



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

**Introduction**

**Increasing Tribal/Diverse Community/Family/Youth Involvement  
Shirley Maike, Convener**

The NE FYSPRT met on November 20, 2025. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom and welcomed 25 participants with 13 family, tribal, diverse and youth members, and 12 system partners. Ashley James, Youth Tri Lead, and Gail Kogle and Davina Akiu Co-System Partner Tri-Leads 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  
North Star Advocacy – Sarah Spier**

Sarah shared information about the program they have for bridging the intersection between being unhoused and behavioral health. North Star Advocates' mission is to prevent and end homelessness by supporting young people, strengthening families and communities, and holding the systems designed to serve them accountable. Their vision is: All young people facing homelessness or exiting state systems have the support and resources they need to create a life that is healthy, loving, and achieves their northstar.

Northstar is powered by parent engagement/involvement especially through those whose adolescent/young adult child has experienced inpatient treatment; youth and young adults who have experienced homelessness



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and behavioral health conditions; and system professionals with lived experience.

Sarah provided a history of NorthStar Advocates and the legislation that helped them become a community partner. She shared the creation of Bridge Housing (located on both the east and west sides) and the Return to Community Plan which is a holistic, youth-co-led case management tool used in Bridge Housing to guide safe transitions from inpatient behavioral health care back into the community. The east side location is at Excelsior Wellness in Spokane and they currently have two clients and are accepting referrals. Age range is 18-24, with a previous inpatient stay within the past 30 days. Anyone can refer. Length of stay is up to 30 days but they are looking for longer term options. The steering committee meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 1 to 2:30. Participants are provided the necessary resources, including funding to be successful upon their leaving Bridge Housing. Northstar Advocates has a steering committee that includes youth/young adults and anyone is welcome to inquire about joining the Steering Committee.

Sarah was thanked for her very welcome presentation.

**B. Contract/Compliance – Community Education/Regional Issues/Work Plan**

Gail Kogle, Office of Behavioral Health and Recovery, indicated that they continue to have a monthly forum and the last forum discussed the lack of substance use services for youth. The next forum will discuss holiday blues and how to connect with your community for the holidays. Zia Freeman mentioned that she teaches a class on navigating the holidays.

**C. WISE update**

Davina indicated that most agencies are full with waiting lists. Frontier has openings but Excelsior is close to having a waiting list. Their virtual program has openings while they wait for WISE. WISE providers continue to express the need for inpatient services for youth. Current providers are handling acute crises with their WISE clients due to the lack of inpatient services.



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**NE FYSPRT Regional Issues**

**A. Regional Issues and Information**

The group discussed the lack of a sobering facility for teens/young adults, age 13-17. This was also highlighted by Ms. Johnson's presentation in October. There are options on the west side with private insurance, but no plans to bring a facility to the east side. The Healing Lodge does have inpatient services but receives clients from across the west and always has a waiting list. The group felt that this issue needed to rise to the state level.

**B. Family Concerns**

A parent raised the concern of employees no longer being able to come to the client's home to provide services (non-WISe programs). She explained that her son needed peer support with socialization skill building but was unable to leave the home alone. Several NE FYSPRT members provided suggestions including a referral to WISe whose employees are able to travel to the home.

Another family member raised the concern of aftercare after WISe services have been completed. For example, a step-down program with therapy and peer support and the need to make sure that aftercare is in place before the client graduates from WISe. As well as the ability to return to WISe if the aftercare plan fails and more time in WISe is needed.

A parent asked if there are any parent and child retreats available. There are parent retreats, but she indicated she and her son needed time together away from the home but she knew of no opportunities. Members indicated they knew of no offerings in Medicaid funded programs but perhaps commercial insurance could assist and the parent was encouraged to talk with the Managed Care Organization's case manager.

**Conclusion**

Becky thanked the new parents for attending today's FYSPRT meeting. She asked that they let her know what they need from the NE FYSPRT.

Attendees were asked to please complete the monthly evaluation to provide input into what's working and what's not working in our community relating to services for children and youth. There will be no meeting in



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December due to the holidays. The next NE FYSPRT meeting will be January 15, 2026 via Zoom.