

## Washington state children's behavioral health statewide family network

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The Washington State Children's Behavioral Health Statewide Family Network Project was implemented in 2016 and is hosted by Washington State Community Connectors (WSCC), a family run organization that has a board of directors made up of more than 50% parent/caregivers who have primary responsibility for raising a child, youth or young adult experiencing behavioral health (substance misuse and mental health) needs. A request for proposal (RFP) was released in 2016 and WSCC became the awarded bidder for this project; and continue to be the awarded bidder through a competitive process completed in 2021. Through the contract with WSCC, the Washington State Children's Behavioral Health Statewide Family Network provides various events and activities to support parents and caregivers with lived experience navigating behavioral health on behalf of their child(ren):

- Four workgroups to identify system trends related to children's outpatient behavioral health services, inpatient behavioral health services, peer support and family leader opportunities and cross-system services. These workgroups meet monthly.
- Four committees to continue the network's infrastructure development which includes committees focused on equity, diversity and inclusion, social marketing and communication, advocacy and leadership training and board of directors' capacity and advisory committee
- A webinar every other month for the purpose of workgroup and committee updates and to receive feedback on their work. The webinar can be attended by anyone interested.
- A webinar every other month in an open forum discussion format intended to engage family leaders who do not participate in committees and workgroups but can also include those who do.
- Annual weekend training to support Washington parents/caregivers with lived

experience navigating behavioral health on behalf of their child(ren).

- Annual Children's Behavioral Health Summit.
- Technical assistance to the regional Family, Youth, System Partner Round Tables to enhance family engagement.
- Networking for parents/caregivers.

### Who can participate?

Parents/caregivers of youth who experience behavioral health challenges and cross system partners.

### Key partners

Parents/caregivers with lived experience. Some activities also welcome youth, youth leaders, and child- serving systems including child welfare, juvenile justice, developmental disabilities, education, health, mental health, substance misuse, and other community members including faith community, law enforcement, early learning, tribal partners, and vocational rehabilitation.

### Annual budget

\$325,000 – Mental Health Block Grant dollars

### Oversight

Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, Prenatal through age 25 behavioral health staff provide technical assistance to the project.

### More information

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