# Tools and Resources for Health Networks Website

## Glossary of Terms

**Assessment & Evaluation**

The systematic process of measuring performance, outcomes, effectiveness, and impact to support continuous improvement and inform decision-making.

**Board Assessment**

A formal review of a board's effectiveness, composition, governance practices, and performance in fulfilling its fiduciary and strategic responsibilities.

**Board Documents**

Official records used by an organization's board, including meeting agendas, minutes, policies, resolutions, and governance materials.

**Budgeting**

The process of planning, allocating, and managing financial resources to support organizational goals and operations.

**Business Planning**

The development of a roadmap outlining organizational objectives, strategies, operational activities, financial projections, and growth plans.

**Bylaws**

The governing rules and procedures that define how an organization is structured, managed, and operated.

**CEO (Chief Executive Officer)**

The highest-ranking executive responsible for overall organizational leadership, strategy, and performance.

**CFO (Chief Financial Officer)**

The executive responsible for financial strategy, accounting, budgeting, reporting, and fiscal oversight.

**CIN (Clinically Integrated Network)**

A group of healthcare providers that collaborate to improve quality, coordinate care, reduce costs, and achieve value-based care objectives while maintaining independent practices.

**CISO (Chief Information Security Officer)**

A senior executive responsible for developing, implementing, and overseeing an organization's information security and cybersecurity strategy.

**CIN Governance Models**

Organizational structures that define how a CIN is led, managed, and held accountable.

**CIN Participation Agreement**

A legal agreement outlining the rights, responsibilities, and expectations of providers participating in a CIN.

**CIN Quality Programs**

Structured initiatives designed to improve clinical outcomes, patient experience, and performance metrics within a CIN.

**Community Assessment**

A systematic evaluation of community needs, assets, resources, and priorities to inform planning, decision-making, and support funding requests.

**Community Engagement**

The process of building relationships and collaborating with stakeholders, members, and community partners to address shared goals.

**Confidentiality Policy**

A policy establishing expectations and requirements for protecting sensitive, proprietary, or personal information.

**Conflict of Interest Policy**

A formal policy that requires individuals to disclose personal, financial, professional, or organizational interests that could influence, or appear to influence, their ability to act in the best interests of the organization. The policy establishes procedures for identifying, managing, and resolving conflicts to promote transparency, accountability, and ethical decision-making.

**Contracting**

The process of negotiating, executing, and managing agreements with vendors, partners, payers, members, or service providers.

**COO (Chief Operating Officer)**

The executive responsible for overseeing daily operations and ensuring strategic plans are effectively implemented.

**Cybersecurity**

The practices, technologies, and policies used to protect systems, networks, and data from cyber threats and unauthorized access.

**Executive Director**

The senior leader responsible for managing an organization's operations, strategy, staff, and stakeholder relationships.

**Fiscal Management**

The oversight and administration of an organization's financial resources, assets, and obligations.

**Governance Structure**

The framework defining authority, accountability, decision-making processes, and leadership responsibilities within an organization.

**Health Network**

Collaborative of two or more independent organizations working to improve health outcomes in the areas they serve by addressing the gaps, disparities, and barriers in rural & underserved communities.

**IT (Information Technology)**

The systems, infrastructure, software, and support services used to manage and exchange information electronically.

**Legislation**

Laws enacted by a federal, state, tribal, or local governing body that establish legal requirements, rights, responsibilities, or restrictions for individuals and organizations. Legislation may directly affect an organization's operations, funding, governance, or regulatory compliance.

**Legislative**

Activities related to laws, regulations, and governmental actions that affect an organization's operations or interests.

**Legal Structure**

The formal legal entity type under which an organization operates, such as nonprofit corporation, LLC, or association.

**Member Services Director**

A staff leader responsible for developing and managing programs, resources, and services that support members.

**Mission**

A concise statement describing an organization's core purpose and reason for existence.

**MVV (Mission, Vision, and Values)**

A set of foundational statements that define an organization's purpose, future aspirations, and guiding principles, providing direction for decision-making, strategic planning, organizational culture, and stakeholder engagement.

**Network Annual Report**
A comprehensive report that summarizes a network's activities, accomplishments, financial performance, membership growth, strategic initiatives, and organizational impact over a specific year. The annual report serves as a communication and accountability tool for members, stakeholders, funders, partners, and leadership.

**Network Evaluation**

A structured process used to assess the efficacy, efficiency, and outcomes of a network.

**Network Leader**

An individual responsible for guiding the strategic direction, collaboration, and performance of a network.

**Operations**

The daily activities, processes, and systems required to deliver services and achieve organizational objectives.

**Organizational Assessment**

A comprehensive review of an organization's capabilities, performance, governance, operations, and effectiveness.

**Organizational Chart**

A visual representation of reporting relationships, roles, and organizational structure.

**Peer Groups**

Groups of individuals with similar roles or interests who collaborate, learn, and share best practices.

**Policies**

Formal guidelines and rules that direct organizational behavior, decision-making, and operations.

**Policy**

A formal statement, guideline, or set of rules adopted by an organization to direct decision-making, establish expectations, and provide a framework for consistent actions and operations. Policies help ensure accountability, compliance, and alignment with organizational goals.

**Program Evaluation**

A structured process used to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and outcomes of programs or initiatives.

**Program Manager**

A professional responsible for planning, implementing, coordinating, and evaluating projects and programs.

**Record Retention Policy**

A policy that defines how organizational records are maintained, stored, and disposed of over time.

**ROI (Return on Investment)**

A financial and performance measurement used to evaluate the value or benefit gained from an investment compared to its cost.

**Strategic Planning**

A disciplined process for defining organizational priorities, goals, objectives, and action plans for the future.

**Values**

The core principles and beliefs that guide organizational culture, decision-making, and behavior.

**Vision**

A statement describing the desired future state the organization seeks to achieve.

**Whistleblower Policy**

A policy that protects individuals from retaliation for reporting suspected misconduct, illegal activity, or ethical violations.