AcademyHealth Board of Directors
Information Sheet

Overview

As the governing body of AcademyHealth, the Board of Directors (BOD) shapes the organization's strategic direction, stewards critical functions, and fulfills fiduciary responsibilities. The Board ensures stability and continuity in guiding AcademyHealth's work toward its mission. It is also charged with helping AcademyHealth to identify and respond to emerging needs, trends, challenges, and opportunities facing the field of health services research (HSR).

Board Composition

AcademyHealth's BOD is comprised of 15 members at-large. The ideal BOD includes and reflects diverse forms of experience and expertise, as needed to support AcademyHealth's mission and vision. Aligned with its current strategic priorities, AcademyHealth aims to achieve a BOD with the following combined features and characteristics. As such, we are actively seeking individuals who embody one or more of the following criteria:

- **Wide Ranging Perspectives:** Work in various sectors engaged in health services research, healthcare, and health policy. This includes both established experience in the field and demonstrated aptitude, as well as emerging leadership for early- or mid-career professionals.
- **Research Expertise:** Demonstrated research expertise in areas relevant to AcademyHealth's strategic priorities. Illustrative examples of relevant areas of research expertise can be found in the 2026 Annual Research Meeting conference themes.
- **Data, Technology, and Innovation:** Expertise in data, technology, and innovation, including social determinants of health data, artificial intelligence, machine learning, emerging methods, and innovative strategies for data collection/integration strategies.
- **Exceptional Relational and Communication Skills:** Strengths in communicating effectively and in reaching, engaging, or cultivating collaboration with diverse partners.
- **Evidence Implementation:** Experience implementing evidence or making evidence-based decisions in policy, health systems, or other contexts.
- **Financial and Operational Acumen:** Practical financial and operations expertise (e.g., with an eye toward future Board treasurers), or experience in areas such as Human Resources (e.g., to support advising on key issues related to organizational health and functioning).

Board Eligibility

All nominees and nominators must be individual members of AcademyHealth OR must become members during the nomination process. Self-nomination is encouraged. Organizational Membership does not fulfill the individual membership requirement.

Board Nomination and Election Process

BOD candidates, identified through an annual open call for nominations, can be self-nominated or nominated by other AcademyHealth members and staff. A Nomination Form must be completed for each candidate by the annual deadline. If self-nominating, the candidate can complete the form and invite an optional Statement of Support from a reference. If nominated by someone else, the candidate will receive notice of their nomination and an invitation to complete the required Nomination Form. Submissions are reviewed by the Nominating Committee of AcademyHealth's BOD, which creates a proposed candidate slate corresponding to the number of available BOD seats each year. Before final approval, this slate undergoes review by AcademyHealth's Executive Committee, BOD, and members (during an open comment period).

Board Roles & Responsibilities

- **Fiduciary Function:** Board members are bound by duties of care, loyalty, and obedience. Responsibilities include overseeing budgets, audits, and investments.
- **Liaison Function:** Board members facilitate connections with partners and stakeholders. They may advise on or contribute to relationship-building and/or business development activities, as well as communication and advocacy activities (below).
- **Communication & Advocacy Function:** Board members enhance the organization's profile and advocate for health services research. They assist in advocacy functions within the constraints of non-partisanship.

Board and Committee Selection & Terms of Service

- **Committees of the Board:** Board members may serve time-limited terms on Committees to address legislative opportunities and external collaborations. Standing Committees include the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Governance Committee. Additional Advisory Committees (created or convened on an ad hoc basis) include the Membership Committee, Nominating Committee, and Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy (CAPP).
- **Board and Committee Meetings/Calls:** Regular meetings are hosted online or in-person (with an option for virtual attendance). These occur throughout the year (no more than once a month), as needed to address specific agenda items for each month. The full Board meets twice a year, once during the Annual Research Meeting (ARM) in June, and once in December at AcademyHealth offices. Board members receive complimentary travel and accommodations for these meetings, as well as complimentary registration to the ARM as outlined in AcademyHealth's Key Corporate Documents and Policies. The Board may meet at any place which the Board designates from time to time. The Executive, Finance, Governance, and Nominating Committees each meet virtually twice a year.
- **Terms of Service and Selection for Committees:** Members of specific Board Committees are identified by AcademyHealth staff, appointed by the Chair of the Board, and then ratified by the full Board. These Committees meet virtually twice a year.