

Washington Thriving

SPE

3/16/2026



Washington
Thriving

Developing a strategic plan
for prenatal through age 25
behavioral health.

What is Washington Thriving?



- A comprehensive statewide behavioral health strategic plan for prenatal through age 25 and their families and caregivers.
- Developed by the Washington Thriving Advisory Group, which was established under the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group (CYBHWG) with the goal of addressing the ongoing statewide crisis in behavioral health among children, youth, young adults and their parents and caregivers
- Aims to affect transformational change across the system by:
 - Outlining a vision for how this array of supports and services can be accessed in or through a range of settings including clinics, schools, and community settings
 - Providing an actionable roadmap to ensure equitable access at every stage of development to high-quality, developmentally-appropriate and culturally-attuned supports and services

2SHB 2429 Update

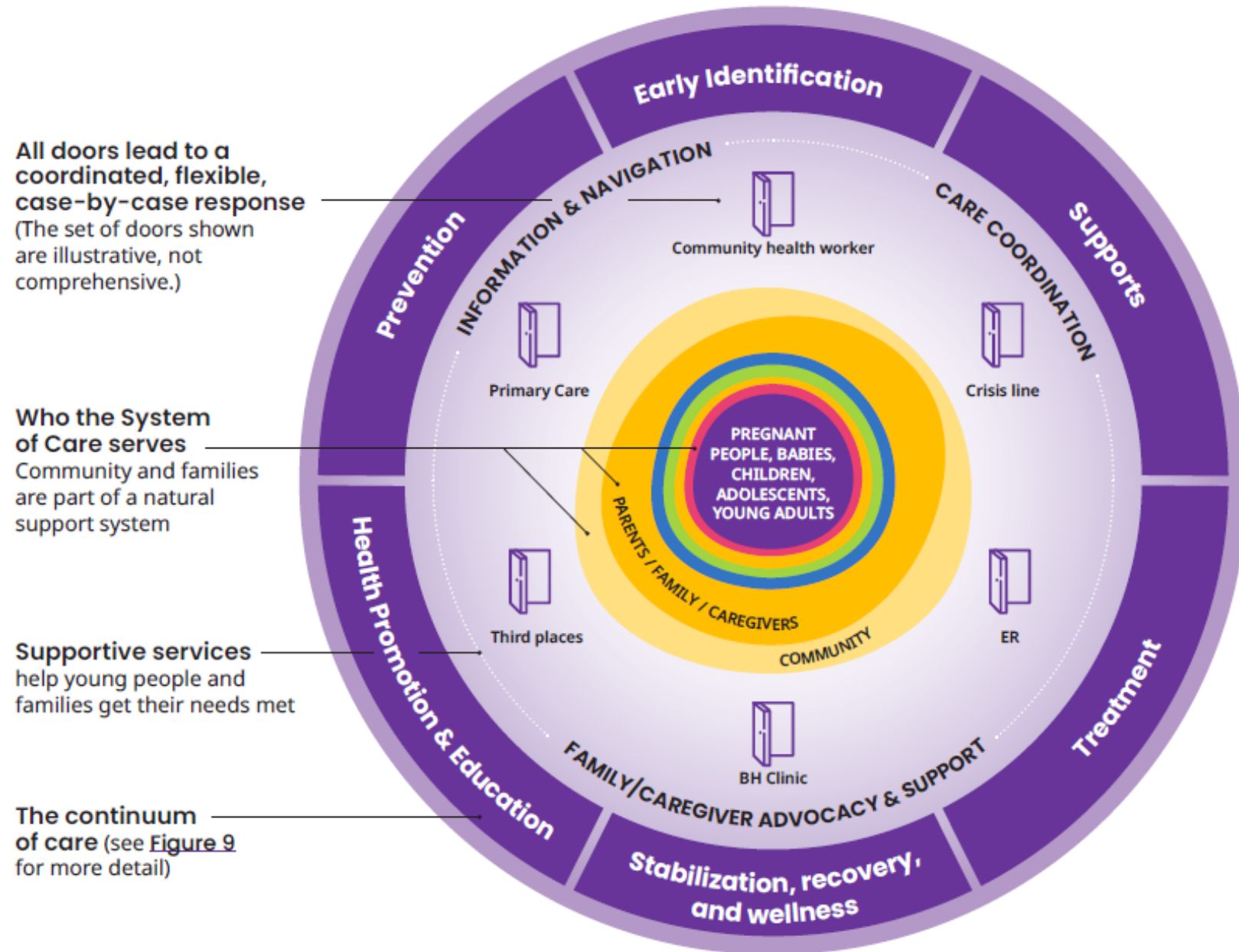
2SHB 2429 | SB 6224



- Establish Washington Thriving Strategic Plan as a **state initiative**
- **Extend the CYBHWG from 2029 to 2031** and maintain current staffing and require the CYBHWG to use the **Washington Thriving Strategic Plan to guide its priorities and efforts**
- **Increase representation of federally recognized Indian tribes** in the CYBHWG from one to two
- Require the **Office of the Governor to establish and maintain executive coordination** for the children and youth system of care:
 - Coordinate and monitor implementation of the Strategic Plan across various state agencies
 - Build the infrastructure described in the Strategic Plan
 - Monitor with the WA state office of equity the impacts of implementation of the Strategic Plan
- Establish a **children and youth behavioral health leadership council** which should include: State agency representatives from across the BH system, 2 representatives of federally recognized Indian tribes, one CYBHWG member, and individuals with lived experience. The leadership council shall:
 - Report to governor on state practices and recommendations for changes aligned with Strategic Plan
 - Provide easily accessible and publicly available updates regarding actions, decisions, and recommendations
 - Notify the governor when it believes that the executive coordination officer for the children and youth system of care has accomplished the goals of the position and is no longer needed

System of Care

Washington's envisioned System of Care

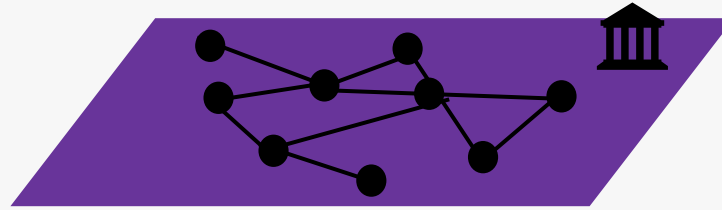


What will it take to build a coordinated System of Care?



Three Foundational Dimensions

Systems level



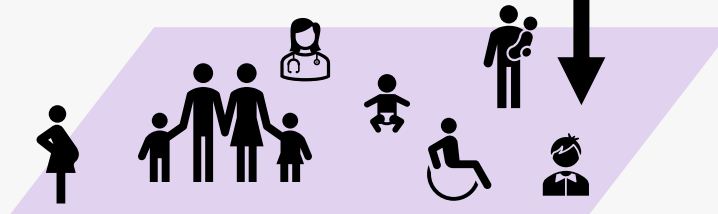
Strengthen
infrastructure

Service level



Expand
comprehensive
offerings

Interpersonal level



Prioritize what
matters to people

Activity: *Where do you fit?*



- In chat or verbally, share...
 - How your current work contributes to or aligns with a System of Care.
 - Ideas for how the system can better integrate or connect what you do to the larger System of Care.



Shared Goals

Vision

Washington Thriving envisions a future where every pregnant person, baby, child, youth, and young adult is thriving, supported by their caregivers, families, and communities.

Every Washingtonian understands how behavioral health affects well-being and recognizes when young people need support.

WHAT THE SYSTEM DOES

Funding, providers and systems work together so that services are seamless, accessible, and adapt to the changing needs.

Behavioral health services and supports:

- Holistically address mental health, substance use, developmental, physical health, and co-occurring needs
- Connect into people's communities where they spend time
- Are available when needed
- Are available for all developmental stages, all cultures and languages, in all parts of the state

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR WASHINGTON'S PRENATAL-THROUGH-AGE-25 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM



Is informed by children, youth, caregivers, and families



Ensures that all doors lead to support



Offers services to meet the individual needs of children, youth, families, and caregivers



Is equitable, anti-racist, and culturally and linguistically responsive



Changes in response to new information

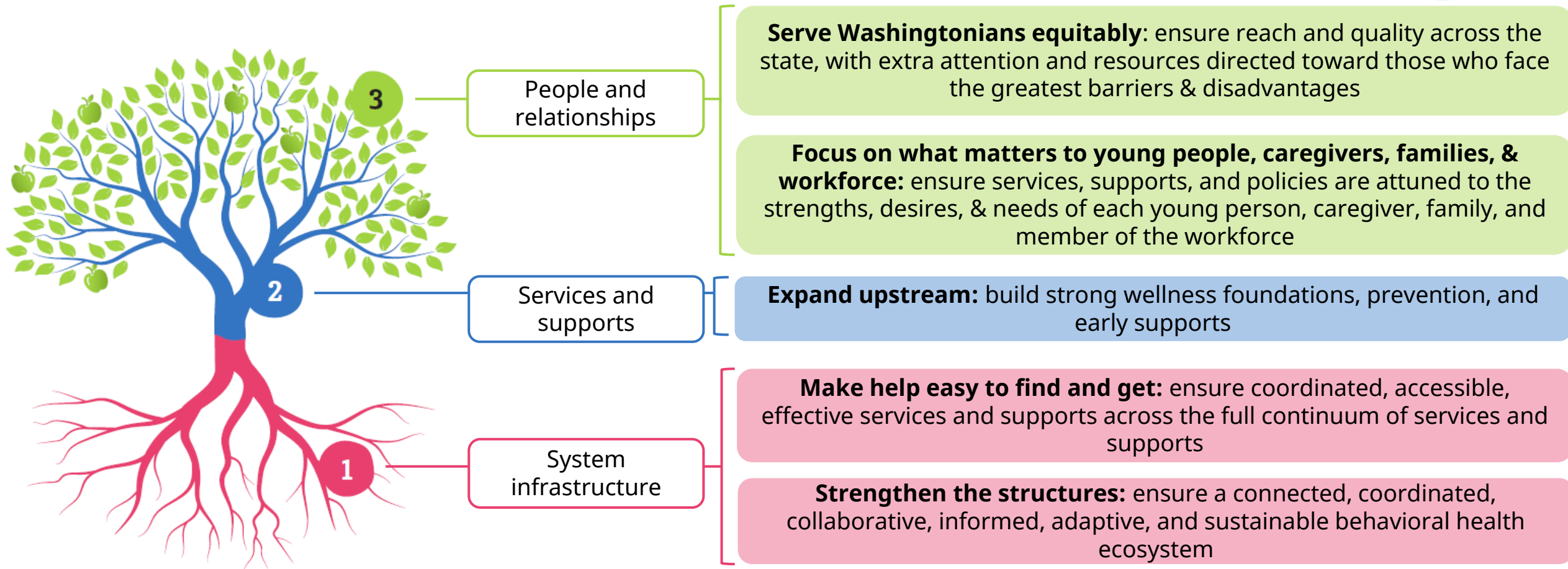


Invests in prevention and well-being



Includes families, caregivers and communities as key contributors to well-being

Washington Thriving Goals



Holistic Cross-System Approach to Wellbeing



Activity: *How can you contribute?*



- In chat or verbally, please share...
 - Which of the Washington Thriving Goals speak the most strongly to you and why.
 - How you are *already* helping to achieve these goals.
 - What you might do in the future with these goals in mind.

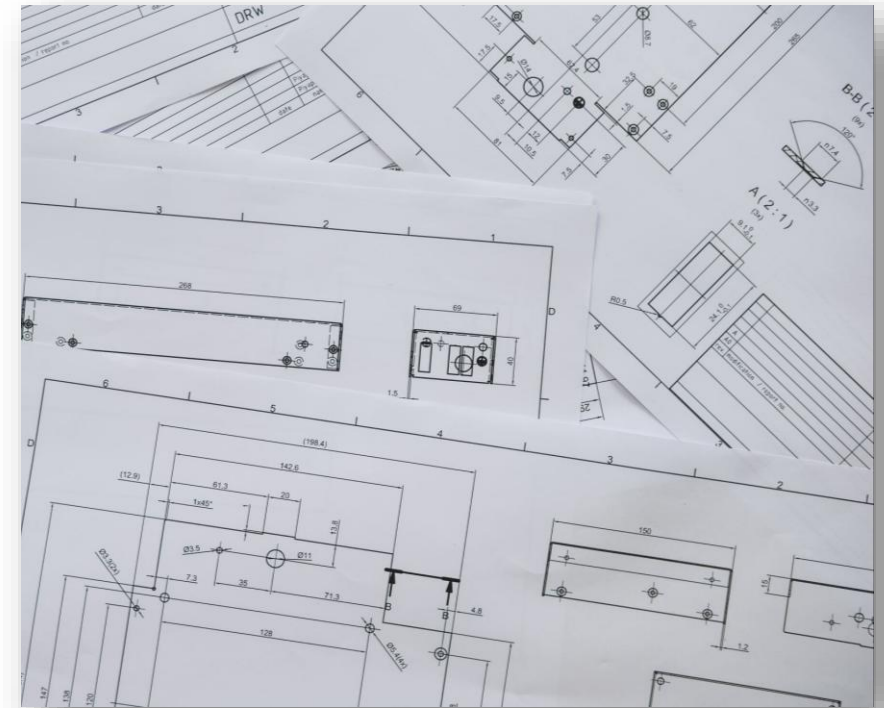


Alignment

SPE Strategic Plan Update



- Timeline – Now until Fall 2027
- Strong alignment *in both plans* to...
 - Increase coordination
 - Reduce duplication
 - Align services across the spectrum
- *In one family* there can be needs for...
 - Promotion
 - Prevention
 - Harm Reduction
 - Treatment
 - Recovery



Activity: *What should we imagine?*



- In chat or verbally, please share...
 - How the SPE Plan can be inclusive of the Washington Thriving principles and System of Care.
 - What possible barriers could we face in aligning the two plans.
 - Ideas for engaging communities throughout the process.



Discussion & Q/A

Thank you!



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