

Social Network Strategies

in Foster Care

&

Prima Foster Care

Innovation in the Province Limburg

TOPIC

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Rorschach, 22 September 2009

Continuity and Social Network Strategies

- Three little stories with big implications on a lifetime
 - Michael
 - aunt Fatima
 - family Jansen

All about Foster Care, Continuity and Social
Network Strategies

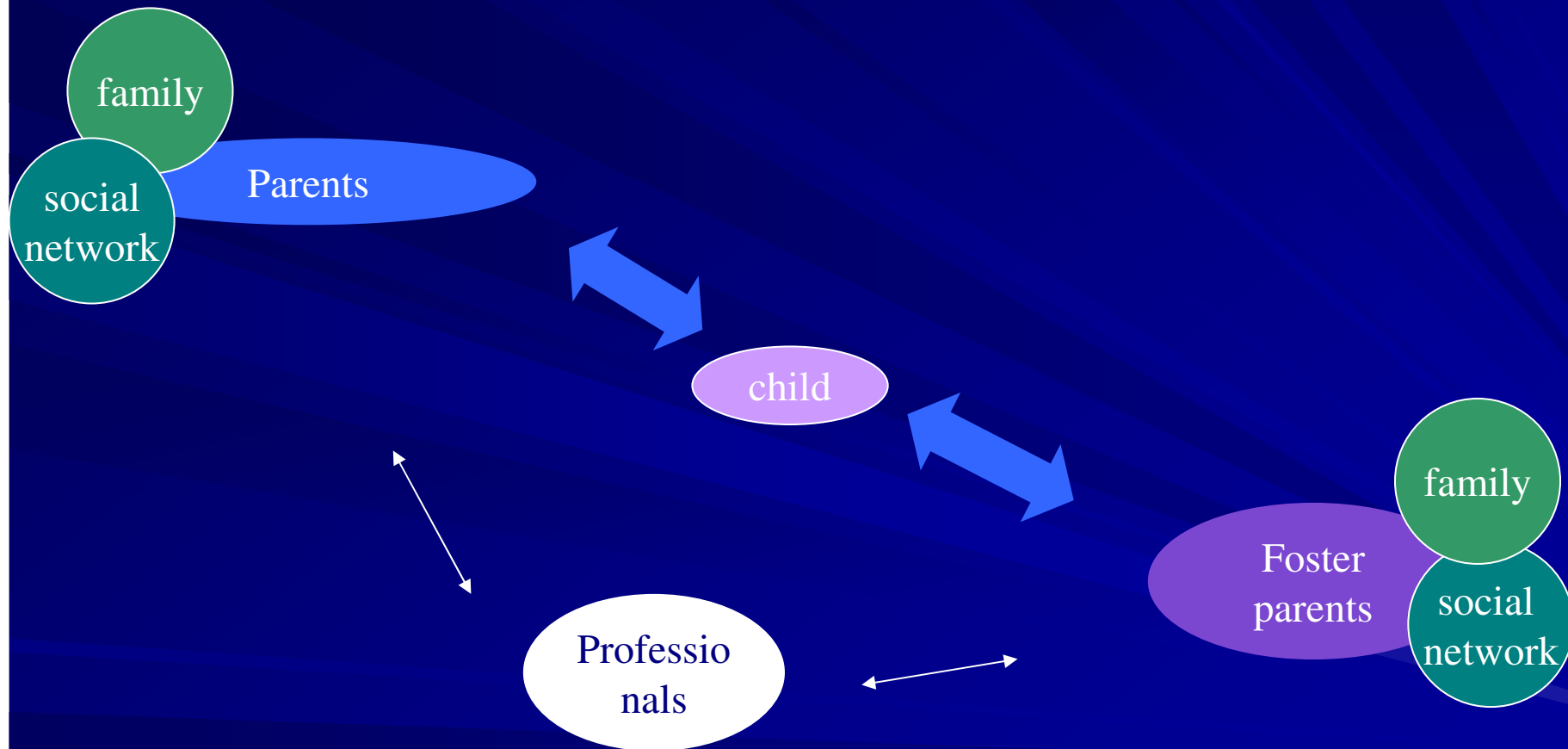
Social Network Strategies



Family & social network

Experts offside!

Social Network Strategies



Family and social Network: the experts

Professionals:

just add something only when the family
or the social network don't know it or
can't do it by their own!

You can take out the child of a family, but
you can't take the family out of a child!

~

People has the right to have a maximum
say in decisions about their own life

~

Social Network Strategies

Change

- Since 1989 in the Netherlands:
Kinshipcare an item; first polarization ~
later dialogue
- Kinship care = family and social network
- 2006: 40 – 70 % kinship care
- 2006: Campaign for new foster parents
- research: from the people who didn't
want to have a foster child in their family:
60% says that they will take a foster child
when it is a child from their family or social
network who needs help
- 2008: new campaign ≠ kinshipcare

Cooperation with the family and the social network

- Not only kinship and network care, but cooperation with family and social network
 - from invisible partner to involvement to participation
- Change for professionals in thinking and acting
 - Empowerment
 - Activation
 - The direction for the family and the social network
 - An other role and position for the professional
- Change in policy and organization for child protection services and foster care organizations

Direction by the family

- The parents, the child and other important members from the family and social network
 - design a plan for the future of the child
 - take the decisions
 - agree upon the way they will realize the plan
 - ask for the professional help they need to realize their plan

Kinship and Network Care; the method

■ Three stages

- the start module
- the cooperation in a family team
- the after-care

Stage 1: the start module

- Three months intensive; a mutual decision to cooperate from the family and foster care services
- The parents, children and family and social network make a plan for the future of the children
- The professionals support the process to the plan
- The professionals support the family in what they need to guarantee the safety, development and continuity for the child

Activities in the startmodule

- Exploration and analyze from the family and the social network
 - genogram, ecogram, sociogram
 - lifeline
- Family Network Conference
- Competence balance
- Indication mirror
- Decision to cooperate

Family Network Conference

- Parents and children have a meeting with all important members of the family and the social network to make a plan for the future of the children.
- The professionals accept the plan unconditionally, except when the safety, development and continuity of the child are not guaranteed in the plan.
- A professional coordinate and organize the Family Network Meeting together with the parent and the children and eventually an other family member.

Starting points

- Professionals must have the trust that families and social network have the will, the ability and the skills to make a safe plan for the child.
- The professionals defines their role together with parents, children and other important people for them
- The coordinator is one of the professionals who is working with the family.

The three stages of a Family Network Conference

- Parents, children and for them important family and network members are coming together with the coordinator and other professionals to receive information.
- Parents, children and for them important family and network members have private time; all the professionals, inclusive the coordinator, leave the room
- Parents, children, family and social network present the plan to the coordinator and eventually some professionals.

Stage 1: Information

- The professionals gave an overview about the situation of the child and tell about their professional responsibilities.
- The professionals / specialists gave information about the possibilities for professional help.
- The participants have the opportunity to ask some questions.
- The questions which had to be answered in the plan, will be written down for the family and social network.

Stage 2: Private time

- In private time the parents, children, family and social network can take as long as they need to answers the questions and to make a plan
- They design an action plan
- Questions are about:
 - ⇓ Special needs of the child
 - ⇓ Support for the child
 - ⇓ What are the sources in the family and the social network to help child and parents?
 - ⇓ Who is responsible for what? etc

Stage 3: Presentation

- Parents, children, family and social network present the plan to the coordinator and eventually other professionals.
- The coordinator checks the commitment about the plan
- The plan will be accepted, only when the safety, development and continuity of the child is not guaranteed in the
- The further role of the coordinator depends on the plan.

Possible outcomes

- Parents, children, family and social network will realize the plan without the support or help of professionals
- Parents, children, family and social network will realize the plan with the support or help of professionals
- The child will stay by (one of) the parents, by a kinship or social network family, by a regular foster family or in residential care.

Stage 2:

Cooperation in family team

- Parents, children, foster parents, two or three members of the family or network and professionals
 - have meetings on regularly basic
 - speak about the progress of the plan
 - make adjustments when and where needed
 - have the direction in the case
 - can decide to have another family network conference
 - can invite a new professional, can decide that a professional is no longer needed or professionals are not needed at all because they can do it by themselves.

Philosophie

- Build on the strength of a team
- Use the implicit and explicit knowledge of the team members
- Operating as a team is much stronger and powerful than a lot of individual actions
- The team is the heart of a case / an organization
- The development of the method, organization and policy must be aligned
- The content of the case directed the strategy
- Experience helps to become a master

Stage 3: After care

- Kinship and network families accept more than regular foster families that children return to their parents
- Kinship and network families play most of the time an important role in the rest of the life of the child
- Some kinship or network parents want to become a regular foster parent for other children

Social Network Strategies & Foster Care

■ New developments

– looking what connections between the families and social network of regular foster parents and parents will bring them and the child

- connections
- support
- continuity
- understanding
- cooperation

Prima Foster Care
4 x i

Innovation Foster Care
Province Limburg

Prima Pleegzorg 4 x i

■ Integrality

– Cooperation +

- Parents, foster parents, family, social network and professionals
- Professionals together

■ Intersectional

– Connecting different perspectives; one plan, one intervention

■ Intercultural

– Values, norms and respect

■ Innovative

– Innovation is to be conscious how to organize

Ambitions Prima Foster Care

- Continuity for the child
 - As less as change as possible for the child
 - Cooperation of the family and social network
- Continuity in professional help
 - As less as change as possible
 - By change same policy
 - More professionals were needed, less were possible
 - One professional for different children in a family
- Tailor-made Foster Care
 - More intervention and coaching when needed, less were it can.

Ambitions Foster Care

- One child, one family, one plan, *one responsibility or on responsible professional!*
- Different organizations, one plan!
 - Organizations are model for parents, youth, foster parents, family and social network
- Integral cooperation on all levels
 - Acknowledge expertise each other
 - Complementation to each other
- Child focused: dialogue and within context

How did we get there?



March 2007

Afstemming in de pleegzorg

leren en ontwikkelen in de pleegzorg

- één gezicht Pleegzorg Limburg
- kleurrijke pleegzorg
- ouders & kk in de pleegzorg
- sociale netwerkstrategieën

Integral foster care

V
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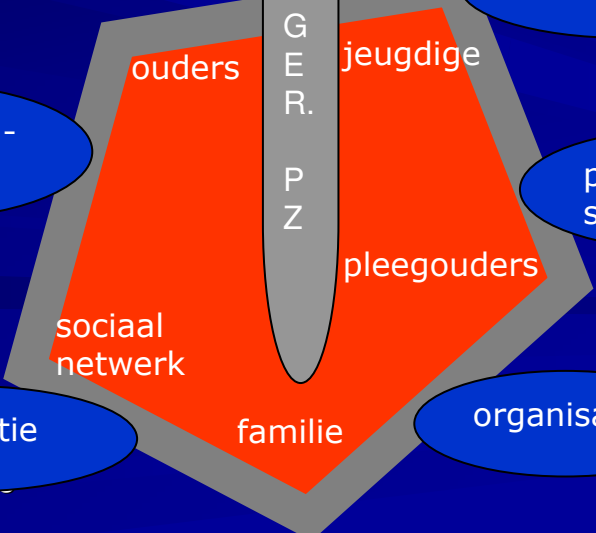
professionalisering

continuïteit

pleegouderschap

participatie

organisatie



april – oktober 2008

Communities of Practice

Xonar

Rubicon

POR

Bureau Jeugdzorg

Stichting Jeugd-zorgvragers



NVP

pleegouders
jongeren

William Schrikkergroep

AKJ

De Mutsaersstichting

PPM

Platform Allochtone
Zorgvragers

Stichting Meer Kleur en Kwaliteit

Building powerfull ideas with
(in)formal knowledge of participants
and (in)formal knowlegde of
professionals.

Positive and constructive

Creative thinking

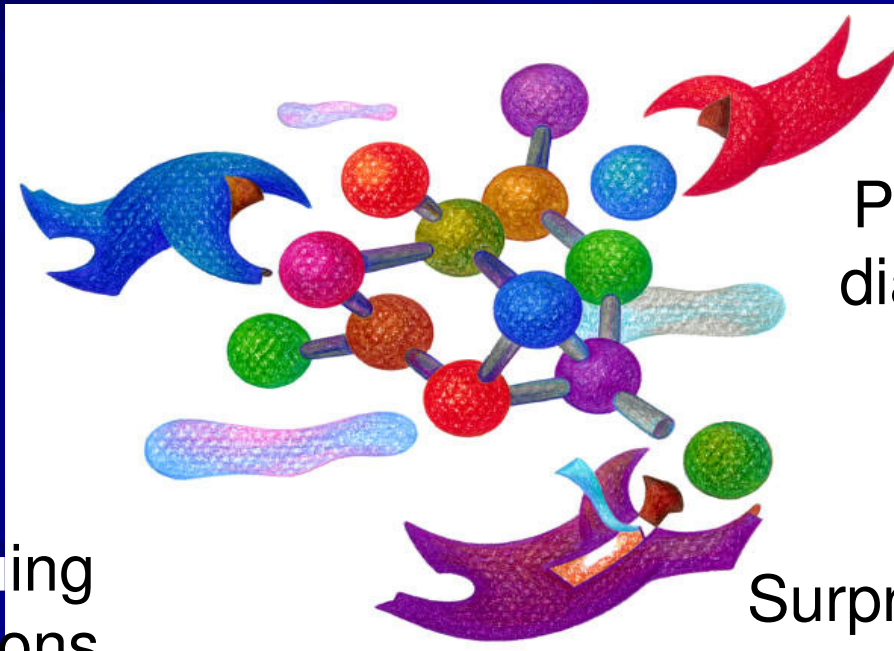


alignment

system thinking

Clearing insights

Inspiring
meetings



Powerful
dialogues

Many guests
online

Intriguing
questions

Surprising ideas

Lines of development innovation plan 2009 - 2012

- Child focused Foster care
 - Respect, attitude and cooperation
- Social Network Strategies
 - Kinship, network and regular care
- Parents and youth in Foster Care
- Colorful foster Care (intercultural)
- Foster Care Limburg: one face!
 - Servicedesk Foster Care
- Learning and development in Foster Care

Innovation traject

- Innovation by doing!
- From best practices to next practices!
- The experiences will be leading for an framework of methodological working
- Works like a snowball ..
- Conscious organizing: tailor made ask for excellence!

Good ideas are not adopted
automatically. They must be
driven into practice with
courageous patience

Hyman Rickover