

Statewide Youth Leadership Network

Overview

The purpose of the Statewide Youth Leadership Network (Youth Network) is to facilitate the development of working relationships, a united voice and process for youth run organizations and groups to collaborate and partner in Washington State's system change initiatives. The Statewide Youth Leadership Network is also an integral piece to sustain the System of Care values in Washington State and will work in collaboration with the Washington State Children's Behavioral Health Statewide Family Network (Statewide Family Network).

In 2018, DBHR brought youth leaders across Washington State, 33 youth and youth leaders from across the state attended a two day meeting, including Regional Family Youth, System Partner Round Table (FYSPRT) Youth Tri-Leads, Wraparound with Intensive Services Youth Partners as well as representatives from multiple youth serving systems including behavioral health, juvenile justice, juvenile rehabilitation, foster care, homelessness, and substance

The purpose of the meeting was to acknowledge community feedback that we need an infrastructure in Washington State to enhance engagement and support sustainability of youth leadership and the youth workforce, to build peer professionals with lived experience as a youth, and to partner with and inform system leaders.

The meeting was funded by Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR), and convened by leadership of the Children's Unit of the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. Special thanks goes **to Youth MOVE National who facilitated the meeting** with support from the National Technical Assistance Network for Children's Behavioral Health, **the University of Reno Nevada who organized logistics for the meeting, the youth and Youth Leaders from across the state who participated and offered their thoughts and ideas.**

A steering committee of youth leaders was formed as a follow up to this meeting and this steering committee identified that they would like to build a youth network modeled after the Statewide Family Network.

In August of 2019, a Request for Applications was released to identify an awarded bidder to contract for the work of the Youth Network. It is anticipated that an awarded bidder will be identified by the end of 2019.

Who can participate?

WISE Youth Peer counselors, FYSPRT Youth Tri-leads, Youth over 13 who are cross system involved, and individuals with lived experience with youth-serving systems as a youth.

Key Partners

Youth, Youth leaders, and Youth-serving systems including child welfare, juvenile justice, juvenile rehabilitation, developmental disabilities, education, health, mental health, substance use, and other community members including faith communities, law enforcement, early learning, tribal partners, and vocational rehabilitation.

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