

Meeting Minutes: SWWA REGIONAL FYSPRT Meeting 4/20/2026 –Hybrid

Presentation: Office of Behavioral Health Advocacy (OBHA)

Presenters: Angie Williams and Angie Williams

Overview

OBHA provides advocacy and support for individuals navigating Washington State behavioral health systems.

Key Points

- Supports individuals receiving behavioral health services, families, providers, and facilities.
- Assists with:
 - Complaints
 - Grievances
 - Appeals
 - Administrative hearings
 - Mental Health Advance Directives
- Use a mediation and problem-solving approach to resolve concerns at the lowest level possible.
- Services are free and available statewide.
- Operates under a "No Wrong Door" policy, ensuring callers receive information and resources even when issues fall outside OBHA's scope.
- Youth ages 13 and older may independently request services and sign releases of information.

Community Forum & Resource Fair

Date: May 8, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The event will include:

- Community resource tables
- Speakers
- Giveaways
- Networking opportunities

OBHA contact information and presentation materials will be shared with attendees.

Statewide FYSPRT Updates

Legislative and Statewide Updates

Michelle shared updates from the statewide FYSPRT meeting.

House Bill 2429

- Establishes a statewide behavioral health system aligned with a comprehensive system of care for prenatal through age 25.
- Includes leadership and lived experience integration.

Substitute House Bill 1634

- Supports schools in coordinating comprehensive behavioral health services for students.

House Bill 2225

- Addresses online safety and AI-related risks for youth.

Additional Updates

- Partnership Access Line (PAL) funding restored to full capacity.
- Additional funding approved for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs).
- Blue Envelope Program signed into law to support safer interactions between law enforcement and neurodivergent individuals and people with disabilities.

Statewide Network Announcements

- Youth Peer Summit recently hosted by the Statewide Youth Network.
 - Washington State Community Connectors hosting a crisis-focused event in Pasco with future planning underway for a Western Washington event.
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YAE (Youth Advocacy & Empowerment) Updates

Upcoming YAE Meeting

Date: May 4, 2026

Topic:

- Love Languages
- Relationship building
- Healthy communication

Youth participants are invited to attend, enjoy dinner, and engage in discussion.

Planning is underway for a summer youth summit tentatively scheduled for August.

Goals include:

- Skill building
- Resource connection
- Youth engagement
- Community partner participation

Additional details will be shared in future meetings.

Real Talk Discussion:

Youth Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Service Gaps

The group discussed challenges and barriers related to youth substance use treatment.

Key Themes Identified

Communication Challenges

- Families often experience limited communication from treatment providers.
- Treatment schedules may change without informing parents or caregivers.
- Difficulty obtaining information even when releases of information are in place.

Family Engagement

- Concerns that some SUD programs are not adequately involving families in treatment planning and discharge preparation.
- Participants emphasized the importance of family support in long-term recovery.

Treatment Effectiveness

- Reports of youth continuing substance use while participating in inpatient treatment.
- Concerns about supervision, provider training, and individualized treatment planning.

Access and Language Barriers

- Limited access to language-specific services and interpreters.
- Particular challenges for youth and families speaking less commonly available languages.

Wraparound and System of Care Approaches

- Participants noted few examples of SUD programs using a comprehensive wraparound or system-of-care model.
- Need for stronger collaboration between treatment providers, families, schools, and behavioral health systems.

Additional Discussion

Participants highlighted the need for:

- Stronger recovery-oriented supports.
- Youth identity development opportunities.
- Community-based activities and mentoring programs.
- Increased accountability and collaboration among service providers.

Feedback gathered during the discussion will be shared through statewide FYSPRT and Youth & Young Adult Continuum of Care (YYACC) workgroups.

Next regional meeting scheduled for May 18, virtual.