



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

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May 8, 2025

### Glossary of Terms

CYBHWG: Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group

FYSPRT: Family Youth System Partner Round Table

HCA: WA Health Care Authority

TAY: Transition-Aged Youth

Washington Thriving: Washington State Prenatal through Age 25 (P-25) Behavioral Health Strategic Plan

YYA: Youth and Young Adult (ages 13 through 25)

HPDF: Homeless Prevention Diversion Fund

CPSS: Certified Peer Support Specialist

### Meeting Topics

Session Updates

Reflecting progress to-date and goals for this year

Group Discussions on developing inputs for [Washington Thriving](#) (P-25 Behavioral Health Strategic Plan)

1. Building our narrative
2. Reflecting on emerging priorities

Next Steps

### Discussion Summary

#### Session Updates

Representative Lauren Davis and other participants provided a recap of the 2025 legislative session, specific to YYACC interests, including:

1. Second Substitute House Bill 1427 ([2SHB 1427 \(2025\)](#)), which:
  - a. Changes the name of the profession of certified peer specialists to "certified peer support specialists".
  - b. Directs the Health Care Authority (HCA) to contract for the development of courses to supplement the training of certified peer support specialists related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
  - c. Directs HCA to contract with at least one external entity to develop ways to expand access to peer support services through providing technical assistance, billing health carriers, creating substance use disorder peer-run respite centers, and exploring the use of capitated payment arrangements.
  - d. Requires that the accessibility to peer services in a managed care organization's network be given significant weight in any procurement
2. Bridge Housing Program: The CYBHWG requested expansion of this program. While expansion was not achieved, the budget included maintenance-level funding for the two existing Houses.



3. The Homeless Prevention Diversion Fund (HPDF), while initially excluded from the budget, was successfully reinstated at maintenance levels in the final budget. Awaiting signature from Governor Ferguson.
4. House Bill 1272 ([HB 1272 \(2025\)](#)) passed extending the timeline of the child and youth multisystem care project director position within the Office of the Governor and other related programs to address complex cases of children in crisis until June 30, 2027 (instead of expiring on June 30, 2025), as originally designated in House Bill 1580 ([HB 1580 \(2023\)](#)).

## Reflecting progress to-date and goals for this year

1. Julia Kemner (Behavioral Health Catalyst) discussed [Washington Thriving](#) and its relationship with the CYBHWG, including the following (see slides for more detailed information):
  - a. A review of Washington Thriving – the effort to develop a statewide prenatal-through-age-25 behavioral health strategic plan, due to the Legislature on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. The project's organizational structure, including the Washington Thriving Advisory Group and Discussion Groups, and the partnership with the CYBHWG and subgroups.
  - c. Current context around the constrained fiscal environment, and federal and local administration and policy changes.
  - d. Emerging recommendations from previous meetings to focus on:
    - i. Develop a comprehensive Transition-Aged Youth (TAY)-Specific Service Set.
    - ii. Strengthen services, supports, and infrastructure around care for those with high-intensity, high-acuity, and enduring needs.
    - iii. Build Post-Treatment & Support Services: Provide sustained, community-based support for individuals after treatment or crisis care to help maintain long-term recovery and resilience
  - e. The goals for the year:
    - i. Contribute important insights on YYACC to be highlighted and elaborated in the Strategic Plan.
    - ii. Identify other continuing and urgent issues to be considered as overarching recommendations or support items of the CYBHWG.
  - f. An overview of the 2025 subgroup process and timeline.
  - g. Discussion about Washington Thriving and the subgroup process for 2025 included the following:
    - i. Ensuring data from the Family Youth System Partner Round Table (FYSPRT) Needs Assessments and other community and statewide networks' inputs are included in this effort.

## Developing inputs for Washington Thriving (group discussions)

1. Discussion on key components of a YYA-focused narrative included:
  - a. TAY-specific:
    - i. Use youth-accessible language to create a more inclusive system.
    - ii. Make a clear transition path, teach adaptive living skills, and equip for real world success.
    - iii. Expand access to services based on need, not outward ability level.
  - b. Care for Crisis, Acute & Long-Term Needs
    - i. There are major gaps for youth with developmental delays.



- ii. Behavioral health care should be treated with the same importance as physical health, like ICU access.
  - iii. Stabilization should include connecting youth with community supports (e.g., Northstar Advocates)
  - iv. More programs and better access to community-based residential stabilization services are needed to prevent unnecessary hospitalizations.
- c. Post-Treatment Stabilization & Supports
  - i. Terminology needs to be purposeful. "Substance use disorder" instead of "substance abuse"; reserve "recovery" for youth with substance use challenges.
  - ii. Youth need more structured post-treatment support and aftercare, including peer support and help rebuilding community connections, mental health, and substance use treatment.
  - iii. Models like Recovery High Schools and similar supports tailored to mental health, neurodivergent youth, and those with autism should be explored.
- d. Other Topics:
  - i. Age of Consent: Importance of developing a mature minor statute instead of consent based on chronological age.
    - 1. Importance of addressing children with complex behavioral health needs, especially under- diagnosed children with FASD and in-utero substances and maternal trauma.
- e. Discussion on emerging YYA improvement strategies highlighted the desire for prioritizing:
  - i. System to streamline communication among service providers.
  - ii. Importance of wraparound models and cross-collaboration in supporting young people.
  - iii. Training providers to work with youth with complex needs and the importance of adaptive living skills.

## Next Steps

1. The FYSPRT will meet next on June 3, 3:00-5:00PM.
2. The subgroup will meet next on June 5, 3:30-5:30PM. *If you are not already on the YYACC mailing list and would like to be added, you can email [cybhwg@hca.wa.gov](mailto:cybhwg@hca.wa.gov) indicating your preference.*