



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes  
NE FYSPRT  
February 20, 2025**

**Introduction**

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

The NE FYSPRT met on February 20, 2025. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom and welcomed 21 participants with 6 family, tribal, diverse and youth members, and 15 system partners. Davina Akiu and Gail Kogle, System Partner Co-Tri Leads, Ashley James, Youth Co-Tri Lead 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  
HearMeWA – staff from the Attorney General's Office**

Shevy Joyner and Erica Chang from the Attorney General's Office presented on their program HearMeWA, a program for youth up to age 25. HearMeWA is a free, 24/7 helpline where youth can reach out for themselves or on behalf of someone else regarding ANY concern, such as bullying, anxiety or depression, suicidal thoughts, domestic or sexual violence, housing or food insecurity, gender identity or expression, or rumors of violence or threats, for example. HearMeWA was created and informed by input from young people to ensure it is youth-centered, trauma-informed and antiracist. HearMeWA is made possible through a partnership with the Sandy Hook Promise Crisis Center, which receives and responds to every message. There are four ways to contact HearMeWA: call their tollfree number at 888.537.1634, text HearMeWA to 738477, visit HearMeWA and click "get help"



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or download the HearMeWA app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. HearMeWA connects youth to trained counselors and local resources. It's safe and youth can remain anonymous. Visit [HearMeWA.org](http://HearMeWA.org) to learn more and get help now. You are not alone.

Shevy indicated that in the most recent report, the top concerns were bullying, cybersecurity, harassment, suicide and general concerns. Their program can be reached at [youthprogram@atg.wa.gov](mailto:youthprogram@atg.wa.gov).

**Standing Reports**

**A. Behavioral Health Advocacy**

Gail indicated that calls have been down and asked for input for the next forum which is March 12<sup>th</sup> or for the April meeting. Becky indicated that from feedback of youth who have been in services, identification of strengths and barriers indicates that the early afternoon is a tough time to hear from youth and perhaps a different time would be more successful in getting their participation. Virtual meetings might also be more appealing than in person meetings.

**B. WISe Update**

Davina indicated that again this month, there is limited WISe availability. WISe agencies continue to advocate for the need for additional resources to bridge the gap until WISe services are available. A suggestion was made to transition to intensive outpatient services while on the WISe interest lists.

**C. Washington State Community Connectors**

Nicole indicated that the next Substance Use Disorder Family Navigator training is coming up and the statewide family network meeting occurs every other month. The next one is mid-April. Training for parents to serve on community groups – by parents for parents – with tools on how groups function and how parents can impact change is being developed and planned for early May in Spokane. Watch the WSCC website for dates and more information. The WSCC offers excellent training for families and gives families a way to learn how to have their voice heard. The training would also benefit any provider who's worked with a family.



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**D. Statewide Youth Network**

Ashley indicated that the group is working on education for peer specialists on how the new legislation creating the Certified Peer Specialist credential is being implemented.

**E. Annual Self-Care and Resource Fair**

The annual Self-Care and Resource Fair is scheduled for May 1, 2025 from 1:30 to 4:30 at Passages. It is again going to be indoors. The save the date invite will be going out soon. All NE FYSPRT members are encouraged to attend as a vendor. And are encouraged to share the information with their clients to attend. Breast Intentions, Range Community Clinic and the DSHS Mobile Office have already confirmed. As many providers as possible are requested to attend.

**NE FYSPRT Regional Issues**

**A. Regional Issues**

With the closure of the pediatric inpatient unit at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center, the impact has already become evident. There is no consistency at the remaining inpatient facilities as to who is admitted or who is not admitted and there are safety concerns post stabilization. There is no recent information on the 23 hour stabilization unit opening but that is more for adults than for children. There was agreement that services for youth are declining, especially with the shortage of pediatric psychiatrists. Becky will raise this at the statewide FYSPRT.

**Announcements:**

- Several members asked about resources of private pay caregivers who can be available when families need respite who have more than one child
- Becky indicated that the Health Care Authority is redesigning the FYSPRT contracts and will be revising the charters. Becky will be sending out the NE FYSPRT charter for review as it's been a few years since the NE FYSPRT charter has been reviewed.
- Becky has asked that the process for providing incentives for completing meeting evaluations be reconsidered.

The next meeting will be March 20, 2025 via Zoom.