Characteristics of a Healthy Network
(a work in progress)

1) A shared vision of the identity, purpose, and work of the network

- Good progress on creating a shared vision of the network amongst current members and partners
- Good progress on creating a core group of institutions to provide a nucleus for the growth of the network
- Vision for the expansion and further development of the network is emerging

2) Support for real work and concrete contributions

- Very strong start-up in terms of exhibits, forums, programs, and web material
- Design and implementation of meetings, courses, and professional development workshops
- Good start-up on prototypes, models, or pilots
- Early production and publication of research and evaluation studies, surveys, and guides

3) Internal connections and coherency

- Working groups or partnerships are increasingly well-defined and making progress
- Good cross-institutional collaborations within the working groups or partnerships
- Beginnings of cross-partnership or cross-strand collaborations and contributions
- Beginnings of larger sub-networks

4) Mechanisms for drawing upon and contributing to participating members

- Respecting the differences in institutions and their varying strengths and perspectives
- Taking advantage of natural variation to test and refine models and approaches
- Need to go beyond production and dissemination approach

5) Multiple opportunities for participation and interaction with the network

- Multiple opportunities generated for learning about the domain of the network
- A few early and illuminative examples of including new institutions and people
- Networks of existing partners invited to participate

6) Recognized and valued by the broader field

- Good progress on making broader contacts in the domain
- External perceptions of the network are positive
- Initial interest in participation and interaction

7) Development of network governance and administration

- Very good collaboration amongst core partners
- Administrative team very strong with complementary skills and perspectives
- Good ability to identify critical issues, problems, and emerging needs