

Meeting Minutes: SWWA REGIONAL FYSPRT Meeting 11/17/2025 – Virtual

Presentation: Teen Talk – Kris Henriksen

Teen Talk is a long-running program that supports young people by providing a safe, nonjudgmental space to talk through mental health and other concerns and to get connected to local resources.

- Program scope and longevity: Teen Talk has been operating for 22 years and emphasizes confidentiality and supportive listening. It is not a crisis line or suicide hotline.
- How the program operates now: Since COVID-19, Teen Talk shifted to remote volunteering and now runs a hybrid model for youth volunteers.
- Volunteer role and recruitment: The program is seeking new volunteer trainees, highlighting skill-building in communication and problem-solving, and noting that many volunteers later pursue social services careers.
- Outreach and tangible supports: Volunteers assemble compassion boxes with supportive materials for youth in need, including youth involved in foster care.
- Community partnerships and events: He described a range of community events and collaborations (including work connected with the Clark County Juvenile Court) to promote mental health awareness and support youth.
- Youth-led branding/voice: He emphasized that youth design marketing materials, reinforcing that youth voice is central to Teen Talk's outreach.
- Language access: The organization tries to meet diverse language needs by using a translation service.
- Personal motivation and impact: Henriksen shared pride in the program's long-term impact and the positive response from young people who receive these supports.

WISe Update: Angelo Gonzales

- Current caseload/status: There are 40 identified families/youth on the services list, and 218 youth and families currently being served.
- Staffing: Services are delivered by 28 clinical teams (clinicians, care coordinators, parent partners, and youth peers), totaling ~75 staff.
- Referral trends: Self/family referrals increased by 2%, while DCYF referrals decreased by 5%.
- Intake needs/acuity: Reported trauma at intake increased from 61% to 73%. Actionable needs on CANS rose from 24 to almost 26, indicating higher need levels.
- Strengths noted: Despite higher needs, there was a small increase in identified strengths, such as talents and family engagement.
- Community engagement: Continued emphasis on early intervention and strengthening ties with community partners to improve referral sources.
- Retention: Current retention is ~45% of families staying in services.

Next regional meeting scheduled December 15th, Hybrid at River City Church – Holiday Party!