

Meeting Minutes: SWWA REGIONAL FYSPRT Meeting 2/23/2026 – Hybrid

Main Discussion: Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services

Statewide Gap and Needs Discussion

The group discussed a statewide FYSPRT concern regarding substance use disorder services, originally raised in the Spokane/Northeast region.

Key concerns identified statewide:

- Lack of detox beds for youth ages 13–17.
- Limited detox services for transitional-age youth (18–26).
- Increased fentanyl use among youth and young adults.
- Insufficient inpatient and outpatient treatment resources.
- Need for family-centered, wraparound recovery services.

Regional Strengths

Participants highlighted several positive developments in Southwest Washington:

- Madrona Recovery has expanded access to inpatient and outpatient treatment services.
- Availability of Medicaid-funded services.
- Increased opportunities for family involvement during treatment.
- School-based SUD treatment through providers such as:
 - Lifeline Connections
 - Sea Mar Community Health Centers
- Community supports including:
 - Recovery Café
 - Youth Café
 - Prevention coalitions
 - 4D Recovery
 - School-based prevention clubs and programs

Regional Challenges

Participants identified several ongoing challenges:

- Significant disparities in service availability between Clark County and rural counties (Klickitat and Skamania).
- Limited in-person services in rural communities.
- Dependence on virtual services, which may not meet all youth and family needs.
- Continued need for medically supervised detox options for youth and young adults.

System of Care Discussion

The group reviewed System of Care principles:

- Family-driven
- Youth-guided
- Community-based
- Culturally and linguistically responsive
- Strength-based
- Collaborative and integrated
- Least restrictive
- Evidence-based

Discussion centered on whether local services consistently incorporate these principles.

Key observations:

- Many agencies appear committed to System of Care values.
- Family involvement remains inconsistent across providers.
- Communication between providers and caregivers can be limited, even when releases of information are in place.
- Additional training and awareness may be needed across systems.

Community Needs Assessment Data

Mariusz Bista shared findings from a six-county community needs assessment regarding

System of Care familiarity:

- 5% reported all staff were familiar.
- 20% reported most staff were familiar.

- 43% reported only a few staff were familiar.
- 8% reported no staff were familiar.
- 25% were unsure.

Additional data will be shared with interested participants.

Youth and Family Updates

Upcoming Youth Summits

Participants discussed upcoming youth leadership opportunities:

1. Youth-Led Summit (Nexus Organization)
 - Renton, WA
 - March 2026
 - Focus on youth voice, policy, and behavioral health.
2. Youth Network Wellness Summit
 - Muckleshoot Community Center
 - April 16, 2026

The group emphasized the importance of elevating youth voices in statewide behavioral health planning.

Youth Advocacy and Empowerment (YAE) Updates

Emma Ocampo provided updates regarding youth engagement efforts.

Topics included:

- Upcoming presentation from the Crew Youth Resource Center of Southwest Washington.
 - Discussion about declining attendance in youth meetings.
 - Consideration of meeting time and schedule changes to improve youth participation.
 - Distribution of a survey to gather feedback from youth regarding preferred meeting times and formats.
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Real Talk Discussion

A parent participant shared challenges related to:

- Youth school refusal and truancy.
- Running away and extended absences from home.
- Shoplifting and lack of perceived accountability.
- Difficulties accessing behavioral health services.
- Challenges navigating ARY (At-Risk Youth) petitions and other legal supports.
- Concerns about service availability and system responsiveness.

Group Support and Resources Shared

Participants provided:

- Information about At-Risk Youth (ARY) petitions.
- Discussion of Family Functional Therapy (FFT).
- Family Initiated Treatment (FIT) services.
- Parent support groups.
- Strategies for maintaining boundaries and communication.
- Encouragement and emotional support.

The discussion emphasized:

- The importance of maintaining connection and trust.
- Recognizing system limitations while continuing advocacy efforts.
- Supporting caregiver well-being alongside youth intervention efforts.

Next regional meeting scheduled for March 16th, Virtual.