



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
January 21, 2021**

Introduction

Increasing Tribal/Diverse Community/Family/Youth Involvement

Ashley James, Youth Tri-Lead

The NE FYSPRT met on January 21, 2021. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom. Tri-leads Ashley James (Youth Tri-Lead), Helen Franklin (Family Tri-Lead) and Vincent Cardiel (System Partner Tri-Lead) were present. Ashley James welcomed thirty-two (32) attendees with 11 family and youth members, 2 tribal representatives, and 19 system partners. Ashley began the meeting by sharing the acknowledgement that we are living and working on land that originally belonged to the Tribes. All members were asked to document the group with which they identify: Tribal representative, diverse community, youth, or parent/caregiver.

Ashley welcomed Raina Peone, the Health Care Authority's Tribal Representative for eastern WA. Ms. Peone explained her role with the Health Care Authority and her planned connection with the NE FYSPRT.

Contract Compliance: Quarterly Review of WISE data for the NE FYSPRT region

In the December 2020 minutes, it was noted that members commented that when individuals are transitioning to a lower level of care from WISE, there was a need for further training for families. Becky was asked to address this subject at this meeting to determine if it is a regional issue that should be presented at the Statewide FYSPRT meeting. Members stated that families need training to learn what WISE services entail and what services might be available when the youth transitions out of WISE. It was determined that the responsibility for this training is on the WISE providers.

General NE FYSPRT Business

Contract/Compliance – Community Education

Samantha Quackenbush with Excelsior Wellness Center shared information on their Life Point program for boys age 17 ½ to 21 to gain life skills. The youth can be discharging from the state psychiatric hospital or are experiencing homelessness. Life Point staff identify job readiness and provide mental health and substance use services if needed. There are 8 beds, with three current vacancies. Referrals usually come from the State hospital, Crosswalk, or even emergency departments. Length of stay is usually six months.



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
January 21, 2021**

New Community Programs

Becky Hammill shared with the NE FYSPRT several new programs that are in development. Passages has been awarded funding for a new adult peer respite. It will be between 3-4 beds, Medicaid only, age 18 and above. Individuals who are in recovery but have identified personal stress and wish to avoid crisis are eligible to come to the Peer Respite for no more than 7 days a month. The individual cannot be experiencing homelessness and must bring his/her own food, be able to perform their own ADL's, and take care of their own living space. The Peer Respite will be staffed by Certified Peer Counselors. The program is modeled after the Rose House in New York, which has been successfully operating for many years. The Colville Tribe has also been awarded a grant for a peer respite program and they will be developing a larger capacity program. Raina Peone indicated that it's in the early stages of development. The third Peer Respite was awarded to Lucid Living in Pierce County. The Health Care Authority is hoping to fund additional peer respite programs in the next budget cycle.

Regional Issues Forwarded to the State FYSPRT

Lack of neuropsychological testing availability

Neuropsychological testing is an in-depth assessment of skills and abilities linked to brain function. The evaluation measures such areas as attention, problem solving, memory, language, IQ, visual-spatial skills, academic skills, and social-emotional functioning. In the December meeting, NE FYSPRT members identified the difficulty in finding professionals who would complete neuropsychological testing, accept Medicaid clients, and be able to complete the testing timely. There are only a few providers who will accept Medicaid enrollees. Wait times have been six or more months. This level of care is needed to confirm diagnoses for many complex children and youth. The only university practicum opportunity is in Seattle at the University of Washington. Providers are unable to obtain access to care – disparate treatment occurs when parents cannot get testing. Neuropsychological testing is an evidence based intervention that can identify barriers to improvement so that providers can design alternative ways to provide services. The individual can then become adept in receiving the services once the barriers have been identified and mitigated.



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
January 21, 2021**

Children and youth who enter the WISe programs are complex and many times have accumulated multiple diagnoses that can only be sorted out with neuropsychological testing.

Becky will send a Solutions and Challenge form to the State FYSPRT with this challenge identified.

Increasing mental health crises during COVID19

NE FYSPRT members discussed the increasing need for mental health services during this COVID pandemic. With the vaccine rollout struggling, individuals are disillusioned about timely vaccination administration. Members identified that it is a very difficult time for individuals who currently receive services and the need for mental health services for individuals who have not received services before is growing at all agencies. The need is outgrowing capacity and clients do not want to exit services during a time of high stress. Clients are struggling with the decision to become vaccinated and many do not have sufficient scientific-based information about the vaccine to make an informed decision.

Raina indicated that there was grave concern at the tribal level about the severity and immensity of the impact on the tribal members. She indicated that the Tribe has initiated a Community Wellness night and all are invited as a way for everyone to participate in wellness events. She provided the webpage link: <http://nativeproject.org/services/children-and-youth-services/indian-youth-summer-program/community-wellness-program>.

Food insecurity has been identified as a growing need during the pandemic. The Women's and Children's clinic received a private donation to help address food insecurity. Ashley Kleinjans with Community Health Plan of WA indicated that CHPW may also be able to assist clients with short-term food insecurity – contact them for your clients who have CHPW. Molina provided a grant to the Institute for Family Development to assist with food insecurity.

Meeting Evaluation/Next Meeting

Members attending today's meeting were asked to complete the NE FYSPRT evaluation. Next meeting: February 18, 2021 3:00 PM via Zoom.