



The OPEN Virtual Oral Health Community

Presentation to the Oklahoma Oral Health Coalition
December 4, 2020

Stacey Chazin, MPH



What I'll Talk About Today

- The Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN): Goals, Resources, Benefits
- Getting involved and tapping into OPEN resources to advance oral health in Oklahoma



Learning Objectives

By the end of today, have a shared understanding of:

- Elements of **OPEN** and its **approach to change**
- Ways to get involved in OPEN and **resources** available to support members' **benefits from participation**



OPEN is an Action Network

An **action network** fosters action for specialized outcomes by aligned people and organizations. It creates change through:



The power of collaborative or coordinated action

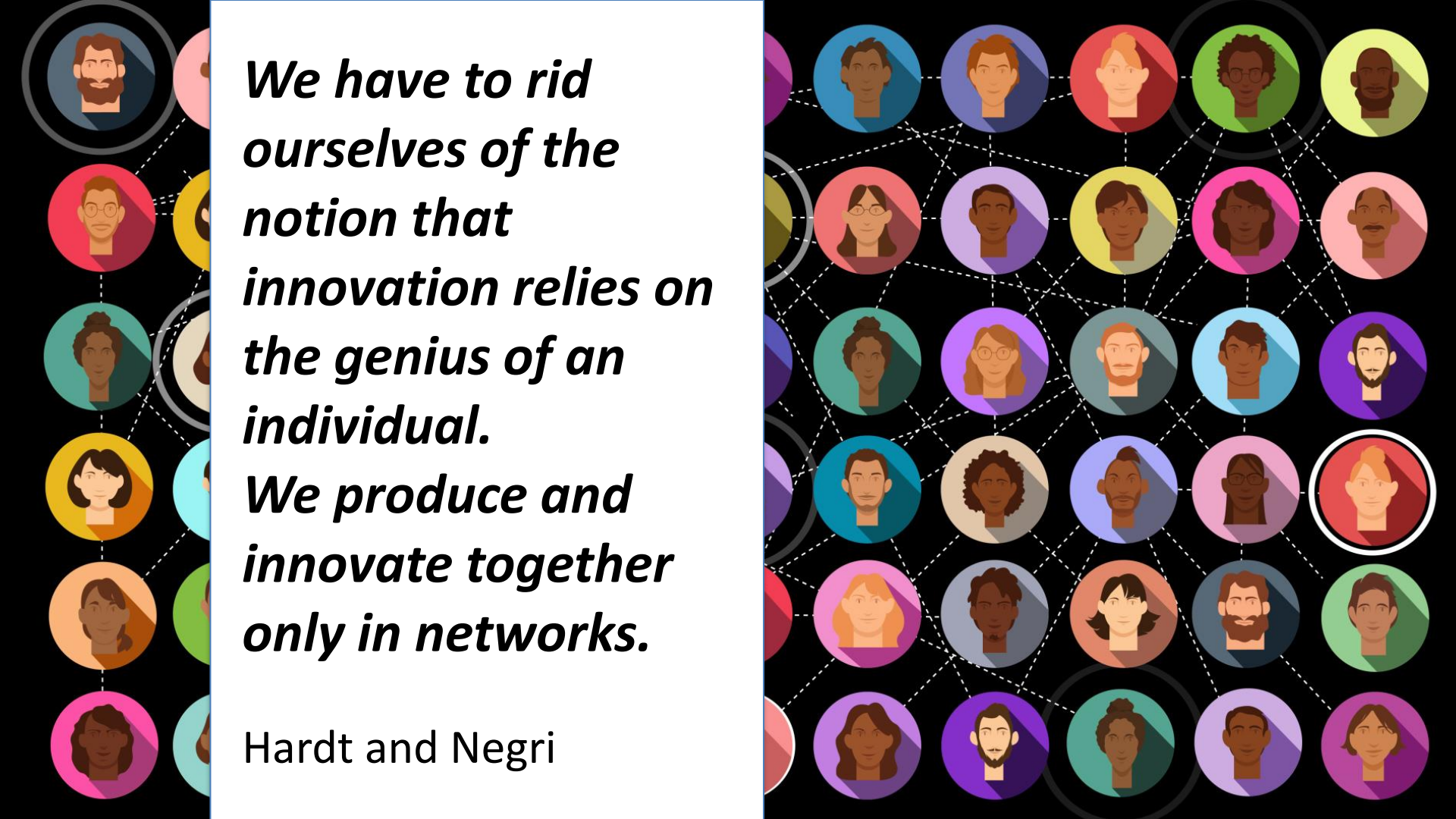


Knowledge and resource sharing



Efficiency and effectiveness

OPEN



We have to rid ourselves of the notion that innovation relies on the genius of an individual.

We produce and innovate together only in networks.

Hardt and Negri

What is OPEN?

- The Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) is a national network with a vision that:
 - Communities thrive because oral health is valued as essential to wellbeing
 - Equitable opportunities ensure that everyone realizes their full potential
- More than 2,500 individual members from local, state, and national organizations work together on a range of oral health, overall health, and social justice issues.



Why We Do What We Do

We catalyze a network to take on America's oral health challenges so that everyone has an equitable chance to thrive.



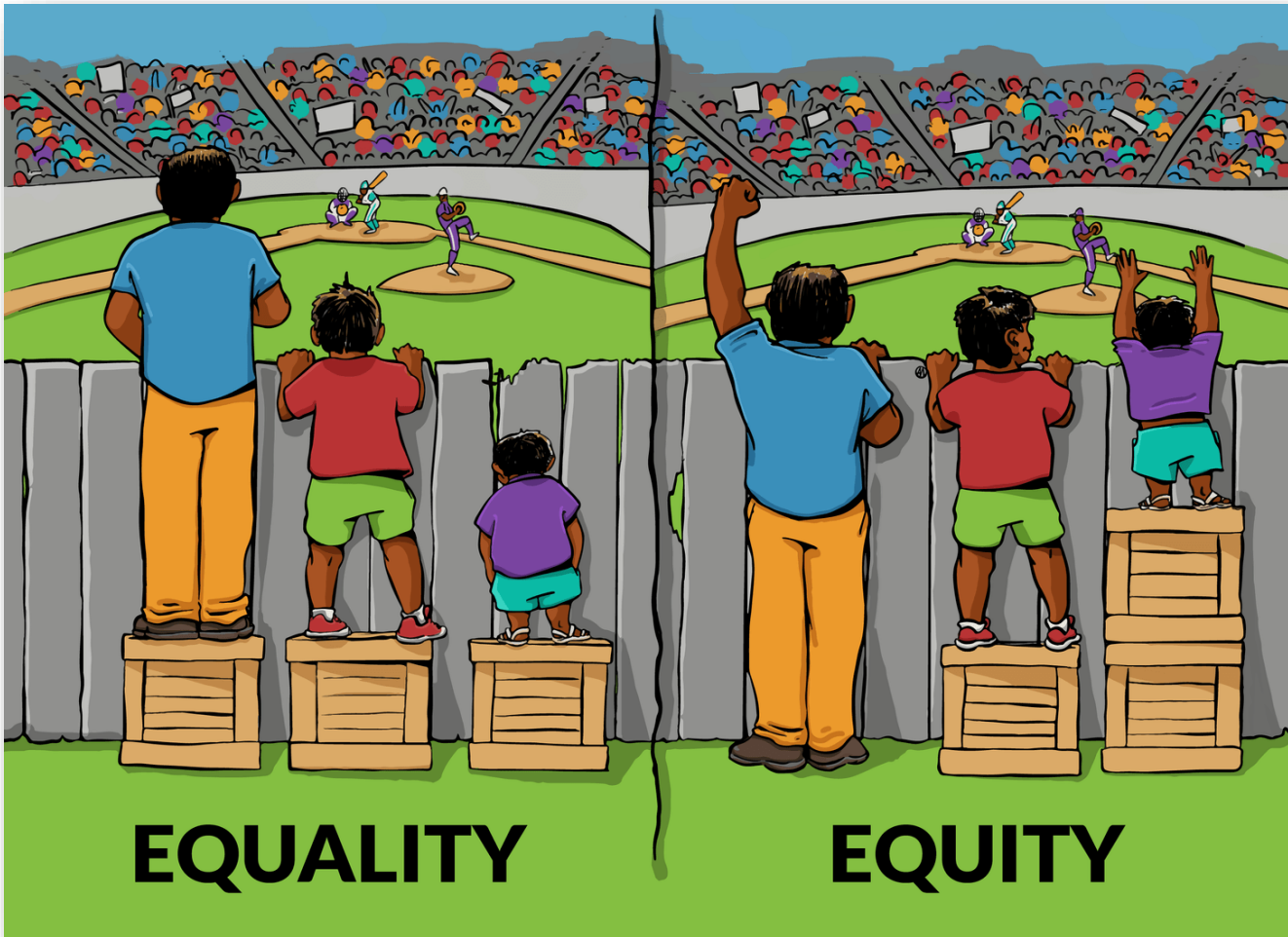
A Focus on Health Equity

Health equity is attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Achieving health equity requires:

- Valuing everyone equally
- Focusing on societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities
- Recognizing and rectifying historical injustices
- Addressing contemporary injustices
- Eliminating health and healthcare disparities, and
- Assuring structural and personal conditions are in place to support optimal health

(Adapted from Healthy People 2020 and Dr. Camara Jones)





EQUALITY

EQUITY

OPEN'S 2020 GOALS:

1. Eradicate dental disease in children
2. Build a comprehensive national oral health measurement system
3. Integrate oral health into person-centered health homes
4. Include an adult dental benefit in publicly funded health coverage
5. Improve the public perception of oral health



DESTINATION: INCLUDE AN ADULT DENTAL BENEFIT IN PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH COVERAGE

TARGET ONE



The Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) is building power in states and communities to create the change needed to make our nation as healthy as it can be. We know that healthier mouths mean healthier people. And healthier people mean stronger communities. This DESTINATION is one of five on which OPEN is working collectively to achieve by 2020, in order to create a just oral health system – one where everyone has an equitable chance to thrive.

Target One: Medicare Includes extensive dental coverage.

COMMUNITY TACTICS

- 1. Demonstrate the impact of lack of dental coverage by working with community partners to develop and disseminate illustrative stories.
- 2. Conduct public education to make people aware that Medicare lacks dental coverage.
- 3. Support and train community health workers to provide oral health education in senior centers and other senior facilities.
- 4. Engage Area Agencies on Aging.
- 5. Engage older adults and caregivers and train them as advocates.

STATE TACTICS

- 1. Increase the number of state oral health coalitions with Medicare dental coverage as a goal.

NATIONAL TACTICS

- 1. Define and build consensus on definition of extensive dental coverage in Medicare.
- 2. Develop coalitions national emphasis on importance of Medicare and how dental coverage would affect Medicare beneficiaries, especially those who are low-income, of color, or in rural areas. Create strategic plan for delivering message.
- 3. Build partnerships with national organizations that have position, clout, and influence to support, consider and passage of a bill.
- 4. Engage national partner to conduct Congressional Budget Office scoring of benefit and bill.
- 5. Support drafting of legislation and supporting materials by national partners, including those representing people of color or equity-focused groups.
- 6. Monitor progress on passage of any relevant bill and act in a concerted way (e.g., sign-on letter) through decision points.

National tactics point

- 1. Engage the AARP and the National Council on Aging.
- 2. Disseminate effective models of care for older adults, including the ACLJ/Oral Care database of programs.

TACTICS THAT WORK ACROSS ALL LEVELS

- 1. Undertake advocacy strategies to reflect that oral health care is federally recognized as a component of primary care.
- 2. Develop and disseminate resources and tools to support state and local advocates.
- 3. Mobilize state and local advocates to engage administrative and legislative champions for appropriations.
- 4. Collaborate with disability community in advocacy efforts.

NOTES, IDEAS, AND PLANS
Check off the tactics you plan to use in getting OPEN to this goal. Work with your team, stakeholders and partners to design a pathway to action.

WWW.ORALHEALTHNETWORK

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DESTINATION: INCLUDE AN ADULT DENTAL BENEFIT IN PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH COVERAGE

TARGET TWO



Target Two: At least 30 states have an extensive Medicaid adult dental benefit.

COMMUNITY TACTICS

- 1. Build awareness and utilization of benefits through education and action programs by creating and engaging community partnerships.
- 2. Develop and support use of a comprehensive set of advocacy tools to support state and local advocates.
- 3. Engage community members (e.g., service providers, listening coalition, oral care champions) to demonstrate impacts of coverage and the benefits of it.
- 4. Engage oral health concerns most to individuals with disabilities by offering or new barriers care.

NATIONAL TACTICS

- 1. Convene state Medicaid and dental directors to build consensus and action on the issue of the benefit.
- 2. Define an extensive benefit and survey where states stand in addition to "formal," "partial" and "emergency" with community input.
- 3. Conduct ongoing monitoring and reporting of state action and consumer advocacy on expanding and defending coverage.
- 4. Monitor implementation of expanded dental benefits and track impact on access to care (e.g., provider participation, service utilization, service navigation, access to transportation, language access, member enrollment, and renewal).
- 5. Conduct and disseminate financial ROI analysis of Medicaid adult dental coverage.
- 6. Collect/disseminate stories and case studies of how states achieve and sustain (e.g., state budget reimbursement rates) needed to improve access and care when benefits are in place.
- 7. Evaluate access and utilization in different coverage scenarios, aligning with the Dental Quality Alliance's utilization measures.

TACTICS

- 1. Collect data on Medicaid work requirements and their impact on that may hinder the impact of a dental benefit.
- 2. Provide training in states around expanding capacity to provide care.

TACTICS THAT WORK ACROSS ALL LEVELS

- 1. Build national, state, and community awareness about lack of coverage and access to care.
- 2. Frame oral health as a social justice issue.

NOTES, IDEAS, AND PLANS
Check off the tactics you plan to use in getting OPEN to this goal. Work with your team, stakeholders and partners to design a pathway to action.

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How You Can Get Involved and Use Network Resources

Partnership in OPEN

- National, state, and community **connections**
- Access to more than **2,500 partners** across the country using an e-community platform
- In-person and virtual meetings for **networking and capacity building**
- **Policy updates** via alerts and bi-weekly calls

Partnership in OPEN


- Participation in **network response teams** for public perception, policy, rural, Latino, Native American, LGBTQ, and others
- Topical **learning collaboratives**
- Timely, topical **webinars**
- Network **spotlights**/*Creating Connections*



WELCOME!
 TO OPEN'S NEW, VIRTUAL PLATFORM, **OPEN COMMUNITIES**

We're evolving! As of June 1, our "old" community, Socius is no longer active. All content can now be found here, in **OPEN COMMUNITIES**. Bookmark communities.openoralhealth.org and get started on June 3, 2020.


Latest Discussions

 **New Webinars: 4/28 on Oral Health and Telehealth and ...**
 By [Sandra Clark](#) · one month ago


Posted in [Webinars Section](#)

Good Morning CA OPEN Members, Sorry in advance for any duplicates posts! The Every Smile Counts! Medical-Dental Learning Collaborative has launched a Lunch and Learn Webinar Series to promote information exchange and connections during this ...

Recent Shared Files

 **Toothbrushing technique for children**
 By [Sally Bustard](#) · 3 months ago

Posted in [Kids Target Page](#)

 **Webinar: Promoting the Oral Health of Children and ...**
 By [Sally Bustard](#) · 2 months ago

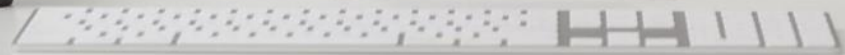
Posted in [Webinars Section](#)

Upcoming Events

10
 JUNE
OPEN Network Wide Federal Policy Update call
 Jun 10, 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

25
 JUNE
Native Oral Health Network (NOHN) NRT Call
 Jun 25, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

communities.openoralhealth.org



What is OPEN Communities?


A strong Network is made up of strong Communities. **OPEN Communities** is the Network's virtual platform where you'll find resources and discussions related to OPEN topics and focus areas. We use OPEN Communities as a gathering place and a repository for resources, we ask questions and find answers, and connect to collaborate on topical and emergent issues in the world of oral health progress and equity.



Communities

- The virtual platform is one large OPEN Community made up of many other communities that:
 - Share a connection around a certain topic or area of focus, for example, COVID-19 or data and measurement.
- By joining communities of interest, members can engage, inform, and interact with each other.





If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far,

GO TOGETHER.

African Proverb

SYMPHONY OF LOVE
Photo by Nisha Gill

OPIN





Stacey Chazin, MPH
**Director of Capacity Building and Technical
Assistance**

schazin@openoralhealth.org