



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes  
NE FYSPRT  
March 5, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of the NE FYSPRT was held on March 5, 2020 at Passages Family Support, 1700 S. Assembly, Spokane, WA 99224. Vincent Cardiel, System Partner Co-Lead, welcomed 20 youth, parents, agencies, and system partners who attended in person or via phone.

PRESENTATION

Drew Comito and Amanda Ramshaw with the Excelsior Wellness Center and Integrated Care Center shared information on their organization's re-structuring and facility renovations. Drew shared the changes in the outpatient program including: 14 WISe teams, medication management and general outpatient services and where those programs will be located at Excelsior along with the recreation department. They also have a school.

Amanda is the director of the Integrated Care Center which is their inpatient unit. The new programs are opening soon. The services include youth behavior rehabilitation services (BRS), secure withdrawal management/substance use disorder treatment, transitional youth age 17-21 and crisis stabilization for a total of 32 beds. They will also be able to support Family Initiated Treatment.

Excelsior's plan is to provide a wide range of services so those services are available to the community when the need arises. Services will include psych triage/step down with ages to be determined. Intensive outpatient services will be co-occurring day treatment services. Referral process is the same. There is currently no funding available for respite services.

Individuals must be enrolled in Excelsior to receive integrated care services. Secure withdrawal management for youth is a service that's been needed for a while.

Drew and Amanda also discussed their services relating to electronic health records and billing management through Care Logic.

Vince indicated he had toured the campus recently and it is state of the art, with the correct infrastructure and medical capability. Drew and Amanda indicated all are welcome to tour.



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UPDATE FROM THE STATEWIDE FYSPRT MEETING

Vince indicated that the Statewide FYSPRT seems to have a more stable membership after a period of turnover. The Statewide group has taken on several of the issues brought to the group from NE FYSPRT, including Children's Long Term Inpatient Placement (CLIP) releases and the need for more respite beds. At the last meeting, representatives from the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery and the Attorney General's office were present to discuss the TR Lawsuit and the group had a robust discussion about discharging from CLIP.

There was a brief discussion regarding respite – previously, the state utilized non-Medicaid funds to provide services that Medicaid did not reimburse for; however with integrated managed care, those non-Medicaid dollars are no longer available.

The Statewide FYSPRT will also be further discussing transportation issues for clients with Medicaid. Becky indicated she had met with the Spokane Regional Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization (SCRBH-ASO) and presented about NE FYSPRT and the transportation issues experienced by most providers.

FYSPRT members discussed the lack of standardized protocols for discharges from CLIP facilities. At the statewide meeting, there were also positive stories about the followup when discharging from CLIP. Vince discussed Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration's (JRA) requirements that no youth exiting care will be homeless. JRA implemented the process over a year ago to ensure that all youth leaving JRA facilities have a place to live. Becky distributed a handout from the Statewide meeting on Improving Stability for Youth Exiting Systems of Care (Legislative bill SSB 6560).

There was good youth involvement at the statewide meeting. The annual report on the TR lawsuit was discussed and it was noted that WISE is on track according to the plan. There is no information yet on whether the lawsuit will finalize in July as scheduled or if it will continue. Becky provided a handout on the 2019 TR Implementation Status Report that was discussed at the Statewide meeting.



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The quarterly Behavioral Health Data System (BHDS) data is not user friendly and difficult to utilize in a live meeting with some organizations participating remotely. Becky will discuss this with Paul Davis in the near future and ask if he'd meet with the NE FYSPRT again. It was noted that some of the productivity data is confusing and fidelity is tied to productivity that is not captured accurately when it needs to be youth and family focused.

WISe TEAM UPDATES

The Wise teams presented information on their programs:

- Pend Oreille: They have 5 youth in their WISe program and have two staff vacancies.
- Excelsior: They have 14 teams, 139 clients with a wait list of about 5-6. They also have staff vacancies.
- Frontier Behavioral Health: They are always recruiting. Their teams are not full at this time
- Passages: Passages is fully staffed and all three teams are full. They have a wait list.

ISSUES FOR THE STATE WIDE FYSPRT

CLIP continues to be an issue for members. There is a need for a long-term wait list. Currently, if a youth is in crisis and requires involuntary detention, he/she has priority for admission ahead of individuals on the wait list. Post-CLIP services are not given priority and there is no plan for additional CLIP beds. While youth are waiting for a CLIP bed, they bounce between BRS, JRA, and Sacred Heart's Children's Psychiatric Unit (PCCA). When children/youth are too acute for outpatient WISe services and there is no inpatient bed available, there are no services for the individual. Sometimes, they end up in a hotel with Division of Children, Youth and Family (DCYF) staff or go to inpatient services out of state. There is a need for day hospitalization or some type of step down. It was also noted that voices from families of color seem to be dismissed. Vince pointed out that he has been encouraged to see that youth who are exiting out of the JRA system with or without parole are staying in the WISe programs.

Matthew Williams with Inland Northwest Behavioral Health did indicate their children's unit will be opening soon. He will be presenting to NE FYSPRT in April.



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TIME FOR THE NE FYSPRT MEETINGS

Attendance has dropped significantly since the meeting was changed to 4 p.m. Some providers indicate that the time conflicts with meeting clients after school. Vince indicated that he will ask those youth in the Job Corp program to come to the next NE FYSPRT meeting. There was discussion that a lot of youth and families don't know what NE FYSPRT is.

It was recommended that when youth are graduating from WISE programs, they be asked to begin attending NE FYSPRT meetings to be advocates for youth.

Information on Census 2020 was distributed to members. There are three ways to be counted: online, by phone or paper form. There are 10 questions that ask about your address, whether you own or rent, number of people living at the address, gender, age, and race. The portal to complete the online census will open March 12<sup>th</sup>. Reminders will be sent to individual households who don't respond on line. If requested by the individual, agency staff/volunteers/others can assist individuals to complete the census. Information provided is secure and confidential. The Census cannot share that information even with other government agencies. If you'd like to set up an online assistance center, please contact Shirley Maike at Passages Family Support at 509.892.9241.

The next meeting will be April 2, 2020 at 4 p.m. at Passages Family Support. The meeting time will continue to be discussed and re-assessed. The 4 p.m. slot may work better during summer when school is out.