



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
November 21, 2024**

Introduction

**Increasing Tribal/Diverse Community/Family/Youth Involvement
Becky Hammill, Convener**

The NE FYSPRT met on November 21, 2024. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom and welcomed 19 participants with 8 family, tribal, diverse and youth members, and 11 system partners. Davina Akiu and Gail Kogle, System Partner Co-Tri Leads and Nicole Murphy, Family 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.

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
Health Care Authority Statewide FYSPRT Co-Leads Patty King, Family Liaison,
Quentesa Garraway, Youth Liaison, and Kris Royal, Statewide FYSPRT
Coordinator**

Staff from the Statewide FYSPRT are meeting with all the regional FYSPRTs throughout WA State to introduce themselves and share information from the Statewide level.

Patty King shared an enhanced program for the statewide family network: a dedicated space for parents to talk about what's happening, what the network looks like, and more emphasis on the legislative side to allow families to experience what's happening in the Legislature and to allow them to become more involved in legislative actions.



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NE FYSPRT
November 21, 2024

Quentesa Garraway brings the young adult perspective to the Statewide FYSPRT and the Youth Network is a dedicated space to allow young adults to network and grow/learn together. The Youth Network is an advocate for policy change. SPARK is a learning center for young adults that is beginning year 2. They have regularly scheduled monthly meetings with the youth perspective. Quentesa assists the regional youth tri-leads in their advocacy efforts.

Kris Royal is the Statewide FYSPRT Coordinator and shared the governance structure of the FYSPRT system. She indicated that the goal is to improve outcomes, determine needed services, and collaboration statewide. There are 10 regional FYSPRTs that have regional open meetings. A Needs Assessment is conducted biannually to identify behavioral health needs from the youth, family and community perspective. From the Needs Assessment, a statewide work plan is developed.

Kris discussed the recurring topics statewide needs process that regional FYSPRTs utilize to communicate unresolved local level issues that may affect all regional FYSPRT communities. The Tri-leads from all regional FYSPRTs participate in the Statewide FYSPRT meetings. There are multiple work groups and subgroups from the Statewide FYSPRT.

For example, the Youth and Young Adult subgroup works similarly to the FYSPRT and encompasses the entire state. There are two Legislators on this subgroup. All subgroups move recommendations to the larger work groups and then as applicable to the Governor and Legislature.

Kris shared the example from the NE FYSPRT regarding non-emergent transportation issues. The actions of the work groups and subgroups helped identify a resolution that was submitted to the Governor and Legislature that resulted in additional funding for the non-emergent transportation organizations to allow them to improve services.

Gail thanked the HCA staff for presenting on the Statewide FYSPRT and their activities and advocacy efforts and how those fit into the system of care in Washington.



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NE FYSPRT
November 21, 2024**

Standing Reports

A. Behavioral Health Advocacy

Gail indicated that there continues to be evidence of the effect of closing the Providence Children's Unit, especially for youth with complex needs, for example, behavioral health issues in a youth with autism. Gail reminded members of her new phone number: 509.368.0455. She indicated that in the Office of Behavioral Health Advocacy (OBHA) forums, youth indicate they want times available for services (outside of WISe) that meet their needs. Gail noted that the OBHA has seen many needs that don't get resolved year after year.

B. WISe Update

Davina indicated that most agency WISe teams are full with interest lists. Hiring qualified staff continues to be an issue for the teams. The teams have seen an increase in youth discharged from inpatient status. When a child experiences a crisis, they are moved up on the interest list which then impacts other families who are waiting for a WISe opening. The WISe Teams in the rural communities experience the same issues as Spokane County, however, they also have to address providing services in a rural setting, sometimes driving hours to meet with a family.

C. Washington State Community Connectors

Nicole indicated that she is just returning from leave and thanked the Statewide Family Liaison, Patty King, for updating everyone on the Family Network activities. There is an open forum on November 25, 2024 from noon to 2:00.

NE FYSPRT Regional Issues

A. Biennial Needs Assessment

Becky indicated that the Needs Assessment has been completed, and she will send members the draft work plan for their feedback. Please email Becky with feedback or submit it via the NE FYSPRT website.

B. Regional Issues

Sharon O'Brien raised the issue of children/youth with negative behaviors being denied services. Services for increased behavioral health acuity are urgently needed in our area. Gail Kogle asked that families be referred to the OBHA for assistance.



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Announcements:

- Josh Henderson indicated an RFP for Youth and Adult behavioral health caregivers' respite will be open on December 18th.
- The response to the NE FYSPRT meeting survey dropped dramatically last month and the group was reminded of the importance of providing feedback via the evaluation.

No meeting in December, the next meeting is January 16, 2025 via Zoom.