



THE NETWORK...

...accelerates change by allowing members to leverage and share successful strategies, lessons learned, tools, resources, and connections as part of a national community.

"Being part of the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) opens up connections to people who have become wonderful resources and who have provided me with valuable information on best practices, literature, surveys and more. Other states have reached solutions to struggles or have answers to questions that my state is dealing with too – as long as we are connected we can help each other out. We are not alone."

...increases the effectiveness of policy efforts by aligning messaging, increasing outreach, and amplifying individual strengths.

"OPEN is exceedingly valuable as a platform to discuss and generate ideas for systemic improvement. Network oral health experts answer information requests from our state legislators when appropriate, I put them in touch with one another. It's a win-win. Support for advocacy efforts have resulted in the reinstatement of a dental director, addition of adult dental benefits and passage of legislation."

...provides an opportunity to connect with community-based, city, county, state, regional and national change-agents, experts and innovators.

"Through OPEN we have partnered with two other states to develop fifteen local coalitions directly aligned with our state priorities and the movement. The network provides "built-in" technical assistance from people and experts that have already done what I am trying to do and has changed how I do my job."

...increases opportunities to engage with, learn from, and make use of the knowledge and perspectives of its highly diverse membership.

"OPEN effectively broadens a network of oral health advocates from the "good old boys of oral health" to non-dental focused stakeholders, particularly those involved in social justice, health equity, schools, and more. This deep and diverse network educates and strengthens oral health advocates to think more broadly and inclusively. There are now myriad insights into how we can create policies and an effective system to benefit our state."

THE NETWORK...

...amplifies individual member impact by increasing communication and coordination around common goals leading to success on a larger scale.

"Opportunities for collaboration make me feel less alone in the fight and we have a shot to win – our problems are not unique. OPEN gives me profound hope that we are moving towards, and will one day achieve, the goals in our shared vision. We are a part of something big and growing. There is power in numbers! The network provides strength, encouragement and a vehicle to create optimal oral health for all."

... serves as a central force working towards greater justice and equity in the healthcare system.

"I am inspired and impressed by the ongoing commitment of OPEN to use a social justice framework to address oral health; being part of this network helps me to fully understand that oral health is a racial and social justice issue. The network gives me access to health equity resources, including valuable network members to collaborate with that have helped me be more effective in my community. We need to work with our communities, not for them!"

