



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
June 4, 2020**

The NE FYSPRT met on June 4, 2020. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom at 4 p.m. Co-leads Ashley James (Youth Co-Lead), Helen Franklin (Family Co-Lead) and Vincent Cardiel (System Partner Co-Lead) were present. Thirty two (32) parents, youth, agencies, and system partners participated.

PRESENTATION

Becky announced that she had a last minute agenda change because NE FYSPRT was able to have Kitara Johnson speak about opportunities to involve youth voice in the national movement to end institutionalized racism.

Ms. Johnson is a Community Leader/Organizer, Chief Diversity Officer at Excelsior Wellness Center. She shared with the NE FYSPRT the recent activities in Spokane as part of the nationwide demonstrations and how she encouraged and supported youth in the Spokane event. Ms. Johnson had some recommendations for others who wish to support youth: listen, don't speak; be supportive; use art for youth to express their feelings; use modeling; restrict law enforcement presence if possible.

She was asked for suggestions of how youth can be involved going forward.

Ms. Johnson suggested that there be a peer support presence in every park in the region which could pull youth together. Sing it, say it, play it...Peer counselors in parks would allow youth to express themselves in a variety of ways. There could be specific groups: youth pastors, CASA counselors, etc or a more organized approach. Ms. Johnson indicated she was amazed by the outpouring of support, financially, with food, and otherwise, and she hopes to continue that support going forward. She indicated that if law enforcement needs to be a present for safety, they needed to be in plain clothes.

Several youth were assaulted during the protest activities last week and it's important to help youth feel safe at these events. Set up a mic – allow them to say anything. Have counselors present.

Peer Counselors are the catalyst. Can be faith based but no one is pressured. Don't be color blind, be color brave. Be self-aware – who is in my circle. Broaden perspectives, look for your blind spots. Be curious – what is the other



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person's perspective? Pass the mic. Demonstrate interest in other cultures. Look at the CLAS and Health Equity resources. Be bold. Go to cultural events.

Ms. Johnson stated she is on the Governor's Health Disparities Taskforce. Embrace equity advocates for peers. Peer conferences should have a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion focus.

She identified several documents that she will send to NE FYSPRT members. Ms. Johnson was thanked for her presentation and asked to maintain regular involvement with NE FYSPRT.

STATEWIDE FYSPRT MEETING

Helen Franklin, Family Co-Lead gave a report of the statewide FYSPRT meeting held earlier in the day.

Helen indicated the statewide group had a good discussion regarding the protests that are occurring statewide and nationally and discussed how FYSPRT can help – for example, increase diversity in recruitment and in the provision of services.

The FYSPRT discussed the respite survey and identified common themes;

- 82% of respondents did not have respite in their community
- Respondents identified that respite reduces emergency department visits and increases level of care
- Respite creates safety
- Respite reduces crisis

Respite should be designed to meet needs in and out of the home. Drop in centers, youth crisis homes, etc. are some examples. Specific training is needed for parents with children who have mental health challenges. The old model of respite is outdated – respite needs to be tailored to the family. Let the family decide when and where to get respite.

FYSPRT will identify the top five concerns. NE FYSPRT members identified resources such as START, Toddlers to Teens, toolkits to duplicate, Young Lives Moms, Lumen High School, and CPC apprenticeships.



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PARENT AND YOUTH VOICE

Parents spoke about how they've been coping with the pandemic and most said that the Zoom meetings were extremely beneficial, for parents to be actually talking to another person they can see, parent peers being available with different perspectives, etc. Becky indicated that a survey will be coming out in July for families to identify what worked and what could be improved regarding services for youth and families. All said that having Zoom available after COVID was needed.

YOUTH MOVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Ashley James, Youth Co-Lead, has been working with the Youth Move National organization to create an eastern WA chapter. Technical assistance is available to all WA regions. Working with NE FYSPRT, there will be flyers, posters, and other marketing materials available. Marketing to colleges, libraries, and other places, including restaurants with youth ties, will take place after COVID.

2ND QUARTER EVALUATION

Becky indicated that a link was provided on the agenda for NE FYSPRT members to complete the 2nd quarter evaluation. If you include your name at the end, an e-gift card will be provided.

NEXT MEETING

NE FYSPRT moves into the summer schedule. There is no meeting in July and the August meeting is later in the month when people are back after vacations. The next NE FYSPRT meeting will be August 20, 2020. In person or Zoom will be determined in August.