



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
July 15, 2021**

Introduction

Increasing Tribal/Diverse Community/Family/Youth Involvement

Ashley James, Youth Tri-Lead

The NE FYSPRT met on July 15, 2021. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom. Tri-leads Ashley James (Youth Tri-Lead) and Helen Franklin (Family Tri-Lead) were present. Ashley welcomed twenty-eight (28) attendees with 14 family and youth members, 2 Tribal members and 12 system partners. Ashley began the meeting by sharing the acknowledgement that we are living and working on land that originally belonged to the Tribes.

The June 24th Self-Care Fair was discussed and information provided to the NE FYSPRT members included that 200 youth, families and individuals attended. The Fair was well received and many compliments were provided including the number of vendors, the variety, and the availability of resources and information.

This led to a discussion about offering more summer time activities for families and to do NE FYSPRT outreach in the rural communities – a suggestion was made for a trip to Colville to meet with youth and families. Becky asked for ideas on how to advertise the event to a broad range of communities, agencies and individuals.

Becky and the Tri-leads indicated they have one person interested in the System Partner Tri-lead and if any other individuals are interested to please contact Helen, Ashley or Becky. The System Partner Tri-lead will participate in NE FYSPRT activities in the regional communities and in statewide meetings.

General NE FYSPRT Business

Contract/Compliance – Community Education

Holly Chilinski, Special Mobility Services (SMS)

Holly was unable to attend the meeting so NE FYSPRT participants were asked to provide input/questions to Becky that she will provide to Holly. The NE FYSPRT participants provided the following information:

- There is one bus that travels between Stevens and Spokane Counties. It only drops individuals off at the STA Plaza downtown and the person then



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has to identify and find alternate busses to their destination in a community they're not familiar with

- There is no SMS on weekends
- If someone calls SMS with a question, there are different answers provided depending on the person answering the phone
- It is challenging getting SMS services
- It requires a physician or counselor intervention to ask for a cab instead of the SMS bus
- Individuals are picked up late from their home and then are late to their appointments, or they're picked up from the appointments late and have to wait for SMS, sometimes after the building closes
- Phone calls to SMS during operating hours are not answered.
- You can only get SMS services if you have a scheduled appointment. There is no immediate capacity for a ride. You have to call 24 hours in advance and if you do not have a scheduled appointment (vs a walk in), they won't provide transportation because it's not a scheduled appointment
- SMS will not provide rides to a service outside of your community unless you have a letter from the provider in the other community attesting that only that provider can meet your needs.
- Agencies have had difficulty with SMS changing the rules, being on hold for hours trying to get a trip scheduled, and everything seems to be a negotiation with SMS
- Trips cancelled and the client was not notified
- Unclear how to resolve a situation in the moment when someone is stranded
- There was a comment regarding driver qualifications-training for working with special needs children – speeding and driving erratically were mentioned.

Becky will take these questions and concerns to Holly who will be invited for a future meeting. In addition, the transportation issue will again be raised at the state FYSPRT level.

Regional Issues



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A regional issue that continues to be a focus for NE FYSPRT is outreach in rural areas. How to get families and youth in smaller communities with fewer resources involved in NE FYSPRT. Options to increase awareness include Facebook Classifieds, meetings in Colville, Newport, and Adams County, at group homes, etc. Having an event with a school connection, such as giving out school supplies, talking about IEPs, transportation, etc. might be advantageous with schools opening in a month or so.

September meeting

There will be no August meeting as the day conflicts with the State FYSPRT meeting. The September meeting will probably be via Zoom and Charlie's Health will present regarding their online services. They were at the Self-Care Fair. Services are for individuals age 12-27 and are virtual only. They are providing services throughout WA State.

Another suggested topic was behavioral health services offered on college campuses. Some are requiring that students receive services on campus and not with their regular mental health providers. The MCOs recommended talking with the MCO Case Manager and the individual's provider to assist in conversations with the colleges about retaining the individual's existing provider through virtual sessions.

Additional topics suggested included human trafficking and NAMI.

Meeting Evaluation/Next Meeting

Members attending today's meeting were asked to complete the NE FYSPRT evaluation. The next meeting will be via Zoom on September 16th.