



## **NE Family Youth System Partner Meetings & Activities**

August 17, 2017

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The NE FYSPRT met August 17, 2017 at Spokane Community Services Bldg., 312 W 8th Ave., Spokane, WA and was called to order by the Family Co-Lead Becky Bates. Also present was Youth Lead Morgan Gabriel and Family Co-lead Helen Franklin. Twenty three (23) members and guests attended including one member by phone, representing families, youth, and system partners.

### UPDATE FROM STATE FYSPRT

Becky attended the State FYSPRT meeting in August. The regional FYSPRTs have been tasked with two items: marketing and strategic plans. FYSPRTs have good representation from system partners, but need an increased presence from youth and parents/guardians.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING - RESOURCE HUB

North Sound FYSPRT has developed a North Sound Challenge – increasing knowledge about available services, support groups and training. Regional FYSPRTs were asked to complete the challenge by identifying resources in our community. A suggestion has been raised to have the FYSPRTs become the resource hubs.

The following resources were identified for Spokane County:

- 211
- First Call for Help
- Children's Administration – CPS
- Spokane Regional Health District
- School Districts
- Spokane Community College Community Resource Guide
- Figtree.org
- United Way
- ARC
- Department of Early Learning
- Catholic Charities
- Family Partners
- Pediatricians

Rural Resources include:

- Outreach Office in Newport
- Primary Care Providers



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- Community Hospitals

FYSPRTs would need resources to manage a website geared towards being the resource hub for a community. The Spokane BHO does have some information on its website for SUD resources; Justin Johnson will explore expanding it to include other information.

The members discussed the concept of 211; Jeff Dubois is the director for 211 and Becky will explore the possibility of him speaking at the October NE FYSPRT meeting.

### MARKETING

NE FYSPRT has marketing activities in place including ads in the Inlander and posters in agencies throughout the BHO catchment area including rural areas. The posters have been observed in the rural areas, but not so much in Spokane. NE FYSPRT will have a billboard in October. A marketing consultant provided some helpful suggestions and Becky presented several recommendations for tag lines that can be utilized in marketing. The group discussed the issue of using the terms children vs youth. Members were asked to rate the recommended tag lines or suggest others and provide their response to her.

Sharon O'Brien from Lutheran recommended the following: Children/Youth with Special Needs Deserve a Hero Like You. That garnered the most votes from the members present.

### RESPITE SERVICES

Another task from the State FYSPRT was to discuss respite services in our area. The Spokane BHO funds respite services but for Spokane County only. Other counties can access the respite services but must provide transportation and only on certain days. SMS is utilized for transportation services. Strength areas included Excelsior and YFA. Weaknesses include: insufficient number of respite beds, need for more options (providers), no beds for 5-10 year olds, limited time for respite.

Lack of respite services is recognized as an issue throughout the state. Some regions have no respite beds. Funding for respite beds has been removed from Medicaid.



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Some agencies have dedicated staff for respite services which may be underutilized and those resources are wasted.

There is a distinction between respite and crisis respite, where there is a lack of immediate availability, e.g. the need to schedule respite services vs the need for immediate crisis respite. There are staffing challenges also, including the need for federal background checks from Children's Administration, which can take 4-6 weeks.

It was identified that there is a need for parental support without having to go through CPS. Some communities have a parent co-op where parents share responsibility for providing respite.

### WISE UPDATES

Stephanie discussed the WISE symposium that was recently held. It was primarily geared to new families. It was an excellent opportunity to have everyone together and there was a broad and deep knowledge base of presenters. Some suggestions for the future included different levels of training/learning; and to extend the length of the classes as they didn't allow for indepth discussions. It was overwhelming for some of the new family members.

The Spokane BHO presentation emphasized Family Voice and Choice. Stephanie thanked all agencies for their participation.

At the System Partner meeting, Children's Administration is providing education to MSWs regarding the Child and Family Team meetings and the importance of attending those sessions. She also discussed development of a report to provide to caregivers. DDA is providing education to staff on WISE and how it can support the goal to increase referrals from DDA.

The BHO has asked DDA and Children's Administration to begin attending provider meetings and asked for input to invite other partners. Suggestions included CLIP facilities, Spokane Public Schools, and Juvenile Justice.



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Stephanie stated she will provide bring data points to the next NE FYSPRT meeting. There will be training at the end of August for WISE providers. She asked members to contact her to become more involved.

### WISE Team Updates:

- Lutheran has two teams and a new therapist.
- Daybreak is a new WISE provider and they're in the process of hiring staff.
- IFD has one team with a new therapist. Some WISE enrollees are graduating and transitioning to discharge.
- FBH has 12 teams with several clients closing out of service. They are still hiring.
- Passages has two teams in place with 11 families and one team with 3 families.

Families graduating from WISE were encouraged to come speak about their experience with NE FYSPRT.

Discussion at the Statewide FYSPRT included separating FYSPRT meetings – system partners during the day and family/youth in the evening when they're more able to attend. There will be more discussion on this in the Fall.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Becky asked if anyone had any issues to bring to the State FYSPRT. It was noted that recently 100 homeless children found housing. This continues to be a statewide issue and spans the age span. Spokane County has 3000 homeless children.

There is no meeting in September. Our next meeting is October 5th.