



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
April 21, 2022**

Introduction

Increasing Tribal/Diverse Community/Family/Youth Involvement

Helen Harding, Family Tri Lead

The NE FYSPRT met on April 21, 2022. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom. Family Tri Lead Helen Harding, System Partner Co-Tri Leads Gail Kogle and Davina York, and Youth Tri-Lead Ashley James were present. Helen welcomed 26 attendees with 12 family, tribal and youth members, and 14 system partners. Helen began the meeting by sharing the acknowledgement that we are living and working on land that originally belonged to the Tribes.

General NE FYSPRT Business

A. Contract/Compliance – Community Education

Erin Zerba, Lead Independent Living Advocate and Audrie Meraki, Youth Advocate with INDEx – Inland Northwest Disability Experience

Erin and Audrie shared with the NE FYSPRT information about INDEx. INDEx provides services throughout eastern WA and northern ID and their main office is in Spokane. Erin represents the rural voice. The organization's priorities are choice, equity and justice. Their core services include:

- Information and Referral: connecting consumers to appropriate resources and accurate information
- Independent Living Skills training – assisting consumers with budgeting, finding accessible housing and transportation, and finding suitable employment for the consumer's capabilities.
- Individual and System Advocacy – assisting individuals with disabilities to speak up for themselves and what they need to live an independent life
- Peer Support – consumers get one on one insight from people who have "been there."
- Institutional Transition and Diversion – Assisting individuals transition out of nursing homes, prisons, and other forms of institutions.

Audrie spoke of the peer support that is provided to individuals when they need to "get out of their own way." She indicated that the services are available to anyone and there is no requirement for verification of need. Treatment is based on the individual's timeline. Services are geared towards youth and young adults age 14 to 24. They partner with DDA and DVR. To



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refer or get involved, please email Erin. Erin and Audrie spoke about the Youth Transition program and Centers for Independent Living (CIL): Independent living means having every opportunity to be as self-sufficient as possible. CILs can assist clients to take ownership of their life and learn how to make their own choices.

Erin and Audrie were thanked for a very informative presentation.

B. Regional Issues

WISe report – Davina York

Davina gave the NE FYSPRT members an update on the status of the WISe teams in eastern WA.

- Daybreak – 1 team that's full
- Excelsior – 15 teams with 195 enrolled
- Frontier – 14 teams with 166 enrolled – there is a 6-8 week waiting period
- Institute for Family Development – 1 team
- Lutheran Community Services – 2 teams – full
- New Alliance – 3 teams – two vacancies
- Passages Family Support – 3 teams – full
- Pend Oreille - .5 teams – vacancies
- Catholic Charities Rising Strong – 2 teams – vacancies

All providers indicated that staff vacancies impacted the number of clients in each WISe team. Multiple providers shared that staffing shortages have a significant impact on providing services.

Davina shared that the expectation for each family is to receive 10.5 hours of services per month. Due to the pandemic, those numbers had dropped, especially with Zoom fatigue, however, they are slowly returning.

1st Quarter Evaluation

Becky reported that the results of the first quarter evaluation were overall very positive. She asked that those members who marked a question with an "I don't know" to explain – this primarily centered on the question about resolution of conflict and since there hasn't been conflict in the NE FYSPRT, the respondents didn't know how to answer it.



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The members asked if the questions were valid for youth – do they understand what is being asked? Ashley James, Youth Tri-Lead will meet with youth to review the questions and present alternatives.

Becky asked if the group wanted to continue remote meetings or go back to in person. The members from North Counties shared that remote saves them hours in commute time and allows them to participate more often. It was the consensus of members that remote meetings were preferred with quarterly in person meetings, including in the counties outside Spokane, e.g. Adams, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties. The Tri-Leads will coordinate regional meetings with the NE FYSPRT members in those counties for visits in 2022.

NE FYSPRT Self-Care Fair June 1, 2022

Becky confirmed with everyone that the fair is moved to June 1st so that the 2nd Harvest Mobile and Range Community Clinic could participate. The participation form has been distributed; please let Becky know if you haven't gotten it. Becky shared the distribution plan for advertising – there will be multiple billboards and flyers will go to all the NE FYSPRT members electronically and in paper copy. There are planning meetings occurring weekly and all NE FYSPRT members are invited to join the Tuesday noon meetings, please contact Becky if you'd like to be on the meeting invite.

In addition to having a booth at the Self-Care Fair, all NE FYSPRT members were also invited to assist with set up and take down.

Meeting Evaluation/Next Meeting

Members attending today's meeting were asked to complete the NE FYSPRT evaluation.

The next meeting will be May 19, 2022.