



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
August 20, 2020**

The NE FYSPRT met on August 20, 2020. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom. Co-leads Ashley James (Youth Co-Lead), Helen Franklin (Family Co-Lead) and Vincent Cardiel (System Partner Co-Lead) were present. Sixteen (16) parents, youth, agencies, and system partners participated.

Becky indicated that the discussion regarding CLIP is postponed as Justin Johnson was unable to participate.

ANNUAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Becky had distributed the NE FYSPRT Strategic Plan with the June 26, 2020 update. The members present split into breakout rooms to discuss the three AIM statements contained in the Strategic Plan. The following strengths, challenges, needs, and areas to change were identified by the three teams:

AIM Statement # 1: The NE FYSPRT will work continuously to achieve 51% family and youth representation.

Strengths:

- Zoom platforms makes it more accessible, reduced drive time, no need for child care
- Dual roles, parents as providers, youth peers
- The time change making it more accessible to youth and families
- Sharing success stories
- Parents genuinely active and willing to engage
- Youth N Action – very active in getting youth voice in FYSPRT
- General consensus from the FYSPRT group of the desire and need to work towards engaging youth and family
- A lot of responses from flyers and marketing – they're effective
- Time has been adjusted
- Consistent location
- More parents and youth have attended
- There has been more encouragement from others to invite youth and family to meetings
- A prior meeting with separate tables with each representation was helpful
- Fidgets



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Challenges:

- Needs coaching on how to encourage youth and families to attend FYSPRT
- Depends on where they are in the stages of change in their treatment
- Basic needs (food, housing, education) are not being met in the community
- Overwhelmed due to COVID and level of commitment in their lives
- Time
- Location can be a challenge for our rural community members
- With COVID comes a disconnect socially
- At times, topics and conversations can be clinical, overwhelmingly provider presence heavy.
- Can be intimidating, discouraging at times (most times)
- Need more parent/youth voice/input on topics and discussions
- Need to increase engagement of youth and families for FYSPRT to obtain feedback and their suggestions on what to cover or change that is more in line with what is currently in need in our region
- Transition from pre-COVID can be challenging regarding engagement and participation

Needs:

- Revamping flyers and posters
- Engagement with probation officers
- Youth "mixer"
- Family "mixer"

Potential area for change:

- Virtual engagement emphasis
- Engaging more youth and families on a larger scale utilizing other agencies (e.g. schools, after school programs, etc)
- At the end of the agenda, dedicate an open forum for free talk, discussions, topics. Opportunity to engage youth and family and others to speak freely
- Unstructured conversations
- Drop boxes for FYSPRT participants to have an opportunity to provide recommendations for the next meeting



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AIM STATEMENT # 2 – The NE FYSPRT will work to address health equity and social determinants of health that preclude the participation of rural, minority, and tribal communities in the NE FSYPRT.

Strengths:

- Advertising
- As a group we can make change versus an individual voice
- Ability to have their voice heard through zoom, surveys until they feel more comfortable/amenable
- We have the resources to get more knowledge on this information for our own community
- NE FYSPRT has a variety of rural communities to work with and FYSPRT continues to encourage and support youth/families from those areas
- Continued outreach to Tribal communities in our area
- Staying flexible with the time frames of FYSPRT
- Meetings via telehealth and/or Zoom currently (area for change)
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Challenges

- Lack of trust, tribal (previous involvement with services)
- Stigma around the subject (mental health)
- Limited skill set for advocacy
- Culture around state entities, their voices aren't heard so why try
- Lack of connectivity/internet
- Culture around electronics
- Distance, pre/post COVID
- No access to subcommittees in rural areas
- No connections to the people involved
- This question is not youth and family friendly
- Zip code stigma
- Some providers lack knowledge of enrollee's environment and status
- Conference calling (the Star phone) – discouraging, difficult to manage participants
- Distributing FYSPRT links/invites – but also engaging families and youth in more Zoom meetings
- School year and distance learning via telehealth then throwing in FYSPRT for Zoom fatigue



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- Getting more families/youth to attend during the current COVID crisis, considering the level of Zoom fatigue
- Accessing technology for rural areas – lack of availability for some areas or limited

Needs

- Re-wording question
- Get data regarding region's more rural communities

Areas for change

- Utilizing funds that may have been used for things such as gas vouchers, etc for other services.
- Enhancing social media outlets for FYSPRT (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, others) and sharing FYSPRT meeting links online
- Talk with Becky/Brad about sharing FYSPRT links and listing social media handles every meeting
- Social media overhaul/enhancement
- On social media, express desire for participants to give the group ideas and feedback
- Hold a community based FYSPRT meeting – central location/venue/forum
- Hold meetings outside Passages, somewhere centrally located

AIM Statement # 3 – the NE FYSPRT will address access to care and system issues identified during and through the 2020 Needs Assessment and Work Plan milestones.

Strengths:

- Diversity of guest speakers not just behavioral health providers
- Info on how to access different services
- Taking time to ask youth and families for input
- While Zoom can be helpful with engagement from our more rural communities, it was found to be more meaningful to see people in person
- Good presentations
- FYSPRT provides opportunities/open forum for participants to express some issues regionally that deserve addressing through the Statewide FYSPRT
- Continue to encourage participants/families/youth/system partners to express areas of improvement



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- Some great conversations/access to care needs have been brought to the table

Challenges

- Youth and families need to hear policies and macro perspectives to understand why certain things happen: more education around systems for families
- Need more time ahead of the meeting to advertise to families about information being shared at FYSPRT that month
- **Amenity** sharing concerns about challenges with services in the community
- Coaching around how providers can assist families in sharing their stories
- Due to Covid there were a lot of limitations put on these planning goals
- Some treatment was only on the phone making engagement harder
- When it comes to the school being online and the lack of counselors in our school, there is a concern for the kids who may need assistance. Who is looking out for the kids and the signs that they need extra support?
- Topics covered in this open forum regarding areas of need to bring to the Statewide FYSPRT seem to be predominately system partner/agency need heavy.
- Lack of youth/family input in this area – this can be due to feelings of intimidation as participation is system-partner heavy in most cases

Needs:

- More info on schools to ensure children have access to counselor

Areas for change:

- Have more family peers present to help encourage family members participating to voice their ideas

Becky will utilize these comments to update the Strategic Work Plan for 2020-2021.

There will be no September FYSPRT meeting. The next NE FYSPRT meeting will be October 1st via Zoom unless in person meetings are allowed.