

NC ACH Governing Board Update  
August 2, 2015

Dear Governing Board and Lead Group Members:

Here's an update on several ACH developments occurring since our meeting on July 14. Note that some of them require a response.

The August Governing Board meeting has been scheduled:

**When** Fri, August 21, 2pm – 4pm

**Where** Confluence Technology Center, 285 Technology Center Way #102, Wenatchee, WA 98801, United States ([map](#))

**Description** Conference Dial-in Number 760-569-7171; Participant Code: 924903

Although we hope to see everyone in person, the audio facilities at Confluence Technology Center should be much more effective than the ones we had at our first meeting.

A draft Medicaid 1115 Global Waiver proposal has been produced by HCA and is attached to this message along with an FAQ. They provide considerably more information on the role of ACHs and that role has only grown. HCA is organizing a full day (9AM-4PM) seminar for ACHs on this proposal on Monday, August 10, at a SeaTac location to be determined. I'm planning to attend and we can send two or more additional representatives. Please send me an email ASAP if you are interested in going, and I'll share more details as they become available. I need to tell HCA who is attending by COB this Wednesday August 5. Even if you can't make it on the 10<sup>th</sup>, the waiver proposal is useful reading since it may become a major influence on our work in the future.

HCA has funded a Technical Assistance effort. One aspect of this will be an ACH Summit scheduled for August 24-26. The main event will be the Summit on 8/25 which will include representatives from all ACHs. On the day before and after, sub-groups of ACHs will meet for what are apparently meant to be more intensive explorations of each region's work. Unfortunately (and impractically) it will probably be another week before they tell us which day – the 24<sup>th</sup> or the 26<sup>th</sup> – will include us. When I find out, I will tell you. In the meantime, if you may be available for these sessions please let me know. In spite of the scheduling challenges I think this will be a useful opportunity for ACHs to learn from one another and I plan to go.

On July 22 we had a Design Grant site visit from HCA officials. There were a few fiscal questions (which we had no problem answering to their satisfaction) but most of the 3-hour session was spent discussing our approach to ACH formation. The feedback we got was very positive. Although we are not as far along as the communities that have been working on this for many years, they said they were impressed with the sensible approach we are taking to building a viable ACH. They readily understood our use of a

relatively small board, with a Regional Council for broader representation. It was an encouraging discussion.

In addition to the earlier backbone interest letters we received (from Community Choice, Grant County Public Health and Family Planning) we recently received a letter from the North Central Washington Hospital Council proposing the creation of a new entity to serve as our ACH organization. You should have received a copy of that in email from Deb. More on this from our backbone workgroup at the next board meeting.

Two interesting requests of the ACH were made at a recent meeting of the North Central Washington Hospital Council, which some of you attended. Participants expressed an interest in being part of the discussion on the development of a regional BHO. There is concern and curiosity about plans to provide adequate beds and other behavioral health resources in the region when connections with the Spokane RSN are no longer in place. I will attempt to create an opportunity for this discussion by talking with the people currently working on BHO development in our region. More on this when I know more.

In a similar vein, discussions at the Hospital Council meeting raised the idea that it is not too soon to begin a collaboration between MCOs and providers organizations to begin laying the groundwork for a workable system of integrated care in the region. That is not expected to happen for at least a year or two, but there is a lot to work out. I'll be working with Governing Board members to move that forward and will have an update at our August meeting. We may want to create a standing committee or forum for this purpose.

Taken together, I see these two requests as a very good sign. We are being asked not merely to get ready to do something in the future, but to actually do something useful on BHO and integrated care issues now. Personally I'm glad to be getting down to work on such things.

We are working on the unfilled Governing Board seats. I will be sending a letter of invitation to Mel Tonasket of the Colville tribes this week. We are also reaching out to people in Okanogan County about a possible business sector representative. I will be contacting Nancy Nash-Mendez of the Okanogan housing agency to invite her to join us as the Latino community representative – with the added bonus of housing expertise. I'll keep you posted on any progress.

There is some concern brewing among ACH representatives about the level of funding HCA is committing to ACHs as compared with their spending on other aspects of the SIM grant activities. For example, over \$10M is committed to the Transformation Hub, and effort lodged in DOH and meant to help provider organizations transform the delivery of care. The capacity of a state agency to reach deep into provider organizations and help transform their work seems rather limited to many of us, and some of us are beginning to push back that this money would be better used to support ACH work. We'll see how that goes over with HCA and DOH...

Finally, I believe it will be helpful in the near future to be able to document the very valuable contributions we have all made to this effort in the form of our time. This goes for Leadership Group members as well as board members. So I want to ask that you keep track of that time. If you have a way to estimate the hours of time you put into this effort in the past, that would also be helpful. I am not asking for that information yet, just alerting you that it will be very helpful to have it if possible in the future. The total value will be very substantial.

All my best –

Barry

Attachments:

Waiver Proposal

Waiver FAQ