

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group – Youth & Young Adult Continuum of Care Subgroup (YYACC)

December 14, 2023

Glossary of Terms

HCA: Washington State Health Care Authority

W&R: CYBHWG Workforce and Rates subgroup

WISe: Wraparound with Intensive Services Washington

Meeting Topics

- Updates to recommendations
- Brainstorm opportunities for session advocacy

Discussion Summary

1. Retreat
2. Updates on recommendations
 - a. YYACC recommendations that moved forward with CYBHWG support:
 - i. Deliver and sustain funding for BH360 (formerly Parent Portal)
 - ii. Ensure equitable access to and realize the intended outcomes of intensive programs serving youth and young adults with the most complex behavioral health needs (jointly with the W&R subgroup)
 1. W&R and YYACC leads are working together to create a robust proposal that incorporates shared priorities.
 2. This includes directing a taskforce to evaluate administrative burdens of program provisions, as well as program efficacy
 - b. In addition to these items, Representative Eslick will be championing another recommendation put forward by W&R on the use of conditional scholarships in the behavioral health workforce
 - i. This recommendation is to ensure funds can be applied to conditional scholarships in behavioral health, creating parity with loan repayment programs and physical health workforce models.
 - ii. Will bolster recruitment and retainment of behavioral health professionals
3. Opportunities for session advocacy
 - a. Subgroup members were asked the following questions to share out in large group discussion:
 - i. How can you advocate for YYACC priorities this session in your role?
 - ii. What tools do you need as members to advocate for YYACC priorities effectively?
 - b. The group sought clarification on the role of state agency actors in information sharing and advocacy: who can and cannot provide testimony as members of

YYACC.

- i. For state agents who cannot advocate publicly due to their position, it is still important to be sharing information with those who may want to testify on what bills are being heard, when and how they can testify.
- c. Giving testimony can be overwhelming, time consuming, and traumatizing for families
 - i. Families and people with lived experience need clear guidelines and helping hands to get them to the table in the most effective and considerate ways
 - ii. Signing up for testimony:
<https://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Participating.aspx>
- d. Advocate emails can be sent in two ways
 - i. Directly to your elected officials
 1. Important if it makes it all the way to the floor of the House or Senate
 - ii. Directly to specific committees
 1. As the bill moves, it goes through different committees hearing testimony. The most effective way to advocate is to follow the bill and its updates and send an email directly to the committee in relation to the hearing at hand.
 2. You can give testimony via email, in-person in Olympia, or via Zoom.
 - a. Have to be primed to tell your story in one to two minutes.
 3. Important to send your email directly to the addresses of all committee members as well as both the partisan caucus staff and the nonpartisan staff.
 - a. All legislative emails follow first name.last name.leg.wa.gov format
 - b. All staff and elected official emails are on the leg.wa.gov website
 - c. Email all parties at once in the same email – if a legislator or staff member replies, it will flag it in the other members’ inboxes for greater visibility
 - iii. It is important to send an email even if you plan to testify – sometimes there are so many people present not everyone gets a chance to testify.
 1. You also have extra time to send an email – 24 hours, within a hearing.
 2. If you can give testimony, mention the email sent in your testimony – this will remind legislators to look specifically for your email.
- e. It would be helpful if the YYACC subgroup provided updates to its distribution list on relevant bills – when they get dropped, the bill number, a summary of the bill with accessible language, and instructions for how to sign up to get updates on the bill via the legislature website.
- f. Using the buddy system: if you have testified before, invite someone that hasn’t
- g. Advocacy resources
 - i. Advocacy toolkits

1. <https://wapave.org/?s=legislative+advocacy>
 2. <https://wscsupport.org/advocacy/>
 - a. WSCC also provides training support for people with lived experience who would like to testify
 3. <https://www.ffcmh.org/>
 4. [Telling your story - elevator-style](#)
 5. Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) Legislation Education Day – [registration](#) (1/24/24)
 6. WSPHA Leg. Day 101 training webinar (1/17/24) [registration](#)
- ii. Bill tracking and issue briefs
1. <https://partnersforourchildren.org/>
 2. <https://leg.wa.gov>
 - a. Pre-session, you can view bills on the legislative website that are pre-filed, any updates in real-time before they go on to committees.
 - b. You can search for bills by the specific number, or if you don't know that information, by keywords.

Next Steps:

- Monthly meetings January-March for session and advocacy updates.

Next Meeting: January 11