

## Washington State Children's Behavioral Health Statewide Family Network

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The Washington State Children's Behavioral Health Statewide Family Network Project (Statewide Family Network) was implemented in 2016 and is hosted by [Washington State Community Connectors](#) (WSCC). WSCC is a family-run organization that has a board of directors made up of more than 50% parent/caregivers who have primary responsibility for raising a child, youth, or young adult experiencing behavioral health (substance use disorder and mental health) needs. A competitive process to identify a contractor for the Statewide Family Network was completed in 2016 and in 2021. WSCC was the awarded bidder in both 2016 and 2021 and currently holds the contract for this project. Through the contract with WSCC, the Statewide Family Network hosts various events and activities to support parents and caregivers with lived experience navigating behavioral health on behalf of their child(ren):

- Two workgroups "Children, Youth and Family Behavioral Health Continuum of Care" and "Peer Support and Family Leader Opportunities".
- Two committees "Equity, Diversity and Inclusion" and "Advocacy and Leadership Opportunities".
- A virtual Statewide Family Network meeting held on even months titled "A Dedicated Space for Parents/Caregivers" for the purpose of having a place for parents to gather and discuss how things are working for them and identify policy and system gaps that the Statewide Family Network can focus on.
- A virtual Statewide Family Network meeting held on odd months "Open Forum" discussion intended to engage family leaders who do not participate in committees and workgroups to be updated about workgroups and

committees and a space that provides relevant presentations.

- Annual weekend training to support Washington parents/caregivers with lived experience navigating behavioral health on behalf of their child(ren).
- Annual Children's Behavioral Health Summit.
- Technical assistance to the regional Family, Youth, System Partner Round Tables to enhance family engagement.
- Networking for parents/caregivers.

### Who can participate?

Parents/caregivers of youth who experience behavioral health needs are welcome to attend all activities and child and youth serving system partners are welcome to attend the Summit and open forum network meetings.

### Key partners

Parents/caregivers with lived experience. Some activities also welcome youth, youth leaders, and child-serving systems including child welfare, juvenile justice, developmental disabilities, education, health, mental health, substance use disorder and other community members including faith community, law enforcement, early learning, tribal partners, and vocational rehabilitation.

### Annual budget

\$325,000 – Mental Health Block Grant dollars

### Oversight

Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, Prenatal through age 25 behavioral health staff provide technical assistance to the project.

### More information

Contact: [HCADBHRInformation@hca.wa.gov](mailto:HCADBHRInformation@hca.wa.gov)

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