**The North Central Health Alliance ACH Decision Making Process**

**1. We aim for consensus.**

The North Central Health Alliance ACH aims to reach consensus on key decisions. Consensus in this context does not mean 100% agreement on all parts of every issue, but rather that all members review a decision in its entirety and say, “I can live with that.”

The ACH will work to understand and integrate perspectives until a solution is identified that is acceptable to everyone. This process is consistent with true collaboration to produce sustainable agreement.

We use a “thumbs up/thumbs down” signal as a way of gauging members’ positions:

* Thumbs up – supports the decision
* Thumbs middle – neutral, can live with the decision
* Thumbs down – deal breaker, suspends the decision until further discussion

In the event of a thumbs down vote, we attempt to resolve the issue through further discussion in a reasonable amount of time. In the event that’s not doable, a sub-team of the ACH will convene separately and come back with recommendations.

**2. We act as team players.**

As ACH members, we acknowledge and are explicit about our organizational or sector-specific self-interests but also participate in service to the collective, common agenda (i.e., we practice “enlightened self-interest”). As such, we are conscientious about invoking our veto power (thumbs down vote) and ask ourselves first, “is this issue or decision fundamental to my participation in the Alliance?” We also expect ACH members to actively reach out to peers in their sector or community to help inform the ACH’s key decisions.

**3. A quorum of voting members is required.**

A quorum of the majority of ACH members is required for a decision to be considered valid. Any interested party can participate in a ACH meeting; however, only the attached roster of members, their designee or their dually appointed-successor can vote.

**4. One must be present to win.**

Members or their designees must be present to vote on decisions. If a member is unable to attend a ACH meeting, they agree to communicate their views to the entire ACH or via staff prior to the meetings.

**5. We make good use of the council’s time.**

We empower our members and designees with decision-making and negotiating authority. We revisit previous decisions by the ACH only if the members collectively agree to re-open an issue.

**6. Decisions are voluntary.**

Individual ACH members and/or their organizations are not bound by a decision of the ACH. Members can adopt collective positions, recommendations or other decisions for joint action when desired. They can also individually elect to implement recommendations or actions within their respective organizations.