

BACKGROUND:

The Academic Collaborative for Integrative Health (ACIH or ‘The Collaborative’), founded in 2004, merged with the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine (AIHM or ‘The Academy’) in 2021 to foster their shared visions, missions and core values. ACIH is now the “ACIH Council.” Due to the merger, the ACIH Council’s structure and functions will change. The following ACIH Council Charter serves as a guide in our new role as a part of AIHM.

Academic Collaborative for Integrative Health (ACIH) COUNCIL CHARTER

Overview:

This document establishes the purpose, scope, membership, roles and responsibilities for ACIH Council of the Academy of Integrative Health & Medicine (AIHM). The ACIH Council unites the national educational organizational members who represent the licensed Complementary Integrative Health (CIH) professions in order to collaborate, educate and advance access to our disciplines.

There are currently four (4) licensed CIH professions (Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine, Chiropractic, Massage Therapy & Naturopathic Medicine) represented on the ACIH Council. In addition, this Council is currently limited to U.S. and Canada membership.

Purpose:

The ACIH Council is a national voice for the CIH disciplines. The purpose of the ACIH Council is to create and sustain a network of CIH national educational organizations, that includes the councils of colleges, accrediting agencies, and certification and testing organizations to promote interdisciplinary health care education and collaborative practice. In addition, the ACIH Council will foster interdisciplinary research, education, scholarly activities and collaborative clinical opportunities in integrative health care, as well as collaboration with our conventional medicine colleagues.

We support interprofessional educational activities that contribute to transforming our health care system to one that emphasizes the importance of creating health and well-being, as well as focuses on community health and disease prevention.

We promote collaborative and integrative health care practices through the education of clinicians, educators, researchers and scholars, payers, various organizations, government agencies, government representatives, corporations, patients and the public. Our efforts range from local to national initiatives with the overarching goal of

promoting access to a healthcare system that focuses on health and well-being and includes the CIH disciplines.

While our current focus is on initiatives within the U.S. and Canada, we anticipate evolving to having a global reach particularly as we learn from integrative, collaborative, team-based healthcare models that are successful in other countries. The ACIH Council will consider the expansion of membership criteria in the future.

In essence, the ACIH Council will:

- EDUCATE the ACIH Council members and AIHM community about the significant movements in the integrative health fields; aggregate and disseminate practical and evidence-informed materials and information on the importance of increasing access to integrative, inclusive, collaborative, team-based, patient centered care in our health care systems and in other clinical and community environments. In addition, the ACIH Council will educate other healthcare disciplines on the strengths, depth, breadth, philosophies and scopes of practices of the CIH disciplines the Council represents;
- ADVOCATE for a healthcare system that creates and promotes health, well-being and disease prevention and the values and practices associated with integrative health and medicine; and
- COLLABORATE with other national and global organizations to explore common issues and participate in projects and/or activities that advance access to integrative health and the CIH disciplines.

ACIH Council Membership

The ACIH Council consists of organizations related to CIH disciplines that have an accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education (or foreign equivalent), a peer-acknowledged council of colleges, and a recognized certification or testing organization and are licensed for professional practice in at least three (3) U.S. States (or equivalent foreign regulation). The ACIH Council consists of two representatives from each member organization.

Membership is limited to:

- Accrediting Agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (or foreign equivalent)
- National Councils of Colleges (peer-acknowledged)
- Certification & Testing Organizations recognized by state licensing boards
- The founding members of ACIH
- Co-Chairs of the AIHM Individual Colleges Council
- Co-Chairs of the AIHM Traditional World Medicines and Emerging Professions Council

Organizations and Councils represented on ACIH Council are entitled to one vote for each organization or Council. Each founding members are entitled to one vote each.

Accrediting Agencies, Councils of Colleges and Certifying and Testing Organizations are encouraged to use the ACIH Council to engage across professions and identify strategic initiatives that will benefit their members.

Leadership Roles:

The ACIH Council has 3 leadership positions: Two Co-Chairs and 1 Secretary. The Co-Chairs are responsible for organizing the meeting agendas and leading the Council meetings. The Secretary is responsible for keeping informal meeting minutes.

As of March 2022, the AIHM Board has three members from the original ACIH board. Currently, each of those board members (Dale Healey, JoAnn Yanez & Stacy Gomes) have been assigned to one of the 3 new AIHM Councils to be the Board liaison.

Meetings

At a minimum, ACIH will meet quarterly for 1.5 hours according to the following schedule:

Quarter 1: Online – ACIH Council members only;

Quarter 2: Online – includes all AIHM organizational members;

Quarter 3: Online – ACIH Council members only (initially as a whole and include break-out groups re: colleges/universities; accrediting bodies and certification/testing agencies)

Quarter 4: In-person – includes all AIHM organizational members – this meeting will be a ½ day. ACIH Council organizational members are expected to attend this in-person organizational membership meeting held during the Fall AIHM Annual Conference.

Special Meetings

The Co-Chairs or the Council by majority vote may call special meetings of all members for any purpose.

Quorum

Fifty percent of the number of voting Council members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any Council meeting.

Member Responsibilities:

All members shall:

1. Attend and actively participate in all scheduled meetings. Send one representative if both cannot attend. Each member organization or Council has one vote;
2. Communicate activities of the ACIH Council to their respective organizations on a quarterly basis;

3. Serve as a representative for organization (as applicable), soliciting and bringing forward their organization's ideas and input;
4. Participate in sub-committees as assigned;
5. Read, review, respond to ACIH Council communications including emails, meeting minutes, items routed for review, etc.
6. Approve all ACIH Council projects that require funds. Such a project and budget will then be proposed to the AIHM Board for approval; and
7. Approve new organization members and their recommended ACIH Council representative and alternate.

The Charter will be reviewed on an annual basis at the in-person meeting and voted upon by ACIH Council members.

Last Reviewed: 04/01/2022; final version of the Charter yet to be approved

Last Reviewed: 09/23/22 Final Charter reviewed and approved by ACIH Council