Sub-group Advisory Council Proposal Update

As planned at the last meeting, a subgroup which included Jeffrey Davis, Nancy, Ken, Jeff Ketchel, Jesus and I had a conference call on Friday to make further progress on the Advisory Council and on general operating principles for NCACH governance. Here’s are my notes from that call:

1.       We agreed that Regional Council is a better name for the group than Advisory Council, since Advisory Council sounds to some people like a weaker group.

2.       Regarding membership of the group, we did not think it made sense to have closed membership that would exclude a partner interested in participating since the Regional Council is the main mechanism for assuring broad involvement in NCACH decisions. On the other hand, we thought that members should have to sign a membership agreement committing themselves to regular attendance, to representing the interests of the region as opposed to any narrower interest, and to openness and transparency. The idea of limiting the initial term to 6 months or a year was discussed; presumably at the end of that term members would have to reapply.

3.       Membership would be solicited initially through our regional partner list of ~250 names, and through upcoming engagement efforts.

4.       Each member would identify on the application the sector to which he/she belongs. This will be helpful in telling us what groups are or aren’t represented, and in some cases Regional Council votes could be broken down by sector. In other words, if the overall Regional Council was for something, but all the hospital representatives opposed it, it would be helpful to understand this.

5.       Each CHI would designate two members to sit on the Regional Council as CHI representatives.

6.       The Regional Council would elect two representatives to sit as ex-officio nonvoting members of the Governing Board.

7.       The backbone would provide active staff support to the Regional Council, just as it would for the Governing Board.

8.       RC would use video and audio conferencing to the extent possible to facilitation region-wide participation.

9.       We agreed that we’re comfortable with the following language (same as discussed at our last Lead Group meeting) to be included in the GB by-laws to assure RC participation in NCACH decisions:

The Governing Board shall seek Regional Council input on matters of substance prior to making decisions. Regional Council input will be provided by majority vote of the Council whenever that can be achieved within a reasonable period of time, and in other cases will be provided by the ex-officio Council representatives on the Governing Board. Matters of substance include, but are not limited to, allocation of NCACH or other resources, by-laws changes, changes in the make-up of the Governing Board and the approval of major contracts.

The subcommittee also briefly discussed operating principles for the ACH, including:

* + GB and RC members must represent the region rather than any narrower interest.
  + GB and RC members must regularly attend GB or RC meetings to maintain their membership.
  + Transparency and open meetings are important principles.

We agreed that the version of the operating principles included in the Governance Proposal should be reviewed and revised as needed to emphasize these principles, though we did not have time to do that yet. We also briefly discussed the idea that a rudimentary set of Governing Board and Regional Council by-laws might be developed in advance, though completely functional by-laws will have to be written by the Governing Board once it exists.