



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes
NE FYSPRT
February 19, 2026**

Welcome – Davina Akiu, System Partner Tri-Lead

Increasing Tribal/Diverse Community/Family/Youth Involvement

The NE FYSPRT met on February 19, 2026. Davina Akiu convened the meeting via Zoom and welcomed 20 participants with 8 family, tribal, diverse and youth members, and 12 system partners. Ashley James, Youth Tri Lead and Gail Kogle, System Partner Tri-Lead were present.

Davina asked Katie Pratt, Tribal Liaison with the Office of Behavioral Health Advocacy to speak to the group regarding the land acknowledgement following discussion at the last NE FYSPRT meeting. Katie encouraged everyone to think about what you want to express, that you're honoring all people, not just those federally recognized tribes, for example. She recommended a welcoming and closing statement and that this group should not feel they are compelled to use the state's land acknowledgement. She is available at OBHA if anyone has questions or would like to discuss further.

Davina 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
Spokane Regional Health District Fentanyl use in children, youth and young
adults in Spokane County – Josh Pierce and Amanda Dugger.**

Josh and Amanda presented information on opioid overdose statistics. The age range for the majority of opioid overdose deaths in Spokane County is the 45-64 age range and most occur in the individual's home. Amanda shared with the group that Kratom use is especially concerning due to its



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opioid-like components and lack of regulation. There are major health implications with the use of Kratom, such as liver toxicity. Legislation to regulate Kratom has not passed the WA State Legislature for two sessions but advocates continue to stress the harm it can cause with its addictive qualities and availability to any age group.

They also shared that many youth do not know what their vaping ingredients include, such as THC. There are many ways individuals obtain the ingredients in vaping, such as ZYN patches, which help disguise use by seeming to be chewing gum, vaping purses, etc. Josh indicated that the medical community has now recognized the physical effects of cannabis use (**Cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome**) and it is now an identified diagnosis.

Josh and Amanda provided these recommendations to everyone:

- Keep naloxone on hand – kiosks are becoming more available in public locations
- Store all medications safely
- Use locking boxes or pouches and limit access to the person who uses those medications.
- Include marijuana products in your locking box/pouch, including gummies, etc.

The Health District has a new campaign about normalizing naloxone and Josh will send flyers and the video to Becky. He shared it with the NE FYSPRT group. They also continue their Hide in Plain Sight campaign and currently are showing the video in movie theaters and other locations.

Josh and Amanda were thanked for their very insightful presentation and indicated they are available to present this information to organizations and groups.

Gail Kogle indicated that the OBHA forum for March is related to fentanyl use and she will connect with Josh and Amanda.

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 open to all. She indicated the forum is



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from 3 to 4:30. She will send the link to Becky to share with all. Gail indicated calls to OBHA are up a little bit with a variety of concerns.

C. WISe update

Most WISe providers have interest lists or have only a few openings. Excelsior has their virtual WISe program with openings which can be used as a bridge until in person WISe openings are available.

Davina indicated that the state is changing the way quality reviews are being conducted to reduce the burden on providers.

NE FYSPRT Regional Issues

A. Regional Issues and Information – Community strengths and areas for growth:

Josh Henderson indicated that the regional issue of insufficient SUD services available for youth has been identified as a state-wide issue after being raised by the NE FYSPRT leads.

He reiterated that when gaps in services are identified, those are presented at the statewide FYSPRT and when all regions also acknowledge the same gap, changes can occur. Regarding insufficient youth SUD services, the Health Care Authority has asked for some specific information. Josh asked that providers and families share their specific barriers/gaps with the NE FYSPRT leads so that it can be presented to HCA.

Excelsior staff indicated that Excelsior Family Medicine has a program named EXIST that provides co-occurring intensive outpatient services to youth age 14-17. Sara Kittner from Excelsior will be asked to speak at a NE FYSPRT meeting about the program.

Conclusion

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. System Partners as well as parents were asked to complete the survey so the leads can followup to determine future meeting presentations or identify known gaps in the system. If a community organization is doing well, the leads would also like to know that information to share with the group.



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Previous survey feedback asked for more information on Family Initiated Treatment, how to get a second opinion regarding a child's mental health diagnosis, and how 911 coordinates with other behavioral health providers in the area.

The next NE FYSPRT meeting will be March 19, 2026 via Zoom.