

STATE OF VERMONT
GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD

**DECISION AND ORDER APPROVING THE
2021 UPDATE TO THE HIE PLAN AND 2022 VHIE CONNECTIVITY CRITERIA**

In re: 2021 Update to the Health Information)
Exchange Strategic Plan and 2022 VHIE)
Connectivity Criteria)
_____)

At a public meeting on November 17, 2021, the Agency of Human Services (AHS) presented the 2021 Update to the Health Information Exchange Strategic Plan (HIE Plan) and Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) presented the 2022 VHIE Connectivity Criteria to the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB or Board). Vermont law requires the HIE Plan be revised annually and comprehensively updated every 5 years. 18 V.S.A. § 9351(a)(1). The GMCB 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 Information Technology Leaders (VITL) must “establish criteria for creating or maintaining connectivity to the State’s health information exchange network” and provide those criteria to the Board by March 1 each year. 18 V.S.A. § 9352(i)(2). The Board has reviewed Connectivity Criteria for the coming year in conjunction with its annual review of the HIE Plan since 2018.

Following Board discussion on November 17, 2021 AHS resubmitted the HIE Plan with changes in the Future HIE Planning section to address additional planning efforts in the following areas: (1) to validate that goals and objectives for health information exchange in Vermont represent needs and interests of health system stakeholders; (2) to further develop a vision for sustained public investment in health data exchange infrastructure and opportunities for private investment; (3) to review HIE Steering Committee membership and governance structure to ensure that essential roles are filled and the structure and organization emboldens progress; (4) to address HIE governance in Vermont; and, (5) to develop a data strategy to provide a consistently updated description of how and why data elements are aggregated and shared through the central data repository.

At a public meeting on December 15, 2021, Board staff recommended the Board approve the resubmitted HIE Plan as having 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; and incorporation of national best practices and expertise as well as feedback from Vermonters. Board staff also recommended that the Board approve the 2022 Connectivity Criteria as having met the following review criteria: alignment with HIE Plan goals; supporting implementation of the HIE Plan and achievement of the State’s health reform goals; and that the proposed Connectivity Criteria are sufficiently clear to be operationalized by VITL, the State of Vermont, and health care provider organizations. Following discussion and public comment, the Board unanimously voted to approve the 2021 Update to the HIE Plan and 2022 VHIE Connectivity Criteria, as presented by AHS in the revised and resubmitted HIE Strategic Plan 2021 Update, with no conditions.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 29, 2021 at Montpelier, Vermont

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s/ Kevin Mullin, Chair)
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s/ Jessica Holmes)
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s/ Robin Lunge)
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s/ Tom Pelham)

GREEN MOUNTAIN
CARE BOARD OF
VERMONT

Filed: December 29, 2021

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

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