Global Digital Health Network
Advisory Council Terms of Reference

Vision

The Global Digital Health Network ("Network") envisions a world where technical innovation supports improved health and contributes to better quality, accessibility and sustainability of health services and health outcomes, particularly for underserved populations in low resource environments.

Mission

The Network, formerly the mHealth Working Group, was created in 2009 by global health organizations to support peer global health organizations. Today it facilitates a community of thousands of global health and digital health practitioners from over 100 countries. The Network provides leadership in digital health (mHealth, eHealth, and ICTs) and offers a collaborative gathering space for members to share perspectives, resources, and practical guidance related to digital health programs across a wide range of technical areas. Our members support global public health strategies, standards and practices through the use of innovative technologies in limited resource settings. Our events and communications provide a platform for sharing practical guidance and adaptable resources across the global community.

Core Goals

The core goals of the Network include:

Convening

Host open meetings with presentations by and for members on selected digital health topics, providing a global forum to discuss accomplishments and lessons learned.

Promoting Promising Practices

Identify, develop, promote and advise on the best available approaches for the development, implementation, and evaluation of digital health projects and

practices; create and share tools and resources that enable adoption of promising practices and their adaptation to local circumstances.

Collaboration

Identify and facilitate opportunities for joint activities and partnerships among members locally, regionally and globally, and across development sectors.

Capacity Strengthening

Enhance skills and organizational capacities in digital health at all levels.

Leadership

Leverage member strengths and support their ability to organize digital health efforts, including participation and leadership in member network activities.

Advocacy

Engage decision makers and stakeholders working in international health and development at all levels to mobilize planning and resources for digital health.

Advisory Council

In order to ensure that the activities of the Network—the Global Digital Health Forum ("Forum"), Deep Dives, monthly meetings, etc.—meet the needs of the global digital health community, an Advisory Council is established whose members are drawn from the community itself. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to provide leadership and assistance for the implementation of Network activities.

Membership on the Advisory Council is voluntary, and participation in the Advisory Council or Network activities does not imply any fiduciary, contractual, or other legal relationship or responsibility on the part of the member or their employer.

Voting Member Organizations

Voting membership is drawn from global health implementing organizations actively involved in global digital health activities. Such organizations appoint representatives to the Advisory Council. The individuals on the Advisory Council represent their employing organizations writ large, not a specific project of the organization, and not themselves

as individuals. Each voting member organization appoints a primary member to the Advisory Council, but can also designate a secondary member, for a maximum of two representatives per organization.

Each voting member organization has a single vote that can be cast on Advisory Council motions. If a primary member is not able to participate in a vote, the secondary member can take their place and cast their organization's vote.

Non-voting and Emeritus Members

Individuals who are not affiliated with a global health implementing organization but that have significant global digital health experience, expertise, or connections that would be valuable to the Advisory Council and the Network, can be non-voting members of the Advisory Council.

Former Network co-chairs that work for an organization that already has both primary and secondary members can be non-voting Advisory Council members. These members are referred to as "Emeritus co-chairs".

Individuals that were previously representatives of a voting member organization on the Advisory Council may continue on the Advisory Council in an individual, non-voting capacity, and are referred to as "Emeritus members".

Co-chairs

Two members of the Advisory Council function as co-chairs. Only employees of Voting Member Organizations are eligible to be co-chairs. The responsibilities of the co-chairs include:
- Organize and lead Advisory Council meetings
- Lead organization and planning for Network activities
- Moderate the Network listserv
- Maintain Network web and social media presences
- Prepare and deliver communications about Network news and events
- Work to increase Network membership

Advisory Council Member Terms
- Co-chair terms vary from 1 or 2 years. Terms will be decided by co-chairs upon their selection.

Updated 7/7/20 by Lauren Wall

- Organizational Advisory Council members have no term limit. They may continue to serve as long as their Organization agrees to have that individual represent their organization
- Emeritus members have a term of 2 years.
- Emeritus co-chairs have a term of 5 years.

Criteria for Continued Membership

In order to maintain a vibrant and engaged Network and Advisory Council, voting member organizations and their representatives, as well as non-voting members, must meet the following criteria each year.

Voting member organizations must:
- Host at least one non-Forum Network event

Voting member organization representatives must:
- Present at a monthly meeting, Deep Dive, or other non-Forum event
- Lead the planning and organization of a Forum track, plenary session, or other main event such as the Appy Hour or poster session

Voting member organization representatives, as well as non-voting members, must:
- Participate in a majority of Advisory Council meetings each year
- Participate in three or more monthly meetings or non-Forum Network activities
- Participate in the review, scoring, and selection of abstracts for the Forum
- Contribute content to the Network listserv
- Promote Network activities

If a voting member organization or its representatives, or a non-voting or Emeritus member, do not meet these criteria, they will be considered for removal from the Advisory Council.