

February 4, 2025

Dear Blueprint partners,

The Agency of Human Services was notified in January 2024 that the Office of the State Auditor would be conducting an audit of the Vermont Blueprint for Health. The State Auditor and his staff conduct discretionary performance audits as delegated by State Law (32 VSA §163 and 167). Over the next year, the Blueprint for Health State Office engaged with and responded to the questions and requests of the Office of the State Auditor. The State Auditor presented the audit findings in December 2024 and the Blueprint for Health had an opportunity to review and respond to the findings in January 2025. The final report is now being shared with the Governor, legislative leaders, other statutorily mandated addressees, and the public.

Until a report is publicly issued, audit information can only be disclosed to staff of the agency subject to the audit. Now that the report has been released, we would like to share with you the recommendations, our response, what it means for the Blueprint for Health field staff and participating practices, and what will happen next.

The Auditor's recommendations include that the Blueprint establish and maintain a strategic plan separate from the annual report, adopt targets for each reported measure, take steps to improve the readability of the annual reports, and increase the amount of analysis included in the annual reports. Blueprint concurs with these recommendations and is beginning work to address them.

First and foremost, we recognize and acknowledge that all Blueprint for Health field staff and practice staff demonstrate dedication day after day to continuously improve the health of Vermonters while providing high value care. Over the years, the impact of the Blueprint for Health has been demonstrated as part of external evaluations, peer reviewed publications, and annual reports containing claims, clinical, and survey data. We hear the stories program's impact on the job-satisfaction of providers and the experiences of patients and their families. It is clear to us that the work you do makes a profound difference for the better.

We acknowledge that the complexity of the Blueprint for Health program, of data sources and measures of effectiveness, and of the health reform landscape creates challenges communicating the effectiveness of the program. We see this as an opportunity to learn, educate, advocate, and improve, starting with enhancing the accessibility and clarity of reporting to prevent future confusion or reaching of unintended conclusions.

Over the coming months, the Blueprint will be developing a written strategic plan and constructing an improved Annual Report. Our field staff, Executive Committee members, and practice staff will play a role in crafting these documents. We look forward to embarking on this work with you and are grateful for the ongoing commitment you have to Vermonters and their health.

Sincerely,



John M. Saroyan
Executive Director