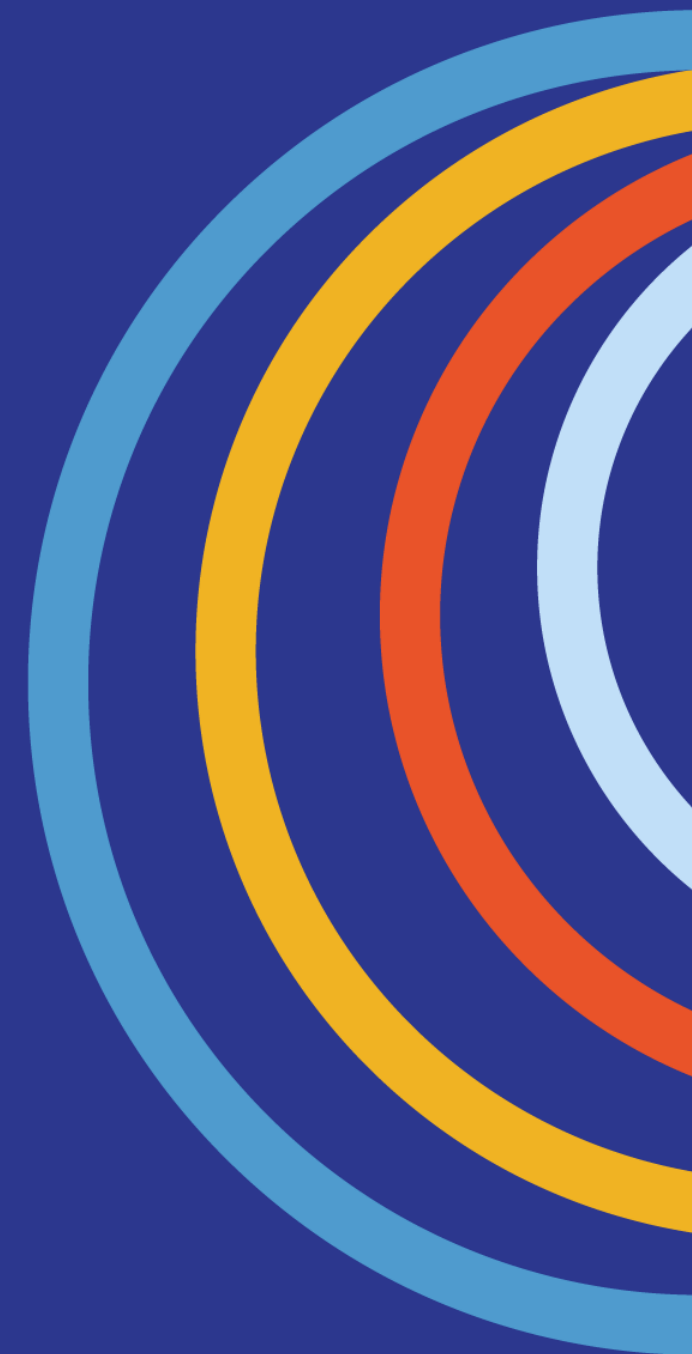




OPEN House

**Network Engagement &
Advocacy Action**

September 17, 2026



OPEN Introductions

Welcome!

Chatbox Check In:

- Name, Organization, State
- What do you want to accomplish in the second half of 2026?
 - *In your work, your communities, or through OPEN*



Housekeeping

- Today's meeting is being **recorded**
- All lines **muted** upon entry
- Share questions & comments in the **chat box**
- If comfortable, please add your **pronouns** to your Zoom name
- Recording & slides provided **post-event**
- **Disagreements are normal. Respect is required.**

AGENDA

Purpose: to engage members in OPEN learning and action, build connections across the network, and shape OPEN's direction through ongoing feedback.

1

Welcome & Meeting Overview

Review meeting agenda and objectives.

2

Advocacy in Action

Success in Guam: Engaging community members for Veterans

3

Member Engagement Committee Spotlight

Centralizing and streamlining: Everything OPEN in one place

4

Network Health Assessment

Your voice matters to the future of OPEN

5

Next Steps

Capacity building and engagement opportunities

Advocacy in Action

Hill Day Success Story

Chrysta Abulencia

Before the Room: Doing the Homework

Guam has the highest per-capita military enlistment in the country, and almost none of the data to prove what our veterans need.

Know your representative's background

Rep. Moylan is an Army veteran who ran the health coverage side of Moylan's Insurance back home and advocated for providers during his time in the Guam Legislature. Health policy is personal to him, so I framed every ask in his terms.

Ask who already knows him

I went to Guam providers who had met with him before and asked what had actually moved him: which stories, which numbers, which framing.

Bring the evidence with you

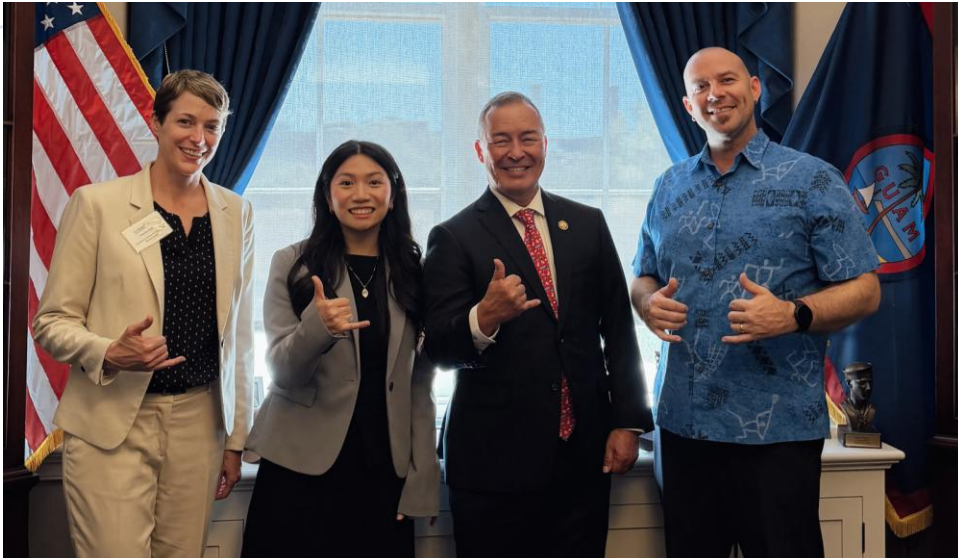
CareQuest's research and Hawai'i data gave our ask numbers Guam does not yet collect, and our own veterans' stories gave those numbers meaning. You do not have to build the evidence alone.



STRONGER TOGETHER

Two islands. One shared case.

Guam and Hawai'i combined local experience and shared evidence to make a stronger case for action.



Collaboration turned separate experience into shared influence.

WHAT MADE THE CASE STRONGER

1

SHARED GEOGRAPHY

Island communities brought aligned access and delivery challenges.

2

SHARED EVIDENCE

Hawai'i data strengthened the case where Guam data was limited.

3

SHARED VOICE

Partners presented together, connecting numbers to community experience.

The collaboration strengthened three shared Hill Day priorities:

Veterans' dental access

Stable Medicaid funding

Federal oral health infrastructure

Turning a Yes Into a Signature

Rep. Moylan told me in our meeting that he would consider cosponsoring. My goal afterwards was to follow up and turn that interest into a secured win.

Thank them by name

Notes to every staffer about topics we briefly talked out in person to familiarize themselves with you and a detailed thank you.

Give people something they can act on

An outreach letter and information packet to Guam dentists and specialists, naming the bills and spelling out exactly what to write and where to send it.

Keep the ball rolling

I connected providers directly with Rep. Moylan's office so they could describe the delays themselves and followed up until the cosponsorship was filed.

Subject: Follow-up from Capitol Hill – Your Voice as a Veteran Dentist for H.R. 210 & H.R. 3277

Hafa adai [REDACTED]

I hope you have been doing well. Over the past month, I have had the opportunity to represent Guam and the CNMI as a dental advocate in Congress, where I have met with Congressman Moylan (GU-AL), Congresswoman King-Hinds (CNMI-AL), and their staff on Capitol Hill to advocate for our island—specifically for expanded dental benefits for veterans, for children and adults born with congenital anomalies, and for maintaining strong, stable Medicaid funding for Guam. I spoke about what I have seen and learned from providers like you who care for our veterans every day and understand the realities of practicing on an island with limited resources and high travel and cost burdens.

I am now trying to build additional support for two House bills:

- H.R. 210 – Dental Care for Veterans Act: would make comprehensive dental care a standard benefit for all veterans enrolled in the VA health system, instead of limiting eligibility to a small subset of veterans.
- H.R. 3277 – the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA): would require private health plans to cover medically necessary treatment for patients with congenital craniofacial conditions. This includes the full course of restorative care, such as oral surgery, implants, fixed and removable prosthetics, and orthodontics. These services would be covered when needed to restore function, rather than treated as optional cosmetic care.

Because you are both a veteran/service member and a dental provider who treats Guam's veterans, your perspective is uniquely powerful. I am writing to ask if you would consider sending a brief letter or email to Congressman Moylan's office and Congresswoman

The outreach letter I sent to providers.

More than 20 providers wrote in.

Advocacy Doesn't End at the Meeting

20+

letters from Guam
dentists, specialists,
and medical providers,
several of them
veterans

1 of 3

Republicans
cosponsoring H.R. 210
when Rep. Moylan
signed on

105

total cosponsors of the
Dental Care for
Veterans Act once
Guam came aboard

The cosponsorship came about a month later. After many thank-you notes to every staffer, letter templates and information packets sent, and direct conversations between our healthcare providers on island with the representative himself.

What Travels Beyond Guam

Relationships, persistence, and a seat at the table for communities the data misses.

RESEARCH THE PERSON

Not just the issue. Their record, their career, and what has moved them before.

BRING THE EVIDENCE WITH YOU

Use the research your partners already have and let people from your community make it real.

THE ASK IS THE START

A verbal yes is not a cosponsorship. Follow up and bring people with you when you do.

Si Yu'os ma'ase' (thank you)

Chrysta Abulencia | OPEN House, September 17, 2026

OPEN Mingle

What are you doing in your
state or community to keep
advocacy momentum
going?



OPEN Spotlight:

Member Engagement Committee

Tony Russell

Gail Brown

OPEN HOUSE | SEPTEMBER 2026

Member Engagement Committee

Powering advocacy through connection

Connection to peers, mentors, resources, and more.

OUR PURPOSE

We strengthen OPEN by creating pathways for members to connect, learn, mentor, and advocate, shaping the systems and strategies that serve today's members and welcome new ones.

FIRST, WHO COUNTS AS A MEMBER?

OPEN uses an inclusive working definition

A member is anyone who engages with OPEN, in any way.



LEAD & CONTRIBUTE

Committee and workgroup leads and participants



SHOW UP & CONNECT

Event and OPEN House participants



JOIN A COMMUNITY

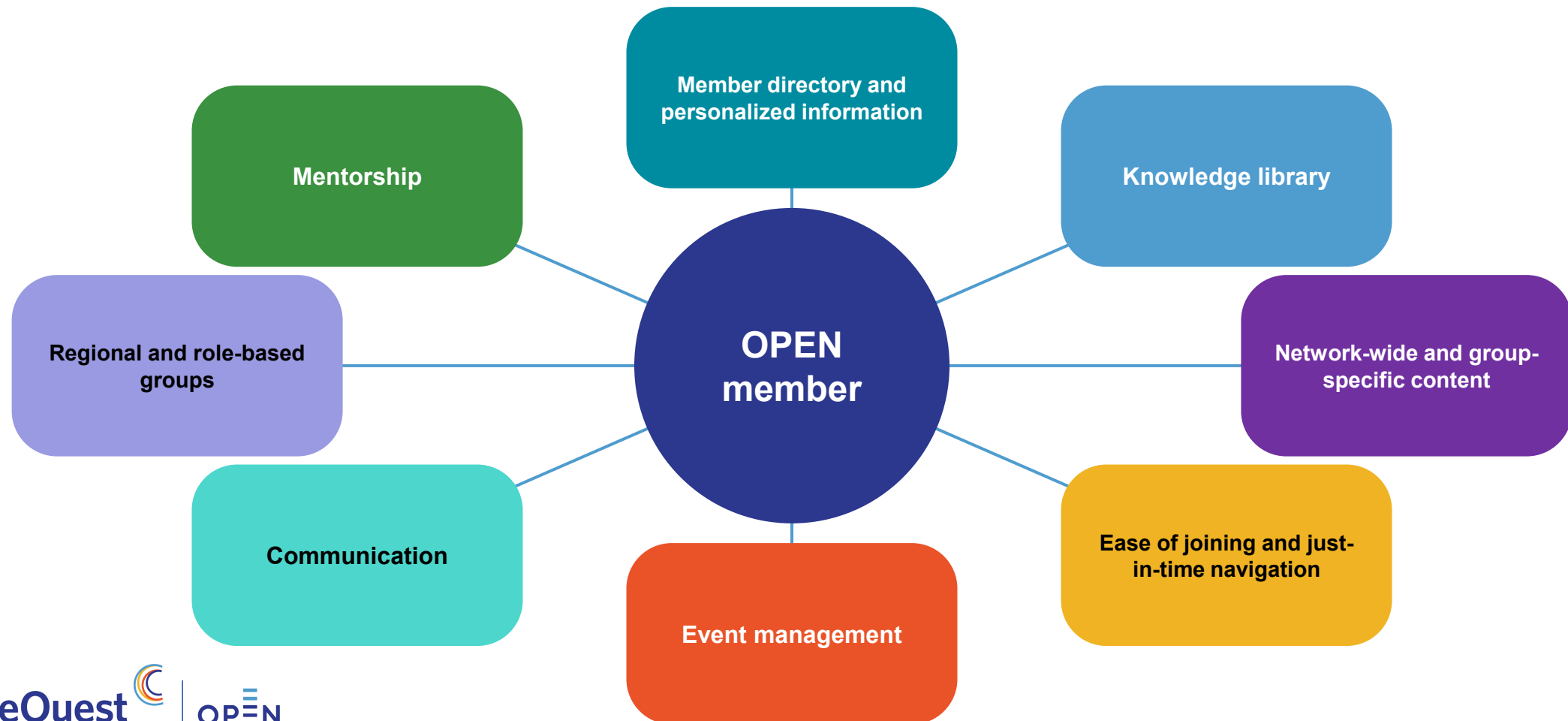
Members of OPEN Communities and other engagement pathways

WHY THIS MATTERS

A shared definition helps OPEN count engagement consistently, identify gaps, and ensure everyone has an opportunity to provide feedback.

A New Home for Member Connection

The new AMS member portal connects members to everything OPEN offers.



Let's build the connection

Powering advocacy through connection — together. Get ready to:

SHARE

Visit the member portal and set up your profile to share who you are with the OPEN community.

CONNECT

Join a regional or role-based group, or find a mentor.

ENGAGE

Find a resource, register for an event, or send us a message.

Thank you

Member Engagement Committee | OPEN House, September 2026

Network Health Assessment

Impact Evaluation Committee

Anubhuti Shukla
Carrie Y Brown

The NHA is more than a survey

The Network Health Assessment is how members help shape OPEN's future.

1

What is working well
across the network

2

Where members need
more clarity,
connection, or support

3

What resources and
opportunities would make
participation more
meaningful

4

Where OPEN should
invest time, resources,
and energy next

Member insight as a decision-making tool.

What We Heard → What We're Building

Four shifts guiding OPEN's work this year.

CLEARER Communication

Plain-language tools
and worksheets
members can use right
away

CONTINUOUS Advocacy

Preparation, action, and
follow-up all year — not
just Hill Day

CONNECTED Engagement

Members as co-
creators, with clear
ways to contribute

DYNAMIC Learning

Committees, events,
technology, and
evaluation working as
one

Members told us what to build. These four shifts are the answer.

Your Voice Shapes Where OPEN Goes Next

Feedback helps OPEN decide what to strengthen and build

SHARE

Needs, challenges, and opportunities

PRIORITIZE

Where attention and resources can matter most

BUILD

Tools, supports, and engagement opportunities

TAKE THE 2026 NETWORK HEALTH ASSESSMENT
By Tuesday, September 29 • End of day

Q&A

OPEN Reflections

All Presenters

Next Steps

OPEN Engagement & Capacity Building Opportunities

Frances Walsh

OPEN 2026 Annual Meeting | Virtual | October 21-22

Advocacy Powered by Connection

Purpose

Bring members together to strengthen connections, learn from one another, and build the confidence and skills to advance oral health priorities through advocacy.

Participants will

- Learn how OPEN is using member feedback and evaluation to strengthen the network.
- Connect community experience to clearer advocacy messages.
- Apply a practical framework to an issue that matters to them.
- Identify a realistic next action and the support needed from OPEN.
- Leave more confident, connected, and prepared to act.

MEETING ARC

Learn → Frame → Apply → Act → Stay Connected

Where community voice, shared learning, and collective action move oral health forward.

STAY EQUIPPED BETWEEN EVENTS

Find OPEN tools and support in one place

Use the OPEN website to access practical resources that support clearer messaging and continued advocacy action.



USE THE FRAMING TOOLKIT

Grab-and-go phrases, legislative testimony templates, reframe guides, and practical worksheets.



GET MESSAGING SUPPORT

Sign up for a 30-minute FrameWorks technical assistance session to workshop materials and test ideas.



STAY CONNECTED

Find OPEN updates, resources, and opportunities for continued learning and engagement.

[EXPLORE OPEN RESOURCES | carequest.org/open](https://carequest.org/open)

TWO WAYS TO TAKE ACTION NOW

Stay connected. Help shape what comes next.

1 REGISTER

2026 OPEN Annual Meeting

Virtual | October 21–22

Connect, learn, apply, and identify your next advocacy action.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

2 COMPLETE

2026 Network Health Assessment

Due Tuesday, September 29 | EOD

Share what is working and help shape OPEN's future priorities and support.

[YOUR VOICE MATTERS](#)

[Resources remain available at carequest.org/open](https://carequest.org/open)



OPEN