



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
April 20, 2023**

Introduction

Increasing Tribal/Diverse Community/Family/Youth Involvement

Becky Hammill, Convener

The NE FYSPRT met on April 20, 2023. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom and welcomed 31 attendees with 11 family, tribal and youth members, and 20 system partners. Gail Kogle, System Partner Co-Tri-Lead, Ashley James, Youth Tri-Lead, and Davina Akiu, System Partner Co Tri-Lead, were present. Gail 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/Regional Issues/Work Plan

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION OMBUDS PROGRAM – Lisa Robbe

Ms. Robbe shared with the NE FYSPRT members the DDS Ombuds Program. She explained the role of the Ombuds as established in WA State Statute is to inform individuals of their rights and services available to them; review care provided in the state institutions and community facilities; investigate complaints; review DSHS policies and procedures and champion systematic change. Ms. Robbe explained the Community Protection Program, which is a “voluntary” program for individuals age 18 and over who have been determined to potentially be dangerous, violent, or sexually deviant by DDA. Most often, those referred to the CPP are young adults. If the individual does not agree to enter the CPP, they are deemed to have waived their right to DDA services. Ms. Robbe provided examples of the stigma and restrictions individuals experience. She felt that training for staff does not meet trauma informed care and is not best practice. NE FYSPRT members thanked her for being a strong advocate and asked her regarding out of state placements for individuals with intellectual disabilities and the lack of in-state resources. Ms. Robbe's contact information is lisa@ddombuds.org. NE FYSPRT members discussed dignity of risk and avenues for oversight of the CPP programs.

B. Contractual WISE Data Report

Davina Akiu, System Partner Co Tri-Lead

Davina reported that there has been an increased interest in the availability of openings on WISE teams which commonly occurs in the spring and fall. She reminded providers to share with families that they should send referrals to the agency they wish to receive services from and not to all agencies so the families are not overwhelmed with contacts. Frontier may currently have



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openings. A question had been asked about creating more WISE teams, however, with the workforce shortage,

C. Regional Issues

Becky reported that she continues to emphasize the potential safety issues with the Medicaid transportation services in Spokane County and in the rural areas in eastern Washington. She has reported the issues in the quarterly report and at statewide meetings and to the HCA representative. Gail Kogle, regional Ombuds may be able to utilize additional channels. A subgroup is being established to identify specific issues and who would be best to present these issues to. Here were some specific issues that have been experienced by children who are receiving WISE services:

- A young girl was told to get out of a driver's vehicle at the bottom of a hill in the dark in the winter because his car would not make it up the hill in the snow/ice. She did not have a phone or a coat. It was in a very rural part of the county.
- A young boy was told to get out at another boy's house even though it wasn't his home.
- A driver was smoking in the car with children present.
- Driver smelled of alcohol
- Two youth were fighting and were told that they should not be in the same car but the driver insisted they ride together.
- Driver used swear words, played music with sexual and inappropriate language
- Driver picked up a friend who rode with them as they transported children
- Driver did not pick up child at school

Meeting Evaluation/Next Meeting

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

The next meeting will be May 18, 2023 via Zoom. Becky indicated construction continues at the Peer Respite House; hopefully in person/hybrid meetings can begin in June.