



NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes NE FYSPRT October 16, 2025

Introduction

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

The NE FYSPRT met on October 16, 2025. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom and welcomed 15 participants with 8 family, tribal, diverse and youth members, and 7 system partners. Ashley James, Youth Tri Lead, Sabrena Hindberg, Family Tri Lead and Gail Kogle Co-System Partner Tri-Lead were present. Becky 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 Gabriel's Challenge – Kitara Johnson-Jones

Kitara shared a moving, emotional history of the creation of Gabriel's Challenge, an organization focused on getting individuals suffering from substance use disorder connected with as many resources as possible to help individuals in recovery. She shared her personal story with her son's struggles and successes and eventual unfortunate overdose. She shared their experiences with barriers in getting enough resources identified and available to provide care. Kitara's son Gabriel sent his mother a 66 page plan called the COME-UNITY Care Collaborative, a detailed vision for building a one-stop location for all needs. This plan later became the foundation of Gabriel's Challenge.



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Gabriel's Challenge is a 35 day family centered community response to the fentanyl crisis. Kitara shared the organizations' mission and their activities such as SHUT IT DOWN and SHOW UP Shift the Culture.

Gabriel's Challenge has identified key gaps such as a lack of secure youth detox services, transportation barriers to get to multiple appointments, laws relating to minors in healthcare, and length in programs (e.g. it may take many more days to be successful in an inpatient program than is currently allowed).

She shared 9 steps that can impact successful substance use disorder recovery, including aligning systems across sectors, support family initiated treatment, and improving navigation and family access. Having access to care in one location is vital for success when transportation is a barrier.

Kitara was thanked for a very impactful presentation. Becky indicated that these issues have been discussed by NE FYSPRT for many months and she will connect with Kitara to develop a Gaps and Needs form for the statewide FYSPRT.

More information about Gabriel's Challenge can be found at gabrielschallenge.org.

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

Gail Kogle, Office of Behavioral Health and Recovery, indicated that their services are available at no cost and confidentiality is maintained to the extent possible. In their continuing forums, lack of beds for youth continues to be identified as a barrier.

NE FYSPRT Regional Issues

A. Regional Issues and Information

Although not due at this time, an Annual Needs Assessment was conducted to better inform the work of the NE FYSPRT. The assessment has identified the need for more opportunities to meet outside normal business hours. Inpatient services and respite for family members are also consistently identified. And the need to talk more about the fentanyl crisis.



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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. The next NE FYSPRT meeting will be November 20,, 2025 via Zoom.