Network Overview

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Oral Health as a Social Justice Issue

• Everyone should have the same opportunities to live a healthy life.

• A person in poor oral health is not healthy.

• It’s our responsibility to advocate for and mobilize the many who don’t have access to oral health care and prevention.

• Nobody should suffer from a chronic disease that is completely preventable.

• Until we all have an equal opportunity to live happy and healthy lives, we will live in an unjust society.
Health equity is the opportunity for everyone to attain her/his full health potential. No one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of her/his social position or socially assigned circumstance.

- Targeted Universalism
- Social Determinants of Health vs. Social Determinants of Equity
- Diversity vs. Inclusion vs. Equity
NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.

-MARGARET MEAD
Wicked Problems

A wicked problem is a social or cultural problem that is difficult or impossible to solve for as many as four reasons: incomplete or contradictory knowledge, the number of people and opinions involved, the large economic burden, and the interconnected nature of these problems with other problems.

--Jon Kolko

“Some problems are so complex that you have to be highly intelligent and well informed just to be undecided about them.”

--Laurence J. Peter
POLICY
- Oral health is a key component of health policy
- Oral health policy consistent at local, state and federal levels
- Oral health measurement systems in place
- Policy to allow expanded workforce

FINANCING
- Sufficient funding to support care, prevention and training
- Alignment of payment with evidence, prevention, disease management and outcomes

CARE
- Dental workforce sufficient to meet needs efficiently & effectively
- Care based on evidence, prevention, disease management and outcomes
- Oral health integrated into all aspects of health care
- Consumer focused care delivery

COMMUNITY
- Oral health integrated into education and social services
- Optimal oral health literacy
- Strong community prevention and care infrastructure
- Provider base representative of community
Networks: Patterns of evolution

Scattered Clusters
Hub-and-Spoke
Multi-Hub
Core Periphery

Where Most Network-Building Begins

Time

Self-Sustaining Network
## Networks: Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONNECTIVITY</th>
<th>ALIGNMENT</th>
<th>ACTION/PRODUCTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connects people to allow easy flow of and access to information and transactions.</td>
<td>Aligns people to develop and spread an identity and collective value proposition.</td>
<td>Fosters joint action for specialized outcomes (goods, services, advocacy) by aligned people and organizations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Network Weaving – help people to meet each other, increase information sharing</td>
<td>Facilitating – helping people explore potential shared identity and value proposition</td>
<td>Coordinating – helping people plan and implement collaborative actions</td>
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Networks in Action: Social Movement

- Rapid, large-scale improvement
- Redefining systems
- Creating new social norms
- Significant public policy change
- Movement principles—Movements:
  - Endorse values
  - Confront power
  - Are grassroots
  - Have scale
  - Take time
  - Are messy
Evolution of the Oral Health 2020 Network

1999–2010
Fragmented National Oral Health Activity
Scattered Clusters

2011–2016
DQF Catalyzes National Network in Role as Hub
Hub-Spoke

2016–2020
Network Expands, Infrastructure Emerges, Leadership Decentralizes
Multi-Hub

2020 AND BEYOND
Network Infrastructure Becomes Independent and Sustainable
Core-Periphery
Oral health is essential to lifelong health and wellbeing.
Improved health equity results in greater social justice

**Oral Health Across the Lifespan**

- **Goal**: Eradicate dental disease in children
- **Goal**: Incorporate oral health into the primary education system
- **Goal**: Include an adult dental benefit in publicly funded health coverage
- **Goal**: Integrate oral health into person-centered healthcare
- **Goal**: Improve the public perception of the value of oral health to overall health
- **Goal**: Build a comprehensive national oral health measurement system

**Oral Health As Part of Overall Health**

- **Target**: With the closing of disparity gaps, 85% of children reach age 5 without a cavity
- **Target**: Oral health is integrated into at least 50% of emerging person-centered care models
- **Goal**: Medicare includes an extensive dental benefit
- **Goal**: A national and state-based oral health measurement system is in place
- **Target**: The 10 largest school districts have incorporated oral health into their systems
- **Target**: At least 30 states have an extensive Medicaid adult dental benefit
- **Target**: Oral health is increasingly included in health dialogue and public policy
ON THE ROAD TO THE GOAL: ERADICATE DENTAL DISEASE IN CHILDREN

TARGET
WITH A CLOSING OF DISPARITY GAPS, 85% OF CHILDREN REACH AGE 5 WITHOUT A CAVITY.

GOAL
ERADICATE DENTAL DISEASE IN CHILDREN.

2018 MILESTONES
15 percentage point increase in the number of kids receiving oral health preventive services from any healthcare provider on an annual basis by age two
A detailed understanding of which populations have the lowest percentage of children reaching age five without a cavity in each state will have been developed
Number of fluoridated communities increased by 10 percent and no communities currently fluoridated eliminate fluoridation
15 percentage point increase in the number of non-dental providers that have delivered preventive services, anticipatory guidance, education, and/or referral for continuous care for kids under age five
The US preventive services task force includes an oral health strategy for prospective parents and primary care givers
65 percent of kids under age five have access to consistent, evidence-based oral health care
90% of early childhood programs will deliver oral health education and prevention to the children they serve

Milestones are markers along the road to reaching a target, and can happen in the network in any order, and even at the same time.

NATIONAL TACTICS
- Include oral health measures in Kids Count
- Support development and launch of national campaign to increase oral health literacy of new parents and families (prioritize target communities)
- Support development and spread of innovative technological tools to promote the integration of oral health into overall health
- Expand interprofessional education and practice to broaden oral health impact of healthcare system in early life
- Identify and build partnerships with key national organizations to build action on this goal (emphasize disparity reduction and equity)

STATE TACTICS
- Support integration of oral health in:
  - Government programs focused on young children and families
  - Early childhood health programs
  - Early childhood social/education programs
  - Perinatal programs
- Support development and spread of interdisciplinary education and practice to broaden oral health impact of healthcare system in early life
- Engage state partners in exploring alternative workforce and care delivery models
- Engage state partners in collecting and reporting state-wide oral health data
- Identify and build partnerships with key state-based organizations to build action on this goal (emphasize disparity reduction and equity)

COMMUNITY TACTICS
- Support integration of oral health in:
  - Government programs focused on young children and families
  - Early childhood health programs
  - Early childhood social/education programs
  - Perinatal programs
- Organize communities to support early childhood health campaigns
- Engage community members in development and dissemination of culturally, linguistically appropriate educational materials, programs, and practices
- Conduct ongoing community needs assessments
- Engage community leaders in collecting and reporting local oral health data
- Identify and build partnerships with key community-based organizations to build action on this goal (emphasize disparity reduction and equity)

Tactics, as they are implemented, will help to achieve milestones. Tactics happen at multiple levels, and often simultaneously, across the network.
“We don’t have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts when multiplied by millions of people can transform the world.” – Howard Zinn