



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes  
NE FYSPRT  
September 21, 2023**

**Introduction**

**Increasing Tribal/Diverse Community/Family/Youth Involvement**

**Becky Hammill, Convener**

The NE FYSPRT met on September 21, 2023. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom and welcomed 25 participants with 5 family, tribal and youth members, and 20 system partners. Gail Kogle, System Partner Co Tri-Lead, Davina Akiu, System Partner Co Tri-Lead, and Ashley James, Youth 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.

**Gail reviewed the purpose of the regional FYSPRTs**

The NE FYSPRT serves as a platform for bringing the voice of youth, families, and system partners together to identify the strengths, challenges, and gaps that exist in the regional behavioral health system of care.

**And the NE FYSPRT Values Statement**

We work continuously to provide a welcoming meeting environment for all attendees. Questions about the content or process of the NE FYSPRT meetings are welcomed. All who attend are treated with respect and dignity. We value improvement and innovation in publicly funded behavioral health for children, youth, and families.

**General NE FYSPRT Business**

**A. Contract/Compliance – Community Education/Regional Issues/Work Plan 988 and Regional Crisis Line**

Amy Robinson with Frontier Behavioral Health provided an overview of 988 and the Regional Crisis Line (877.266.1818). It is available 24/7 in eastern WA. Not only is it for those who might be thinking of harming themselves, but it's also for individuals who could be in danger, thinking of harming others, or who are unwilling to voluntarily seek care. Information obtained by trained crisis line staff includes who/what/when/where and why: demographics, location, supports both natural and formal, risk, medical questions, ability to take care of activities of daily living, and if there is any psychiatric diagnosis or medications. Whether there are weapons, dogs, or offenders in the home in case responders need to go to the home. The calls are then triaged and a determination made on how to help with the least restrictive intervention possible. Safety planning is important. If an individual is involved with a WISE team, the individual is referred to their WISE team. The individual may be



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referred to the MCAT team. Individuals can call 988 if they just want to talk to someone. If the team is unable to take the time to listen at that moment, the responders will let them know they will call back. Texts to 988 are not handled locally at this time, but that will be available in the future. Texting is through the VOA in 26 counties in WA at this time. They calls are routed outside WA only if the responders are on a call/text and cannot get to the text.

All staff are trained in providing services in rural areas, including agricultural locations. Each county has a crisis response team and MCAT team who will defer to the individual's provider in their home area.

There was discussion about an individual calling in with a non-local area code and being routed to that area code's 988 service vs locally where they actually live. If individuals call the Regional Crisis Line, they are transferred to local responders.

Amy indicated they are planning for future teams for youth and for families and MCAT teams for youth and for families. While sometimes the message seems that 988 is a suicide hotline, it is not limited to thoughts of self harm. It's an emotional support line any time an individual wants to talk with someone.

**B. Contract/Compliance – Community Education/Regional Issues/Work Plan  
October Trunk or Treat – Passages Family Support campus**

The October meeting will be the Trunk or Treat event at Passages' campus on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 5:30. If any NE FYSPRT member is interested in having either a trunk or a table, please contact Becky. Please plan to bring your own program information, decorations/tables/tents and candy.

**C. Contractual WISe Data Report  
Davina Akiu, System Partner Co Tri-Lead**

Davina reported that Excelsior has 10 openings, Frontier 6, Lutheran 4, New Alliance in Stevens County 2, Passages 8, Pend Oreille 2, and IFD and Catholic Charities are full. Hopefully referrals will begin increasing again soon.



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**D. Regional Issues**

**August Youth and Parent Evaluations review**

In August 74 families received backpacks with school supplies. Twenty six parent surveys and 23 youth surveys were returned. All surveys reflected the parents and youth felt they had better hope for the future and felt heard and respected. Both parents and youth indicated that their peers were effective and they were happy with services. There were no major concerns. Interestingly, the youth indicated in response to the question What could be better? Games. There will be another parent/youth survey at the Trunk or Treat. If any NE FYSPRT member wants a copy of the survey results, please contact Becky.

**INDEX** Erin Ferrier indicated that INDEX is assisting youth who had an IEP and who are graduating in 2024 who wish to find independent living. They create a plan based on client choice and assist in finding independent living within existing resources. This assistance includes getting into college if that's the client's desire.

**Behavioral Health Forum October 11<sup>th</sup>** Please reach out to Gail Kogle if more information is needed. [gail@obhadvocacy.org](mailto:gail@obhadvocacy.org) 509.655.2384

**Warm Line** in eastern WA is 866.427.4747. **Teen Text Line** is available and is staffed by Excelsior.

**SMS** Ian Nelson reported that he met with the SMS Regional Manager regarding how families can report concerns to SMS. The number to call is 509.534.9760, select provider line option 2. Callers (including parents) can leave specific information on that line, including name, relationship to passenger, contact information, client name and ProviderOne #, ride date and time, which transportation company was utilized, and a description of what occurred.

**Meeting Evaluation/Next Meeting:** Members attending today's meeting were asked to complete the NE FYSPRT evaluation. Reminder that the October meeting is the Trunk or Treat and all NE FYSPRT members are encouraged to participate.