

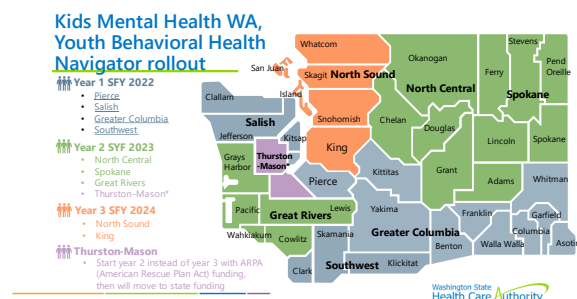
Kids Mental Health WA, formerly Youth Behavioral Health Navigators

Health Care Authority (HCA) is working with Kids' Mental Health Pierce County (KMHPC) and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to create Youth Regional Behavioral Health Navigation teams known as Kid's Mental Health WA. The teams aim to enhance communication, streamline service connections, and establish Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) to better coordinate support for children and youth facing behavioral health challenges. The regional teams will prioritize requests for help from young people who need intensive services.

Kids Mental Health Washington is supporting each region by:

1. Establishing community-wide teams to assist children, youth, and families in their area.
2. Creating an access portal for individuals concerned about a child or youth to request support.
3. Convening a multi system disciplinary team from the community to identify resources and develop stability plans while resource options are being explored.

For the past three years, HCA in partnership with Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organizations, Kids' Mental Health Pierce County, and the Developmental Disabilities Administration, has been setting up three regions per year to implement these services. The initial development process for a region-based program can take up to 12 months to fully establish delivery of services, including bringing the access portal online, accepting referrals, and delivering services. Technical assistance, support, collaborative learning teams across the state, and avenues for real time input on regional strengths and needs are being developed as these teams are formed.



Technical assistance and support is provided by Kid's Mental Health Pierce County team.

FY 2025 budget

Services provided through clinical response teams that receive referrals for children and youth inpatient services and manage a process to coordinate treatment plans:

- \$2,148,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 and \$499,000 of the general fund—federal appropriation was provided solely for the authority to contract for youth inpatient navigator services in four regions of the state. The services must be provided through clinical response teams that receive referrals for children and youth inpatient services and manage a process to coordinate placements and alternative community treatment plans. Of these amounts, \$445,000 of the general fund—state appropriation and \$79,000 of the general fund—federal appropriations are provided solely to contract for services through the existing Kids Mental Health Pierce County.

Elegibility requirements

- Children, youth, young adults, and their families in WA regions where there are teams will have access to seek support.
- Teams are contracted to prioritize children and youth stuck in inappropriate placements.

- Access is available to all WA children youth and families, there are no insurance coverage barriers to access supports.

Highlights '23-'24

- 497+ youth served through Multidisciplinary Team (MDTs) & consultations.
- 77,674 unique/unduplicated website visitors (services and access to help found on the sites)
- More than 183 steering committee members guide our work across the state.
- We shared our program with 493 webinar attendees in 2023 and 2024
- WHO:
 - Youth referred to the program ranged from ages 1-20;
 - Average age of children and youth served is 13 or younger.

While these numbers are impressive, they only scratch the surface, leaving out the thousands of hours our teams dedicate daily to outreach, participating in community events, stakeholder and community collaboration group focused on youth and family's behavioral health in their specific regions, and countless other valuable activities.

Authority

ESSB 5693; Section 215 (113); Washington State Health Care Authority

Partners

Kids Mental Health Pierce County Mary Bridge staff and team are providing technical assistance and support the regional teams being stood up through the Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization for statewide implementation.

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is funded to support, at the headquarter and regional levels, to ensure coordination and education to create seamless skilled cross system supports. Family Youth System Partner Round Table (FYSPRT), Children's Long-term Inpatient Program (CLIP) review teams, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder (SUD), and social service partners, regional child welfare social workers, juvenile justice and regional DDA teams, DCYF's Youth and Young Adult Housing Response Teams (YYART), the 1580 team out of the Governor's Office, schools, and Educational Service Districts (ESD) navigators are being connected to the program.

Oversight

Health Care Authority

For more information

Edward Michael, MS
Statewide Youth Behavioral Health Access
Administrator
Edward.Michael@hca.wa.gov

Dani Myers, MSW, LICSW, CMHS
Medicaid Programs Division (MPD)
Dani.Myers@hca.wa.gov

Diana Cockrell, MA
Section Manager, Prenatal to 25 Lifespan
Behavioral Health Mental Health & Substance Use
Diana.Cockrell@hca.wa.gov

Ruth Leonard, MA, SUDP
Section Manager, Strategic Design & Program
Oversight
Ruth.Leonard@hca.wa.gov