Restorative Works
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Rob van Pagée
Eigen Kracht Centrale  NL
www.eigen-kracht.nl/en
Eigen Kracht Centrale NL

• Not for profit, with a vision
  – Citizens are uniquely able to in their own situation and together with other directly affected, discuss what is going on, aimed at making a plan for a solution.

• Independent organisation
  – Implementing FGC in NL since 2000
  – 2014: 10,000 FGC’s
  – Over 60 studies in NL

• FGC in NL = Eigen Kracht-conferentie
Orthodox Child Welfare Beliefs

• Agencies know best
• Professionals are expert
• Focus is on children and parents
• Professionals are key decision makers
• Families `fit in’ to systems
• Compulsory plans
• Menu of agency services
• Worker specialisation
SUPPORTING FAMILIES: WHAT WORKS? (McKeown, 2000)

- Client-worker Relationship: 30%
- Client Trust: 15%
- Clients Social Networks and Context: 40%
- Method: 15%
most things look better when you put them in a circle
Different thinking about Families

- Active family involvement essential for good outcomes;
- Families know themselves best (source solutions);
- Families larger than parents and children;
- Children needs to maintain kinship and cultural connections wherever they live;
- Agencies must demonstrate respect for families;
- The state must defend kinship groups against unnecessary intrusion;
- Families capable of directing their own affairs;
Outcomes…trends

- On the average 13 participants
- Plans after referral:
  - 15% informal plans
  - 14% no plan
  - 71% formal conference plan
- No unsafe agreements
- Average plan = 18 agreements
  - 80% family group
  - 20% Professional help
Our ‘discovery’...

- It is **not** about the kind of problems or about people who can or cannot..

- It is all about **how** the circle can be *widened* and *addressed* with regards to their joint capacity to use their common ‘social capital’ and as first, come up with a plan.

- It is about a citizens right to stay in control over their lives
Two worlds

**System world**
- Structured
- Bureaucratic
- Formal
- Procedures
- Legal mandate
- Mo-Fri, 9 to 5
- Employment

**Life world**
- Unique
- Dynamic
- Varying levels
- Historic-knowledge
- Informal
- Unconditional-love
- Free discussion
Purposes of FGC/EK-c

- Enabling discourse between two sets of legitimate interests
- Decision-making and case planning
- Mitigating power imbalances
- Making consensus-based plans
- Ensuring that plans are effected
Conferencing is a bridge

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**FGC**
1. Information
2. Private time
3. Presenting plan

A plan of all together by co-operation and dialogue
Independence is key

- Control and direction with citizens
  - Independent community coordinators
  - CCI-staff: Coaching, Connecting, Implementation
  - Independent FGC organisation

- **Independence meaning:**
  - No interest in the outcome of the plan
  - No influence on the contents of the plan
Fair process

• A professional leading and participating a decision making process, easily gets into a split position

• Whether or not they use their power, it threatens confidence in the fairness of the decision making process

• Frieling (2008)
Social Model or Citizens Right?

- Original inspiration FGC: New Zealand - CYPFA 1989
- Agencies/professionals/countries (system world) internationally most always turn FGC into a social model

- *Empowerment can be weak and short lived unless it is embodied in institutions’*
  
  » Chambers 1997
Family group plan

• 2011 – Amendment CP & Youth Care Act
  – Provides(..) with the opportunity to first construe an action plan, or to adapt an existing plan…

• 2014 – New Law on Child Welfare
  • Family group plan.. Right to first make an aid or action plan as prepared by the parents together with (..)

• In progress: involuntary placement in psychiatry
Returns for citizens

- More support from their own people
  - Rapid improvement situation
- More care by their own people;
- Integral plan
  - 4 areas of life
  - 18 agreements per plan
  - Faster safety and decrease professional concerns;
- Citizen remains the owner of problem/conflict;
- Directorship over their life with citizens
Returns for State & Agencies

- Increase social cohesion in society;
- Responsibility where it belongs;
- Less congested professionals;
  - No undue burden on shoulders,
- Control by citizens;
  - Thus better collaboration citizens and service providers
- More efficient use of resources.
FGC is system change

That it is going to be normal to gather a circle of people for:

• Settlement conflict victim and offender,
• Solving neighborhood conflicts,
• In case of domestic violence in a family,
• To keep a young person in school,
• To countering the risks of obesity
• To fight unemployment, debts…
• …
Focus on social returns

- Less demand for intensive care
- Less demand by substitution
  - vanNaem 2010
- Families prevented 22 of 24 threatening supervision orders (n-100)
  - Schuurman/Mulder (2011)
- 100 MPF’s: at least € 4,8 million
  - Jagtenberg (2011)
- Savings CPS Amsterdam 21.000 euro per child
  - Schuurman/Mulder (2012)
Where can this be done...?  
*Everywhere and always*...

- **Families and individuals,**
  - Youth, Family, Vulnerable people: poverty, homeless, unemployed, debt problems, DV, health, multi problem families, in and out jail, evictions...

- **After wrongdoing and crime,**
  - Justice, Education, Business & Organisations,

- **For groups, neighbourhood or district,**
  - Issues in neighbourhood, Workplace,

- **Maters at school,**
  - Education, Restorative approaches
Renewal position professional

- Different position of the professional in making plans.
  - Rely on strength of families and social networks, (bravery, courage)
  - Providing the requested services;
- Activating the resilience of society
- Professionalism measured by:
  - increase of solidarity in society rather than number of interventions.
Conferencing is a modern democratic welfare approach

- A pathway for modern socialized citizens to recognize and shoulder the responsibility for the public matter; - Mijnhardt
- Conferencing is answer to the suggestion that public services is a market; - Mijnhardt
- Is a crucial vehicle of empowerment where spaces are created for active responsibility to displace predominantly passive statist responsibility; - Braithwaite
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