

YVONNE-MONIQUE AVIVA

Senior Director of Residential and Foster Care Services, Friends of Youth



YVONNE-MONIQUE AVIVA, BA, MPA
Kirkland, WA



Senior Director of Residential and Foster Care Services at Friends of Youth, is a bold leader and transformative advocate driven by her own lived experiences.

After becoming a ward of the state at age five, being reunited with her family, and permanently returning to state care at age eleven, Yvonne-Monique faced the harsh realities of the foster care system—multiple placements, two failed adoptions, homelessness, exploitation, and addiction. Despite dropping out of high school, she fought her way back into education, turning her struggles into fuel for systemic change.

With a background in managing high-impact initiatives at organizations, she has focused her career on centering services on those most impacted. Now, as Senior Director, she leads a division focused on homeless youth, state and federal foster care with fierce determination, creating holistic, inclusive, and healing environments for youth impacted by systemic trauma.

Grounded in her expertise and life story, Yvonne-Monique is unapologetic in her mission to revolutionize foster care, centering youth voices and pushing for reforms that change outcomes for those who have been state-raised.