



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
February 15, 2024**

Introduction

Increasing Tribal/Diverse Community/Family/Youth Involvement

Becky Hammill, Convener

The NE FYSPRT met on February 15, 2024. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom and welcomed 34 participants with 11 family, tribal and youth members, and 23 system partners. Gail Kogle, System Partner Co Tri-Lead, Davina Akiu, System Partner Co Tri-Lead, Nicole Murphy, Family Tri-Lead and Ashley James, Youth Tri-Lead were present. Nicole began the meeting by sharing the acknowledgement that we are living and working on land that originally belonged to the Tribes.

Nicole 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

Lifepoint transitional age youth program at Excelsior Wellness Center
Kayla Barringer and Jordan Perin provided information on the residential treatment program at Excelsior called Lifepoint. It's transitional living for youth (currently male) with the focus on returning back to the community. Youth may participate in Lifepoint from age 16 ½ up to their 21st birthday. Currently, there is no waiting list. Individuals may be referred from any source or even self-refer. The staff work with individuals on school and employment resources, with check in groups identifying what needs they have and what their goals are, as well as clinical groups with counselors. They have medical wrap around care. WISE participants may transition to Lifepoint, but it would not coincide. After Lifepoint, youth could return to WISE. Jordan's contact information is Jordan.perin@excelsiorwellness.org



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B. Community Provider Update

Eric Dotson reported that Children's Home Society and Child Haven have merged and are now AKIN. They provide early learning, behavioral health services and all contact information remains the same. Additional services will be added as the merger progresses.

C. Contractual WISE Data Report

Davina Akiu, System Partner Co Tri-Lead

Davina reported that the group reviewed referral sources and found that most referrals (34%) came from families directly. Then schools and other mental health professionals. The eastern WA region has seven providers who have WISE teams. Excelsior, Frontier and IFD have openings. The other providers do not have openings at this time. There have been conversations to increase the number of hours provided to families however, there are many barriers that providers are experiencing, including COVID and other respiratory illnesses, workforce shortage, and the increased intensity of services that are hard for some youth/families to adjust to.

Davina wanted to let all providers know that if their WISE parents are experiencing increased pressures, they may explore the Peer Respite program at Passages if their children can be provided for.

C. Regional Issues

Office of the Behavioral Health Advocacy update regarding Children's Long-Term Inpatient Program (CLIP) forum

Gail Kogle, OBHA Ombuds, provided information to the group on the results of the February forum which focused on CLIP. She stated that the State's Department of Commerce identified gaps in 2021 that are still issues today including gaps in adequate care for youth with specialized needs. Families continue to experience lack of inclusion in discharge planning in a timely manner, youth being discharged without safety plans in place, and youth who receive services from the Division of Children, Youth and Families often receiving the least amount of support and being turned away by providers. Sensory needs are not being addressed and youth are being taken to emergency departments by crisis responders who have no alternatives. Gail indicated she will be continuing this discussion at the March forum on March



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13th. Becky indicated this topic will be raised again at the Statewide FYSPRT meeting and the Forum's input will be utilized.

Other Member Comments

- Nicole Murphy indicated that any family may reach out to A Common Voice, which is part of the COPE project for resources. She will share information with the group through Becky.
- Gabe Minchow indicated there will be a Spokane Outreach event in Spokane and he will share information with the group through Becky.
- Sharon O'Brien indicated Lutheran Community Services is adding a third WISE team and a new program, FOCUS, which is a 30 day increased intensity program to prevent hospitalization. The individual must commit to 30 days, but this is not a WISE program. The individual can participate in both WISE and FOCUS at the same time.
- Erin Ferrier provided information on the Disability Pride Multicultural Event July 27th. She will share information with the group through Becky.
- Jason Harvey with SMS provided information on travel training and the newsletter that SMS publishes.

Meeting Evaluation/Next Meeting: Members attending the meeting were asked to complete the NE FYSPRT evaluation. Next meeting will be March 21, 2024 and it will be hybrid – Zoom and in person.