



## **Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) Principles**

### **Introduction**

In order for health care reform in Vermont to be successful at the local level, a partnership approach has been recognized as necessary to ensure it is undertaken in a collaborative manner, involving both the public and private sectors.

Over the last ten years VITL has worked to build a public-private partnership comprised of representatives of state government and stakeholders across Vermont involved in providing care, receiving care, insuring care, regulating care and innovating care using health information technology and exchange.

In full support of the Administration's interest in enacting legislation regarding several aspects of health care reform, including VITL, the board and management of VITL believe the following principles are paramount to VITL's success as a public-private organization and need to be realized in the proposed legislative language.

### **Principles**

#### **Governance and Management**

- To be successful VITL needs to retain the ability to act as an independent hi-tech company both in terms of management and governance.
- The SOV should not dictate VITL's board structure but continue current representation with board seats from the Governor's office and state legislature as long as the SOV continues to provide VITL funding.

#### **Funding**

- On an annual basis VITL should present its strategic plan to the GMCB.
- SOV funding should be for the general good aspect of VITL's work only (that which benefits all providers and patients) and be quantified each year according to the scope of the work defined as for the general good.
- If the GMCB is to provide oversight to VITL it should be limited to the funding provided by the SOV/Federal matching and the GMCB should have authority over the use of those funds.

- VITL needs to continue to be positioned to work with individual providers, provider organizations and other entities to develop business opportunities which result in revenue independent of SOV funding.

#### **Private versus Governmental**

- VITL needs to maintain an entrepreneurial approach to technology innovation and be able to attract and retain management and staff and not be subject to increased bureaucracy and other 'governmental' constraints.
- VITL should work together with the SOV Department of Information and Innovations (DII) on matters of privacy and security, and to ensure there is interoperability and not duplication with SOV HIT investments. DII and VITL should report to the GMCB on these matters.
- VITL should not be subject to state government review of its technology infrastructure, architecture or technology roadmap.

#### **GMCB and VITL Relationship**

- Similar to the approach taken regarding the statutory requirement that VITL present Connectivity Criteria annually for GMCB approval, VITL needs to be an active participant, along with many other stakeholders across Vermont, in the development of the HIT Plan.