

Q: What is the point of this project?

A: Given [the national trends of rural hospital closures](#), persistent negative hospital margins, and rising health insurance premiums, GMCB has been studying opportunities to help Vermont work towards a more affordable, accessible, and equitable health care system. This project is about intentionally planning for change so that Vermont has the best chance at avoiding abrupt hospital closures or service disruptions that negatively impact communities and our system.

[Act 167 \(of 2022\)](#) requires GMCB, in collaboration with the Agency of Human Services, to develop and conduct a data-informed, patient-focused, community-inclusive engagement process for Vermont's hospitals to reduce inefficiencies, lower costs, improve population health outcomes, reduce health inequities, and increase access to essential services.

There was a listening tour last fall with public community meetings and now it is time for a second round of community meetings held in person across the state to discuss the findings and options for health system transformation.

Q: What are the community meetings for?

A: These meetings are to share the information that has been gleaned from interviews, public meetings, and data analysis over the past 8 months. All that information was used to inform the development of options and actions the state, hospitals, and local communities can take to transform and optimize Vermont's hospital system in ways that reduce inefficiencies, lower costs, improve population health outcomes, reduce health inequities, and increase access to essential services. Community feedback will be sought to help finalize the recommendations, which will be released in the fall, and to engage communities in the next phases of the system transformation process.

Q: What kind of information is going to be shared?

A: The community meetings will be an opportunity to talk about:

1. The current state of Vermont's hospital system
2. Why community engagement and hospital transformation is critical
3. Some options the state and communities have for supporting system wide hospital transformation planning
4. Ways you can stay involved

Q: How will the information shared in this round of meetings be used?

A: Community members will have a chance to respond to a summary of the information learned in the first round of community meetings and from the data analysis. Community members will also have a chance to discuss what these findings mean and how they inform options the state, hospitals, and communities have to reduce inefficiencies, lower costs, improve population health outcomes, reduce health inequities, and increase access to essential services. These

insights will inform the final report delivered to the Green Mountain Care Board in the fall and will support the transition of this work from information and data synthesis to a deeper dive into action.

Q: When will materials be available for review?

A: Come to the in-person community meetings to hear the content as it is presented by an expert in health systems transformation. After the community session is over, the materials reviewed will be posted to the Green Mountain Care Board's website where people can review and submit a public comment. We also encourage community participation in the public [Green Mountain Care Board meetings on Wednesday, June 19th and Monday, July 8th](#).

Q: What can I do to help?

A: Spread the word through:

- Your email lists
- Front Porch Forum
- Social media
- Your local Listserv
- Word of mouth

[B: Show up to a healthcare community meeting!](#)