



Developing A Sustainable Youth-Led Peer Support Program

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Mental Health America
B4Stage4

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Students Providing And Receiving Knowledge



SPARK IS:

A CAREER PATHWAY TO BUILDING WASHINGTON STATES
PEER COUNSELING WORKFORCE WITH AN EMPHASIS ON
WISE

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We will share...

- Our results from our very first class
- Our “tool kit” for developing this program
- How we have created a system of care around the program
- Where we have been, where we are going, and lessons learned
- Creating apprenticeships for youth
- What’s next for SPARK

Our Journey – The Beginning



Our Purpose

- Develop a school-based Peer Counselor career path for young adults ages 17-21
- Learn how to grow their social and emotional toolboxes
- Learn how to coach and mentor others in a strength-based setting
- Teach goal setting
- Learn how to self-advocate and self-care
- Take the 40-hour CPC class after graduation and be prepared to enter the CPC workforce



Class Demographics 2019

- 8 students, all identify as Hispanic/Latino/Latina
- 8 bilingual students (Spanish)
- 1 male student
- 2 teen parents
- Age range 17 to 20
- 6 high school graduates
- 1 GED
- 2 soon-to-be high school graduates

SPARK Class: What Worked & What Needs Improvement

Class Pros

- Professional/relevant guest speakers
- Gained knowledge of future career path
- Helpful activities
- Value in attending local FYSPRT
- Feeling of belonging and being part of something big
- Motivation towards graduation!

Class Cons

- Not enough class time
- Not enough time to share material
- Schedule consistency
- Non-consistent location



40-Hour Peer Certification Class Observations

Training Pros

- Facilitators were awesome and nice
- Strengthening exercises to boost self
- Open safe space
- Able to openly express thoughts
- Learned important social skills

Training Cons

- Website from modules kept malfunctioning/had wrong answers on some questions
- Questions written on test that were not covered in training or modules
- Training needs to provide a segment on notetaking/paperwork

WISE Symposium

Learning New Skills and Working With Others

Pros

- Awesome keynote speakers
- Well organized
- Sessions were clear and to the point

Cons

- Not enough registration supplies
- Certain sessions were incredibly crowded/needed more seating



State-Wide Family Youth System Partner Roundtable (FYSPRT)



Stakeholders & Partners

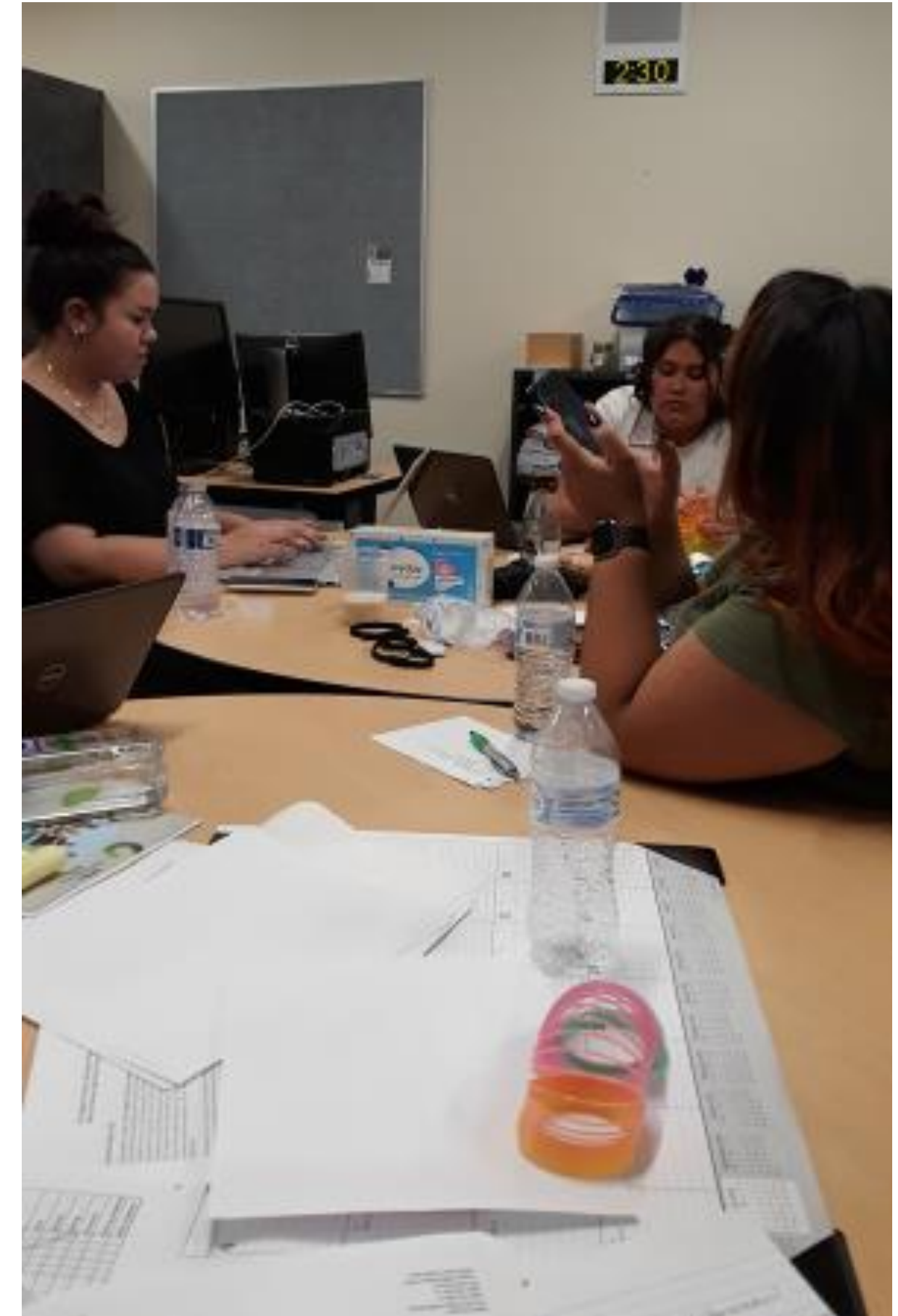
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8 50-Hour Apprenticeships

- Enroute – WISE specific training and coaching
- Comprehensive Healthcare – clinical based and agency specific
- SPARK Development – program funding/development
- Local Family Youth System Partner Round Table – community based



SPARK Celebration Dinner



The Future of SPARK

- Continue to partner with youth serving systems
- Create a WISE workforce database for current job openings for youth
- Work with behavioral healthcare agencies on incentives to hire youth
- Create SPARK Development/Outreach team
- Take this program state/nation wide for other communities to replicate
- Start working with hospitals and including Peer Counselors in various departments
- Continue to partner with our community, state, and national partners in developing programs for our youth with our youth
- We are now our own 501c3 and continue to grow every day!

SPARK Class of 2020



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Q & A

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