

Meeting Minutes: SWWA REGIONAL FYSPRT Meeting 5/18/26 – Virtual

Presentation: Peace NW

Presenters: Tanya English

Overview

PEACE Northwest - People Empowered and Communities Enhanced - supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families throughout the lifespan. The organization serves Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat counties.

Programs & Services

Clark County Parent Coalition

Parent to Parent Network

HOME (Housing Options Must Exist) - housing advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

Service and System Navigation - assistance navigating Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), Social Security, special education, IEPs, and other systems.

Legislative Advocacy - educating and empowering families regarding legislation affecting people with disabilities.

Building Independence - activities and opportunities supporting independence and community engagement.

Cafe con PEACE - support for Spanish-speaking families.

Parent and family support groups.

Community events and activities.

PEACE Northwest is celebrating its 10-year anniversary and encouraging families to participate in community activities and events. Current event flyers and newsletters are available through the organization's website.

Building Independence

There is no established participant limit for Building Independence. Attendance may range from approximately 10 to 40 participants, and PEACE Northwest may add additional opportunities when demand exceeds available space. Summer programming includes outdoor activities and community engagement, particularly for young adults transitioning out of school-based transition programs.

Connecting Families to PEACE Northwest

Complete the contact form on the PEACE Northwest website.

Provide a brief description of the type of assistance needed so the request can be directed to the appropriate staff member.

Call the office and leave a message if staff are unavailable.

Real Talk Discussion: School Accommodations, IEPs & School District Budget Cuts

The group discussed experiences with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), accommodations, school partnerships, and anticipated impacts from school district budget reductions.

IEP & Accommodation Challenges

Experiences vary significantly by school and district.

Some families have difficulty getting IEP evaluations initiated or ensuring accommodations are followed.

Parents can become overwhelmed by the amount of information involved in the IEP process.

Families may not know about available services such as Extended School Year (ESY).

Supports included in an IEP may not always be fully implemented.

PEACE Northwest IEP/504 Support

PEACE Northwest currently offers support for families navigating IEPs and 504 Plans.

Mondays: 4:00-6:00 PM

Wednesdays: 8:00-10:00 AM

Families and professionals may use the support to ask questions, navigate school systems, and advocate for appropriate accommodations. A resource was also identified for a family needing IEP assistance in King County through The Arc of King County.

School District Budget Concerns

The group discussed significant anticipated budget reductions within area school districts and their potential effect on youth and families.

Reductions in teachers and educational staff.

Potential reductions in extracurricular programs.

Loss of paraprofessional support.

Increased difficulty meeting one-to-one support requirements included in IEPs.

Additional stress and workload for teachers.

Increased academic challenges.

Fewer structured activities and positive outlets for youth.

Greater reliance on community organizations and system partners to fill service gaps.

Participants emphasized the importance of system partners working together to help youth advocate for themselves and ensure that students continue receiving needed accommodations and supports.

YAE (Youth Advocacy & Empowerment) Updates

Presenter: Emma Ocampo

YAE Summer Series

YAE will temporarily adjust its meeting schedule and location for the summer months of June, July, and August.

When: Second Monday of each month

Time: 4:00-5:30 PM

Location: Legacy High School

The temporary location change is intended to explore whether meeting in another part of the community improves accessibility for youth. YAE is partnering with Connect Evergreen during the summer series.

YAE is intended primarily for youth from approximately middle-school age through age 25.

Meetings include:

Youth-centered discussions

Dinner

Activities and games

A \$20 gift card incentive for participating youth

Information and updates will also be available through YAE's social media channels.

Community & FYSPRT Updates

Prevention Through Connection

Date: May 20, 2026

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: Evergreen Public Schools District Office

The event will provide resources and conversations related to youth safety, gang prevention, community connection, and keeping youth engaged during the summer months.

New WISE Program

Akin is opening a new Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISE) program in Clark County serving children birth through age 12 and is beginning to seek referrals.

Making Community Connections

Date: August 18, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Location: River City Church

The FYSPRT community event is being planned for youth and families and is expected to include:

Keynote/featured speakers

NAMI's Ending the Silence presentation

Food

Raffles

Community resources

Opportunities for youth and families to connect before the start of the school year

Event flyers will be distributed as planning is finalized.

Washington Thriving Plan

Participants were encouraged to provide feedback through the Washington Thriving Plan community sounding board. The effort is gathering input regarding youth behavioral health and Washington's broader birth-to-25 planning efforts. Families completing the feedback opportunity may be entered into a drawing for a \$150 gift card.

Additional Community Events

Multicultural Resource Fair

Date: May 30, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

Location: Hudson's Bay High School

The Latino Community Resource Group will host a Multicultural Resource Fair featuring community organizations, resources, and cultural activities.

Neurodiversity Club Ball

Date: June 9, 2026

Time: 5:00-8:00 PM

Location: Clark College - Gaiser Hall Student Center

Clark College's disability/neurodiversity club will host a community event that was described as open to the public.

Next meeting: Monday, June 15, 2026, Hybrid at River City Church