approve the resubmitted HIE Plan because it met the following review criteria: consistency with the requirements of 18 V.S.A. § 9351; consistency with the Principles for Health Care Reform in 18 V.S.A. § 9371; consistency with other relevant legislation; incorporation of national best practices and expertise as well as feedback from Vermonters. Board staff also recommended that the Board approve the 2024 Connectivity Criteria because they met the following review criteria: alignment with HIE Plan goals; support for implementation of the HIE Plan and achievement of the State’s health reform goals; and sufficient clarity to be operationalized by VITL, the State of Vermont, and health care provider organizations. Following discussion and opportunity for public comment, the Board unanimously approved the 2023 Updated HIE Strategic Plan and the 2024 Connectivity Criteria, as described in the revised and resubmitted HIE Strategic Plan, with no conditions.

SO ORDERED.

¹ Available at:
https://gmcboard.vermont.gov/sites/gmcb/files/documents/HIEStrategicPlan_2023Update_Modification%20Requests%20from%20GMCB.pdf

Dated: December 20, 2023 at Montpelier, Vermont

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

GREEN MOUNTAIN
CARE BOARD OF
VERMONT

Filed: December 20, 2023

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

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