

# Washington State Children’s Behavioral Health Statewide Family Network

## Overview

In August of 2014, family leaders convened to determine interest in creating a formal network of parents/caregivers whose children experience behavioral health challenges. The family leaders in attendance identified wanting to convene as a network. A request for proposal was released and an awarded bidder for this project, Washington State Community Connectors, a family run organization was identified. Per the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, a family-run organization is an organization that has a board of directors made up of more than 50% family members, who have primary responsibility for the raising of a child, youth, adolescent or young adult with behavioral health challenges.

Through the contract with Washington State Community Connectors, the Washington State Children’s Behavioral Health Statewide Family Network provides:

- Annual weekend training to support approximately 50 parents across Washington State.
- Annual Children’s Behavioral Health Summit which includes families, youth and system partners. The annual summit is attended by about 100 participants.
- Technical assistance to the regional Family, Youth, System Partner Round Tables to enhance family engagement.
- Opportunities for Parents/Caregivers to network.

In September 2019, the Washington State Children’s Behavioral Health Statewide Family Network convened a weekend event “Leveling Up for Families of Washington State Children’s Behavioral Health” to revisit successes of the last five years and to vision the next five years with the intention of utilizing

recent system change and modern technology to “Level Up” and enhance their existing program.

### Who can participate?

Family leaders and family members who have the primary responsibility of raising a child, youth, adolescent or youth adult with behavioral health challenges and cross system partners.

### Key partners

Families, family leaders, youth, youth leaders, and child-serving systems including child welfare, juvenile justice, developmental disabilities, education, health, mental health, substance use, and other community members including faith community, law enforcement, early learning, tribal partners, and vocational rehabilitation.

### Oversight

Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) Children, Youth and Family Unit. DBHR staff provide technical assistance to Washington State Children’s Behavioral Health Statewide Family Network.

### Contact information

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### For more information

<http://wsccsupport.org/>