



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
January 16, 2025**

Introduction

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

The NE FYSPRT met on January 16, 2025. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom and welcomed 22 participants with 8 family, tribal, diverse and youth members, and 14 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. Ashley began the meeting by sharing the acknowledgement that we are living and working on land that originally belonged to the Tribes.

Ashley 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
Melissa Loper, Job Corps**

Melissa presented the history of Job Corps and the services they provide to youth ages 16 to 24. She shared eligibility criteria and expectations of the program, emphasizing that Job Corps is a safe and drug free environment. Individuals can be served for a year after graduating and while in Job Corps receive stipends to assist the youth with purchasing personal items. Youth receive counseling and skill building training for independent living. They have a rolling enrollment depending on where the youth's interests lie and there is about a 6-8 week wait. Multiple programs are available for training in the trades, automotive repair, etc. Youth may change programs if they want to explore multiple employment opportunities. Parental approval is required for admission to Job Corps. Job Corps allows individuals to receive



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a living wage through their training programs. Zia Freeman shared her experiences when she worked with Job Corps. Melissa was thanked for her very interesting presentation.

Standing Reports

A. Behavioral Health Advocacy

Gail reminded members of their new location at 312 W Sprague and availability of room space if anyone needs conference rooms. She indicated the January forum focuses on what resources individuals/families find to be available in the region. And are they available when individuals/families need them. She indicated the advocates receive contacts regarding the lack of services and timeliness of services just as members of NE FYSPRT receive from their clients.

B. WISe Update

Davina indicated that most agency WISe teams are full with interest lists. Families should be encouraged to pursue other resources/services while they wait for WISe openings, for example WA State Community Connectors, A Common Voice/COPES.

C. Washington State Community Connectors

Nicole indicated that families can get virtual support through A Common Voice and they are hiring additional staff with specific focus, for example a new team member is a single father with special needs twins. Gail indicated that she also refers individuals to COPES. Nicole indicated that not all WISe providers refer to COPES when they are not able to begin WISe services immediately but are encouraged to refer their families to this statewide program.

The next statewide family support network meeting is January 27th and there's a new registration link on the Washington State Community Connectors website. Regional workgroups continue for those who want to be involved in FYSPRT activities.



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NE FYSPRT Regional Issues

A. Regional Issues

Sharon O'Brien indicated Lutheran Social Services has opened a new program with a focus on hospital diversion. This is geared towards individuals and families waiting for WISE services and is available for 30 days.

Members identified the need for a common repository for linkage to external resources to share with families as they wait to begin WISE services.

It was recommended that Spokane Public Schools be invited to dialogue with NE FYSPRT regarding youth who are not doing well and leave home to live on the streets with an alternate lifestyle. How can providers/NE FYSPRT support schools with education on behavioral health issues so they can intervene early with these youth.

Members discussed barriers experienced and resources available.

Announcements:

- Josh Henderson spoke about the resources available regarding substance use education.
- Erin Zerba shared that her daughter and NE FYSPRT member Hannah is graduating in June and will be returning to NE FYSPRT. She shared Hannah's passion for advocacy and individual/family involvement in advocating for services. In particular, Erin invited everyone to read the 1580 report, which includes discharging from inpatient status without a plan, flex funding, and crisis services for those under age 18. Josh indicated the REACH team is also addressing the needs identified in 1580. NE FYSPRT members congratulated Hannah on her accomplishments and look forward to her rejoining NE FYSPRT.

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