



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
February 6, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of the NE FYSPRT was held on February 6, 2020 at Passages Family Support, 1700 S. Assembly, Spokane, WA 99224. Helen Franklin, Family Co-Lead welcomed 23 youth, parents, agencies, and system partners who attended in person or via phone.

PRESENTATION

Holly Luna and Roslyn Alber with the State's Kinship Caregiver programs provided members with information regarding informal and formal kinship relationships. Washington State has one of the longest kinship programs. They provided history of how the kinship program came into being and the subsequent legislative initiatives that have bolstered the State's ability to recognize kinship relationships. They identified a range of resources for both formal and informal kinship caregivers across the state, including respite, legal clarifications on authorizing medical and behavioral health care, and community organizations that can assist caregivers. There is a kinship navigator stationed at Frontier Behavioral Health.

The presentation was well received and the presentation slides will be made available to all members.

ISSUES FOR THE STATE WIDE FYSPRT

Members raised the issue of transportation for children and youth. SMS has the contract for transporting Medicaid clients and multiple agencies have reported concerns. Examples include returning a child to school long after school has ended for the day, children who are not picked up from their appointment with a behavioral health agency, children left at the wrong house, drivers who are violent with the children with witnesses, and other disturbing incidents. The SMS staff locally ask agencies to get the driver's card and call the driver when he/she hasn't arrived, however the number is just the local line that does not get answered. There is no reliability for clients who need to use SMS for transportation. The lack of accountability for children's safety is concerning.



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2

There is no regional response to the concerns raised and members requested this issue go to the state FYSPT since the SMS contracts are through the Health Care Authority.

Members asked that respite continue to be a statewide discussion. Currently, there are no mental health beds at CRC.

The next meeting will be March 5, 2020 at 4 p.m. at Passages Family Support.