



Commission on Care Workgroup Report

Data, Tools & Infrastructure (DTI)

March 22, 2016

Pre Decisional Internal Working Draft

DTI Areas of Focus

- **The Data, Tools & Infrastructure workgroup is focused on recommendations related to:**
 - **Health Information Technology,**
 - **Facilities,**
 - **Supply Chain and**
 - **Business Processes**

Health IT Recommendations

- VA shall improve the health and well-being of veterans through the use of technology and health information that is accessible when and where it matters most.
- IT Management: VA should select an SES-level CIO for VHA to manage and advocate for VHA's IT needs, establish an office responsible for the planning, prioritization and implementation of health IT projects, and to oversee the budget for all new and existing IT systems involving VHA-related business processes.

Health IT Recommendations

- **Interoperability**: Veterans and their providers shall be able to access veteran's health care information from any location.
 - Includes internal interoperability (between VA systems, VHA & VBA), interoperability between VA & DoD, and external interoperability between VA and community providers.
 - Enabling requirement: Continue to advocate and support the position that Veteran records be shared with trusted partners in an “opt-out” model which allows the Veteran to choose to not allow record sharing by exception - VA currently requires “Opt In”

Health IT Recommendations

- **Electronic Health Record: VA shall conduct a comprehensive cost-versus-benefit analysis among commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) EHRs, Open Source EHRs, and continued in-house custom development of the VistA EHR currently in use.**

Health IT Recommendations

- **Enabling Systems & Tools:** VA shall develop a coordinated IT infrastructure for appointment scheduling, coding, billing, claims payment and other core VHA business processes.
 - Enabling requirement: Automation of claims payment is essential to expanding veteran care with community providers. Billing and payment systems must be efficient.

Facility Recommendations

- **Immediate Property Disposal:** The new governing Board will have the authority to immediately dispose of vacant property and close underutilized facilities.
 - Enabling Requirement: Select Board members will have property and real estate expertise.
 - Enabling Requirement: The revenue generated from disposing these buildings would be returned to the VHA for future operational needs (this is not currently the case).
- **Intermediate Property Disposal - BRAC-like Facility Realignment**
 - This recommendation is being addressed by the Alignment workgroup

Facility Recommendations

- **Future Facility Management:** The governing Board has the fiduciary duty to ensure VA assets and facilities are managed appropriately.
 - The Board will develop a localized service-area-wide plan to define local demand and VA vs. community-provided health care services and delivery locations.
 - VA facility supply will naturally evolve over time as veterans chose to receive their care at VA or community facilities and as care shifts from inpatient to outpatient.
 - Board will determine based upon local demand whether any new VA hospitals or major hospital renovations are needed.

Supply Chain Recommendation

- **VA shall transform and consolidate VA's entire supply chain organization and improve key enablers required to support the organizational transformation, including IT systems, data standardization, and talent management. VA shall streamline supply chain activities to achieve cost savings and reduction of waste.**
- **Enabling Requirements:**
 - **Have key facility expert running one centralized organization in VA to manage the entire supply chain process.**
 - **Implement a centralized purchasing model.**