

Working with Open Table through UMFS

Open Table is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that trains implementation to the Open Table model. The model aims to make small groups [Tables] that will surround one person or family in relationships. Open Table is international and works with many referral partners. The referral partner matches the Table with someone to surround. The referral partner also uses its expertise and resources to support the Tables in a local way that a national organization cannot. See the table below differentiates roles.

What is Open Table's role?	What is UMFS' role?	What is the licensed organization's role?	What is the Table's role?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide access to Open Table University with-- -step-by-step directions on forming, running, and ending a Table -recruitment tools -Mission Leader training -Table training modules • answer questions about OTU • manage Table's fidelity to the model • continue to research and improve the model • spread the movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • screen referrals and ensure they are connected to a mental health professional • match an individual or family to your Table • support the Table members by – -connecting to and offering resources -hosting communities of practice • connect all to the “big picture” of Open Table in VA • continued effort to improve referral and Table process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pay for the license • provide safety plan and guidelines • recruit Table and complete all trainings • support the Table members and Brother/Sister • spread the movement to other organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the Brother/Sister and their family if applicable • work with the group and follow set expectations • utilize the support provided • ask for more support when needed

Resources

UMFS has passionate professionals that are always looking for new resources to connect with their families.

- UMFS has put together a website of resources that are accessible by Tables. It can be added to as Tables learn new things, too!
- UMFS has access to clinical staff if needed for Table members.
- As churches or organizations donate food or items to our kids and families, Open Table Brothers and Sisters, and their kids, are always considered.

Community of Practice

Formerly called “Quarterly Trainings,” “Communities of Practice” are offered 4 times a year. Mission Leaders and internal/external Table directors are strongly encouraged to attend. They will be offered on the last Thursday of the month from 6-8 pm. UMFS will cover a different topic each quarter as well as provide time for attendees to ask questions, express joys and concerns, and use each other as supports and experts.

2018: May 31, August 30, November 29

2019: February 28, May 30, August 29, November 21.

Events

Campfires are social events where all current or former Table members, including Brothers and Sisters, are invited to attend. In the past we've had a potluck meal and then a time for sharing and connecting.

Trauma Training is offered for Table members by the Trauma Informed Community Network (TICN.) These are free trainings and tailored for Table members. We are also working on making these trainings available online in modules.

Staying in Touch

UMFS gives local determination to your Tables to determine the communication format that will work best for your Table. We would ask, that if you are comfortable adding Kelly Trump (ktrump@umfs.org) to your communication platform, you please do that. (With the exception of a group text!) We hope that having me on there is a helpful and quick way to reach us as needed. Kelly also quickly reads over posts, keeping an eye out for red flags and just having "her finger on the pulse of your Table." She does not share what she reads. She also tries not to post anything unless specifically by someone on the Table for a response. If you would rather not have her on your communication board, then we ask that your outside Table director send her a brief update through email every other week or so.

A great replacement to Basecamp that UMFS would like to recommend is called Slack. It's an app and desktop platform that has many of the same features as Basecamp. Please reach out if you need help choosing a platform, getting one started, or want to talk through your options.

Connected to the Movement

When you choose UMFS as your referral partner, you'll be connected to the larger Open Table movement across the state.

- A UMFS website explaining how to be involved in Open Table is almost finished! This can be a one-stop-shop for how to refer someone, how to start a Table, when trainings are, etc.
- You'll receive a newsletter with updates, events, and stories.
- You'll get an annual chance to provide anonymous feedback through an online survey. You can always provide feedback as you wish to give it.
- A chance to help others in the movement, including joining our committee