



# GMCB Statutory Authority

Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) Oversight

Health Information Technology (HIT) and Health  
Information Exchange (HIE) Planning

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# GMCB Oversight of VITL

- **Review and approve VITL budget and core activities.**
  - Under 18 V.S.A. § 9352(c)(1), VITL is “designated... to operate the exclusive statewide health information exchange network.” Each year, the Secretary of Administration (or its designee the Department of Vermont Health Access/DVHA) funds this work by “enter[ing] into procurement grant agreements with VITL” after the Board “approves VITL’s core activities and budget.” The Board’s oversight is intended to provide strategic guidance and policy parameters within which the Administration, through DVHA, operationalizes that relationship.
  - **Act 54 of 2015:** Requires Board oversight of VITL’s budget and core activities: “Annually review the budget and all activities of VITL and approve the budget, consistent with available funds, and the core activities associated with public funding.” GMCB first reviewed and approved VITL’s budget in 2016.
  - **For more information:** <http://gmcboard.vermont.gov/hit/vitl-oversight>.

# GMCB Role in HIE/HIT Planning

- **Review and approve Connectivity Criteria.**
  - Under 18 V.S.A. § 9352(i)(2), 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. On February 6, 2014, VITL provided connectivity criteria to the Board, which voted to accept the criteria; there have been no changes since that time.
- **Review and approve Vermont Health Information Technology (HIT) Plan.**
  - Under 18 V.S.A. § 9371 and 9375, the Board is charged to review and approve Vermont’s statewide Health Information Technology Plan.
  - The Secretary of Administration is charged with coordinating Vermont’s HIT Plan (18 V.S.A. § 9351(a)), which “shall include the implementation of an integrated electronic health information infrastructure for the sharing of electronic health information among health care facilities, health care professionals, public and private payers, and patients” and “shall include standards and protocols designed to promote patient education, patient privacy, physician best practices, electronic connectivity to health care data, and, overall, a more efficient and less costly means of delivering quality health care in Vermont.”
  - The first Vermont HIT Plan was completed and approved in 2010, and updated in 2012. DVHA (tasked by Secretary of Administration with coordinating the HIT Plan) worked with stakeholders to prepare an update to the HIT Plan in 2015; this plan was presented to the Board in 2015 and 2016, but was not acted upon.

# At the December 14 Board Meeting

- DVHA and their consultants, HealthTech Solutions, presented findings from the HTS Evaluation Report to the Board
- DVHA spoke to their plans to ensure success through the leadership transition period
- **Staff made four recommendations, and the Board agreed.**
  - **VITL Oversight and HIE/HIT Planning:** Delegate GMCB staff to work with DVHA and the Board on issues related to VITL oversight and HIE/HIT planning
  - **VITL Oversight:** Request that DVHA provide bimonthly updates to the Board during the post-evaluation period between January and June 2018, including financial updates according to a GMCB-developed template
  - **VITL Oversight:** Request additional GMCB staff recommendations related to VITL oversight in July 2018
  - **HIE/HIT Planning:** HIE/HIT Plan Update presented to the Board and approved by December 31, 2018

# Looking Ahead

- GMCB staff are working closely with DVHA to ensure a smooth transition and support appropriate oversight and management.
- **February 28, 2018: Next Planned Presentation**
  - DVHA and VITL will present on progress toward remediating the issues identified in the HTS report; changes to VITL's leadership and Board; and developing a revised HIT Plan.
  - VITL will also present on metrics in three areas:
    - Health data security
    - Ability to provide data to support providers at the point of care
    - Ability to support health system measurement to meet Vermont's health system goals
  - GMCB staff will update the Board on plans for VITL's annual budget presentation and will receive feedback from the Board on a standard budget template for VITL's use in annual budget presentations and a slide template for VITL's quarterly progress and financial update to GMCB.
  - The Board will also review and vote on a proposal for 2018 VHIE Connectivity Criteria.
- **May 2018: VITL FY2019 Budget Presentation**