

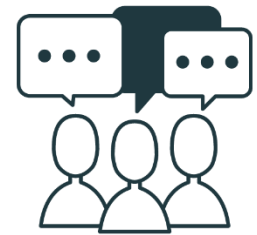
Culturally Affirming & Responsive Mental Health (CARE) for Kids & Families

Community Recommendations

In June 2022, CoLab for Community and Behavioral Health Policy (CoLab) held a community forum to gather concerns and community guidance on the proposed Culturally Affirming & Responsive Mental Health (CARE) for Kids & Families initiative, formerly known as the Expanding Culturally Responsive Care initiative. You can find a recording of the community meeting at [this link](#). Responses were gathered from a public ranking and question submission platform. These responses guided and continue to guide our processes and work, both internal and external, to ensure transparency and accountability to community. Below are the themes that emerged and how our team will address each theme.

Public Forums

The first theme that emerged from the responses was the need to have open and public forums for community and system partners to observe and respond to the project. Specific suggestions included, for example, "open meetings," and "round table meetings." Our team is responding to this by hosting a community sounding board and advisory meetings and will be hosting more public forums throughout the project.



Routine Process

Responses also called the need for routine processes and check-ins with community. Suggestions for regular communication updates for accountability, transparency, and updates with the community. Our team is working on planning regular check-in sessions with important updates at a frequency that doesn't feel overwhelming.

We also share regular status updates through our dedicated CARE newsletter to keep people engaged and informed.



Community Involvement

The third theme that arose from the responses was community involvement. Suggestions were to include community throughout the entire process, engage and include high school students, and show up in community spaces. Our team is reaching out to representatives and leaders from different community groups to join this project at every level (codesign, advisory, etc.).



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We also partnered with SPARK, an organization for youth leaders to become Certified Peer Counselors for Washington State. SPARK members will be part of the process at every level. During this process, we also will use the community sounding board to include community and keep them informed throughout all stages to help shape decision making.

Honesty in Answers & Room for Dissent

Another theme that emerged was "honesty in answers and room for dissent." Responses included ensuring that there are safe spaces to share honest thoughts and feedback and limit "red tape" over discussions. Our team is working on making our commitments and partnerships transparent and to establish group values and discussion agreements ahead of time.



Multiple Platforms

To increase awareness, results from the Mentimeter ranking suggested using a variety of methods and venues to solicit feedback, publicize our findings through different mediums, involving the media, and advertising meetings in a diverse array of community spaces. Our team is working on disseminating information through regular updates in multiple forms (regular newsletters, videos, etc.) and through multiple platforms (emails, webpages, Twitter updates) in addition to sending meeting information to our partners and project amplifiers to help advertise the meetings.



Contact Information

We acknowledge that there may be more concerns that are not reflected in this document. Any remaining questions, concerns, or feedback can be directed to uwcolab@uw.edu. There are also a few ways to get involved and receive information. If you would like to sign up for regular communications updates regarding the CARE project, please click [this link](#). We have a [community sounding board](#) for those with lived or professional experience to inform this work, with an opportunity to win prizes with each submission. You can also sign up to be a project amplifier to help spread the word about CARE, and you can email Rachel (rachport@uw.edu) for an amplifier toolkit. More information about CARE can also be found on [our website](#).

We thank you for your thoughtful responses, time, and interest in the CARE initiative as we work together to promote culturally responsive behavioral healthcare across Washington State and center youth, caregivers, and community members with lived experience in the behavioral health system.