



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
May 18, 2023**

Introduction

Increasing Tribal/Diverse Community/Family/Youth Involvement

Becky Hammill, Convener

The NE FYSPRT met on May 18, 2023. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom and welcomed 31 attendees with 13 family, tribal and youth members, and 18 system partners. Ashley James, Youth Tri-Lead, Davina Akiu, System Partner Co Tri-Lead, and Liz Lafrance, Family Tri-Lead were present. Ashley 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
NW AUTISM – Dawn Sidell and Stephen Sykora**

Dawn introduced Stephen Sykora who provided an excellent overview of NW Autism. He provided a history of how NW Autism came into being (Dawn is the Founder), and talked about the various programs NW Autism provides, including advocacy, partnerships, and a pioneer and provider in ABA. NW Autism provides training and inter-professional education and intensive day treatment programs with multi-treatment teams. They begin services with children as young as 2 but primarily around age 5 with early targeted intervention. NW Autism provides free autism screenings; and have begun providing adult services. The ABA is rooted in behaviorism with direct instruction principles: observable, measurable, and consistency-replicable. Looking forward, NW Autism is exploring recreation programs, occupational therapy, speech therapy (community based), lifespan services (nutrition, mental health, psychology) and crisis stabilization. Mr. Sykora and Ms. Sidell discussed diagnosis and co-morbidities, partnerships and integration, and community re-integration after inpatient stays. There is a need for qualified staff to provide services to adult individuals. Dawn and Stephen were thanked for a very informative presentation.

B. Contractual WISE Data Report

Davina Akiu, System Partner Co Tri-Lead

All WISE providers are full with the exception of Excelsior who has openings. There are no plans for expansion of WISE teams at this time. The most recent expansion was with Catholic Charities.



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C. Regional Issues

Washington State Community Connectors Liz Lafrance, NE FYSPRT Family Tri-Lead. Liz reported that the Behavioral Health summit May 1st was very well attended and the participants developed ideas to share with the regional FYSPRTs. On May 2nd there was a career fair to share the field of family and youth peers as a career path with the intent of gaining more parent engagement and increasing the number of certified peer counselors.

Liz indicated WSCC continues to recruit for volunteers and board members. They are an inclusive group and offer a stipend for participation. The WSCC is now working on the next parent weekend. If providers are working with parents who have children/youth in the behavioral healthcare system, this weekend is a fabulous learning opportunity. It is powerful and life changing for parents to interact with others who are experiencing the same challenges and barriers and also successes. The weekend is usually the 2nd or 3rd weekend in September and will be in Wenatchee.

Discharge of youth from Children's Long-Term Inpatient Placement (CLIP) facilities

Providers continue to experience challenges of CLIP facilities providing very little notice to outpatient providers and families of pending discharges. The families have very little time to prepare for the child/youth's homecoming and there is no warm handoff. There is no statewide protocol/format among CLIP facilities. The CLIP facilities need to engage in a transfer plan as they are aware when discharge is being planned – notification a week before a discharge is not a healthy transfer. Sometimes, there is no preparation, for example, when a youth turns 18 there's an abrupt transition with no plan.

WISe providers would like to be able to utilize rehab case management services up to 30 days prior to discharge so that they are able to work with families and children/youth to have a successful return to outpatient services. This issue has been discussed regionally several times but there has been no improvement.



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Because there is no standardized protocol, each CLIP facility has different discharge communication and parental involvement policies. Children/youth returning from CLIP facilities are prioritized for WISe teams which does mean that other families on the interest list may have to wait for services.

WISe teams are simply requesting that they be notified earlier in the process of a pending discharge so that they can assist the families to prepare for the child/youth's return and prevent relapse. Clarification of when rehab case management codes can be utilized would be appreciated.

Discussion regarding transportation concerns for children/youth

Becky indicated that the Tri-Leads will be meeting to formalize the issues regarding transportation concerns. She thanked Dawn and Kim for their input and asked other providers to contact her if they had any additional experiences to share. She would like to include as much information from as many providers as possible when presenting the information to the State.

Good News

Zia Freeman indicated that Planet Fitness has free memberships for youth age 14-19. She will provide information to Becky to share with the group.

Youth ride free on STA – sign up on the STA website at spokanetransit.com.

Congratulations to Deborah Hanna who is retiring from Juvenile Rehabilitation this month. She was thanked for her many years of commitment to NE FYSPRT.

Meeting Evaluation/Next Meeting

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

The next meeting will be June 20, 2023 in person at Passages with a Zoom option for those unable to attend in person.