

1 VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

2
3 **Advances in Public Health and Health Care Delivery Integration through Population Health**

4
5 *Adopted October 19, 2013*

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7 Whereas, the fields of primary care and public health in the U.S. have for the last century generally
8 functioned independently of each other; and

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10 Whereas our current health challenges require improved efforts for public health and primary care to
11 work together in an integrated fashion in order to address the root causes of illness, prevent additional
12 cases of disease, and to make the default choices of individuals healthy ones, and

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14 Whereas, effective support of healthy behaviors will require coordination of the work of clinicians,
15 particularly primary care clinicians, with public health agencies, schools, businesses, and community
16 group to better utilize community resources; and

17 Whereas, Act 48 amended 18 V.S.A. § 5 to require the department of health to create a state health
18 improvement plan in order to encourage the design of healthy communities and to promote policy
19 initiatives that contribute to community, school, and workplace wellness, which may include providing
20 assistance to employers for wellness program grants, encouraging employers to promote employee
21 engagement in healthy behaviors, and encouraging the appropriate use of the health care system; and

22 Whereas, According to the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Population Health is "the health outcomes of a
23 group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group" (Kindig and
24 Stoddart, 2003) and while not a part of the definition itself, it is understood that such population health
25 outcomes are the product of multiple determinants of health, including medical care, public health,
26 genetics, behaviors, social factors, and environmental factors; and

27 Whereas, the IOM Committee on Integrating Primary Care and Public Health developed a set of
28 principles that they deem essential for successful integration of primary care and public health, now
29 therefore be it

30 **Resolved, that VMS work with the Vermont Department of Health, the Green Mountain Care**
31 **Board, the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter, American College of Physicians**
32 **Vermont Chapter, the American College of Surgeons Vermont Chapter, the Vermont Academy of**
33 **Family Physicians, the Vermont Psychiatric Association, other medical professional**
34 **organizations and the SIM Grant Population Health Work Group to implement the set of**
35 **principles developed by the IOM and based in current medical science:**

- 36 1. **A shared goal of population health improvement;**
37 2. **Community engagement in defining and addressing population health needs;**
38 3. **Aligned leadership;**
39 4. **Sustainability, including shared infrastructure; and**
40 5. **Sharing and collaborative use of data and analysis**