

SCHECKY YOUTH WELLBEING INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

The Craig-Scheckman Family Foundation's (CSFF) Schecky Youth Wellbeing Initiative supports efforts to improve youth wellbeing in Routt County, CO. A core component of the work in 2024-2025 was the creation of a Community Advisory Group (CAG) of **eight adults and eight high school students who worked together as peers** over nine months. Throughout this work, young people were equal partners in **generating authentic, original ideas for improving youth health.**

KEY OUTCOMES

The CAG's work led to a range of ideas for improving youth wellness in three categories:

"EASY WINS"

Pilot programs implemented with limited resources, including:

- **Take-Home Prompts:** Developed with Northwest Colorado Health; conversational tools to help families discuss topics of youth wellbeing, launched spring 2025
- **Banners for Youth Wellbeing:** Public messaging campaign in Steamboat Springs, Hayden, and Oak Creek to normalize youth wellbeing as a shared priority.

"WELLBEING PARTNERSHIPS"

Initiatives that local organizations have picked up from the CAG's work. Examples include:

- **Family Movie Night:** Bud Werner Library is planning a community movie night program with guided prompts to open conversations about mental health.
- **Headspace Happenings:** A "micro-counseling" initiative in schools with pilot planned for fall 2025 in Hayden School District.

"BIG PICTURE IDEAS"

Ideas for systemic transformation that would include multiple partners to make sustained impact at scale. These include:

A **mobile** mental health clinic, a dedicated community **youth wellness navigator** position, **delayed school start times**, and **integrated wellness planning** across education and health organizations.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Schecky Initiative has connected people across communities, generations, and professions and built relationships that will support future work in Routt County. With youth voices at the center of improving youth wellness, this work is well-positioned to scale and influence long-term systemic change locally and across Colorado.



I felt really seen. I was treated as an equal by the adult Champions when we shared our work.

~ Schecky Initiative youth CAG member

TIMELINE

SPRING 2024

Selection of CAG members and initial orientation workshop held in Steamboat Springs.

FALL 2024

CAG framed problem statements and presented initial ideas at a public "Matchmaking Fair."

WINTER 2024

Transition from ideation to pilot planning, with CAG members developing action plans for four early-stage projects.

SUMMER 2024

Stakeholder engagement launched, including "Imagine Hour" sessions and a briefing with Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser.

SPRING - SUMMER 2025

Pilots implemented and evaluated; Wellbeing Champions continued development of broader systemic initiatives.

