Data Governance (Update to the *Exchange: Data Quality* Section of the HIE Plan, p. 18)

The 2018 HIE Steering Committee identified the concept of "data governance" as a tool that can be deployed to ensure usable (i.e., quality) data is shared across HIE systems. Though there are myriad challenges that impact data captured and exchanged through HIE systems, data governance can impose some consistency which simplifies data transfers and use, thereby increasing the reliability and quality of the information shared. With this understanding, in 2018, the Steering Committee set a goal in the Tactical Plan to, *Evaluate statewide data governance efforts and design a data governance model appropriate for the State's HIE Steering Committee.*

The 2019 HIE Steering Committee was tasked with understanding the current data governance efforts occurring across state government and within organizations managing HIE systems. The data governance efforts discussed include the following:

- State of Vermont - Public Records
- Agency of Digital Services - Data Management Division
- Green Mountain Care Board - Data Governance Council
- Agency of Human Services - Data Governance Council
- Agency of Education - Data Governance
- Open Data Portal, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, and Data.gov

The Committee also reflected on data governance efforts at OneCare Vermont and Vermont Care Partners. [*Note: VITL's efforts still need to be discussed*]

An evaluation of existing activities revealed that many data governance processes are both immature, though rapidly evolving, and occurring at various organizational levels. A unit within an organization or public Agency may utilize data governance methods to manage an individual system, organizations may lean on data governance entities to guide policy decisions, and at the broadest scale, data governance bodies like HL-7 set the fundamentals of data management to support standard sharing of clinical information nationwide.

> *DATA QUALITY VISION: GOVERNANCE, OPERATIONS, AND TECHNOLOGY ACROSS THE STATE ENSURE THAT HEALTH DATA IS ACCURATE, CONSISTENT, AND COMPLETE TO MEET VERMONT'S HIGH PRIORITY DATA USAGE NEEDS*

The Steering Committee concluded that data governance offers incredible value. As example of this value -

- The act of formalizing data governance offers an organization an opportunity to learn and mature processes in a continuous, inclusive format;
- Though data governance can be considered a technical function, when done well it unites operational and technical personnel to best understand and plan for what data is held and how data can be used as an asset; and
- Data governance offers a platform to use data-driven decision making in support of executive leadership functions.

The Steering Committee agreed that a variation in data governance models and authorities can be a real blockage to data exchange. They also gleaned from existing data governance efforts that those that are most functional focus on addressing specific needs rather than broad-reaching organizational goals (e.g., the need to define roles of who manages a data source).

The Data Governance "Model"

The HIE Steering Committee's role is to define the vision for HIE in Vermont, guide strategy toward achievement of that vision, and identify, and when possible, remove barriers to meeting state-wide HIE goals. The Committee recognizes that this role is predominately strategic in nature, and therefore, their role as it relates to data governance should be no different.

To reflect the current construction of the group, the Steering Committee commits to a data governance model that relies on each member continuously identifying data governance efforts that relate to state-wide HIE goals within their own networks and acting as liaisons between relevant data governance entities and the Steering Committee. Below is a depiction of how the Committee estimates dividing their time to address strategic, tactical, and operational aspects of data governance that impact the exchange of health data in support of state-wide health data exchange goals, and definitions of each.

Strategic – engaging in the development and support of policies that embolden health data exchange across the health care system. Examples include, the state's Consent to Share Health Information Policy [insert].

Tactical – identifying and defining data exchange standards that support exchange of health data to enable achievement of the state's vision for data quality and interoperability. Examples include, the Connectivity Criteria, [insert others].

Operational – supporting development of organization-specific or inter-Agency processes that relate to the capture and exchange of health data. Examples include, creating a shared definition of a "person, patient, consumer" to be used by related systems such as the VHIE and the state's Integrated Eligibility and Enrollment systems, [insert others].

HIE Steering Committee Data Governance Model
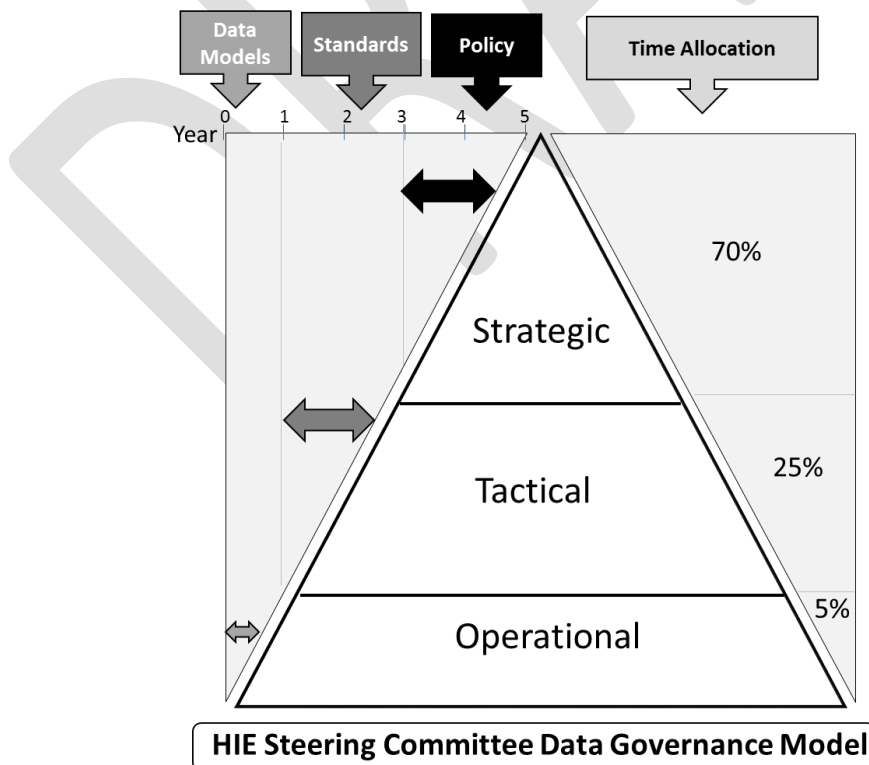
As detailed in the IT Roadmap, the Committee's Tactical Plans related to data governance include:

[TBD based on IT Roadmap development activities]