

Meeting Minutes: SWWA REGIONAL FYSPRT Meeting 7/20/26 – Virtual

Presentation: Shifted Theory Youth Mentoring

Presenter: Rashawn Williams

Overview

Shifted Theory Youth Mentoring serves youth and young adults primarily in Southwest Washington, including Clark County, with some programming in Oregon.

The organization partners with:

Evergreen Public Schools

Vancouver Public Schools

Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)

Clark County Juvenile Court

Urban Explorers

Clark County Food Bank

Other community organizations

Shifted Theory works with youth experiencing a variety of circumstances and is not limited to youth considered "at risk." Programming focuses on helping youth develop skills, relationships, confidence, and connections within their community.

Programs & Services

Shifted Theory programming includes:

Youth mentoring

Gang prevention programming for youth and young adults ages 14–24

Leadership development

Goal setting

Healthy habits

Healthy relationships

Behavioral management

Career readiness

Community engagement

Outdoor recreation

Agriculture and environmental activities

Exposure to professionals and career fields

Community service opportunities

Youth have participated in activities such as:

Fishing

Hiking

Tree planting

Heritage Farm activities

Basketball tournaments

Community outreach

Public art projects

Community professionals, business owners, city representatives, law enforcement leaders, and others are also invited to speak with youth about careers and community opportunities.

Shifted Theory Youth Center

Shifted Theory operates a youth center on the east side of Vancouver.

During the school year, center hours have generally been:

Monday–Friday: 4:00–7:00 PM

Summer programming is more activity-based and includes special events, fishing trips, basketball activities, and other community opportunities.

Food & Family Support

Shifted Theory is partnering with the Clark County Food Bank and currently provides food assistance to approximately 12 families each week.

Community Needs Discussion

Rashawn invited participants to identify areas where youth mentoring organizations could provide additional support.

Needs identified included:

More "third spaces" or safe places outside of home and school where youth can gather.

Additional youth programming on the east side of Vancouver.

Expanded opportunities in rural communities.

Additional services in Camas, Washougal, Ridgefield, Battle Ground, and other underserved areas.

Positive adult and male role models for youth.

Opportunities for youth to discuss everyday life skills and development with trusted adults.

Shifted Theory expressed interest in continued expansion as capacity allows.

Youth Voice & Community Safety

Shifted Theory has also been involved in Safer Vancouver activities following recent community violence. The effort includes community events and plans for smaller ongoing youth cohorts where young people can discuss concerns and experiences related to community safety.

Shifted Theory continues partnering with Clark County Juvenile Court and is engaging youth in a public-facing mural project and other community activities.

FYSPRT & Statewide Updates

Making Connections in the Community

Date: August 18, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM–4:00 PM

Location: River City Church

FYSPRT's upcoming youth and family event will be free to participants and include:

- Community resource tables
- Food
- Mighty Bowl Taco Truck
- Kona Ice
- Raffle prizes
- Naloxone/Narcan training geared toward youth
- NAMI's Ending the Silence presentation

Community organizations interested in hosting a resource table were encouraged to contact the FYSPRT team.

Children & Youth Behavioral Health Work Group

Michelle provided an update regarding FYSPRT's connection to statewide legislative and behavioral health planning.

FYSPRT is connected to the Children & Youth Behavioral Health Work Group and its Youth and Young Adult Continuum of Care (YAC) subgroup.

YAC examines gaps and needs for youth and young adults ages 13–25 across the behavioral health continuum, including:

- Prevention
- Early intervention
- Treatment
- Crisis services
- Recovery

Current work is being aligned with the Washington Thriving Plan, which addresses behavioral health services from the prenatal period through age 25.

Substance use disorder treatment gaps continue to be a significant statewide discussion topic.

YAE (Youth Advocacy & Empowerment) Update

FYSPRT's Youth Advocacy & Empowerment (YAE) group provides a youth-centered space where young people can discuss issues that are important and meaningful to them without a large number of adults in the room.

Next YAE Meeting

Date: August 10, 2026

Community partners were encouraged to share YAE information with youth who may be interested in participating. The Youth Behavioral Health Navigator Program also expressed interest in connecting with YAE to strengthen youth voice and potentially identify young people interested in participating in community action meetings.

Community Events & Resources

The group used part of the meeting to exchange information about upcoming summer activities and resources for youth and families.

FoodieLand

Dates: July 31–August 2, 2026

Location: Portland Expo Center

A large food-focused community event was shared as a possible summer activity for families.

Clark County Fair

Dates: August 7–16, 2026

Participants discussed the fair as another summer activity and noted that discounted admission may be available when tickets are purchased in advance.

Thrive to Survive Community Wellness Event

Date: August 14, 2026

Time: 12:00–4:00 PM

Location: River City Church

Back-to-School Event

Organization: New Life Recovery Services

Date: August 15, 2026

The event will provide backpacks and coats for children. Registration is required.

Orchards Park Community Event

An upcoming event at Orchards Park was shared that will seek community and youth feedback regarding parks and how to better engage teens in park spaces.

Time: 4:00–6:00 PM

Location: Orchards Park

Youth participation and feedback are encouraged.

Community Basketball Events

Shifted Theory and Vancouver Elite Outreach have partnered on youth and young adult basketball/community events.

Another event was planned for the end of July, with activities generally taking place from approximately 5:30–7:30 PM.

National Night Out – Skamania County

Date: August 4, 2026

Time: 6:00–8:00 PM

Location: Stevenson

The ESD 112 LINKS team will participate in National Night Out with the One Prevention Alliance.

The event is expected to reach approximately 400 youth. The LINKS team will also promote an upcoming Guiding Good Choices training planned for late September.

Parent Support Resource

Michelle shared information about parent support meetings available through Clark County Juvenile Court.

Schedule: First and third Wednesday of each month

Time: 5:30–7:00 PM

The meetings:

- Are open to parents regardless of court involvement.
- Include food.
- Provide support for parents raising teenagers.
- May be particularly helpful for families experiencing school attendance concerns, substance use, behavioral health challenges, or other difficulties.

Next Meeting: August 17, 2026 – Hybrid