Innovations in Relative Care

A Case Management Model for Assessment

Dr Valerie O’Brien

School of Applied Social Science
University College Dublin

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My contribution to the field

- Research in the area
- Demonstration projects
- Teaching and training
- Frontline expertise
- Ongoing consultation
- Decision-making in quasi-judicial context
Assessment Challenges of Relative Care

• Emergency placement permitted which leaves full assessment incomplete
• Statutory requirement of 12 weeks to complete but time frame not adhered to generally
• HSE has Accountability to multiple stakeholders
Characteristic of current model

- Crisis in family system / HSE system
- Superimposed from traditional foster care
- Some instances of adapting tools: Form E/ F and some innovations FRG tool
- Essentially two worker model with two managers involved
- Multiple roles and tasks
- Long delays in completing the task

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Some reasons for the delay

• Organizational
  – Availability and use of resources
  – Case management system in place
  – Skill level

• Complexity in Network of relationships
  – Ambivalence, lack of clarity

• Policy / Legislative / Best practice / Resources / Values
Stages of Relative Care Assessment

1. Need for care placement decided
2. Mobilise Network
3. Make emergency placement
4. Stat reviews
5. Activate family placement worker
6. Family network meeting
7. Needs appraisal
8. Assessment complete
9. Approval committee and decision

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Context

What do we want to do?

Values

Law
What must we do?

Policy
What should we do?

Resources
What can we do?
Pragmatics

Route to care

What is already known

Time indicated

Child and family wishes

Locate emergency placement

How best to meet them

Outcomes

Outcomes

Child needs placement

Wellbeing

Supported

Safety

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A relative care placement

How do we know we have the best option?

How do we know the child is safe?

Deal with family dynamics

Have insight to self

Capacities to foster

Understand job

Can support and will let agency support

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Overview of 12 week requirement

Agency – decision if appropriate

Family

Child

Decision making

Information

Needs / capacities
Strengths
Vulnerabilities

Analysis

Supports
Supervision requirements
Interventions — therapeutic

Synthesis

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Assessment

• Not an end in itself
• Not an exact science: Predictive
• Need for honesty, clarity and work with ambivalence
• Utilise other decision making and accounting processes in system
Demonstration Project

What worked well
• Research into practice
• Tools brought forward
• Expertise in area
• Consultation / leadership
• Organisational interest

Challenges
• Policy not explicit
• Wider change reinforced 2 worker model
• Spread too widely
• Effort of champions diluted
• PC : Criteria
Assessment needs to

• Appraise / Open up – positioning
• Clarity re expectations for meeting child’s needs
• Care plan as clear as possible
• See family as resource but agency has final decision – accountability
• Network of relationships complex
• Supports, needs, vulnerabilities and strengths
Case Management — Back Bone

Child needs placement

Co-ordination  Communications  Collaborations

Law  Case management  Policy  B.P.

Consultation to – network clinical

Recommendation

Placement

Sign report re child and family

Decision

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Tasks for assessment

Child and family worker

- Care plan
- Contact
- Support children and family
- Intervention
- Assess

Locate emergency place

12 weeks

Case management

Placement

TL Manager

Family placement worker

3 Cs

12 weeks
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Innovative relative care

- Flexible
- Safe
- Values
- Policy
- Competent
- Structures
- Relationship building
- Legislation
- Analysis
- Knowledge systems complexity
- Child and Family
- Understanding and reflexive
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Co-ordination
- Best practice

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Tools for assessment model

- Template for final report: child and relative
  - Utilise time factor, reviews
- Stages and tasks
  - Key clinical and supervision questions
  - Supervision / consultation template
- Genogram, ecomap and sociogram
- Family network meetings: purpose
- Agency and family concerns template
- Support and supervision template
- Typology of network of relationships
- Interview tools: biographical / multi media

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Method

- Not end in itself: utilise review structures
- Report is synthesis of information
- Two workers: tasks and role orientated
- Family placement worker time-limited (rolling resource to ensure availability)
- Link worker
- One manager during 12 weeks period
- Assessment / intervention simultaneously:
Theory / Values

• Family Care Safe
• Needs, supports and supervision
• Systemic: circularity
• Position of agency: outside family
• Self reflexivity
• Ambivalence
Implementations

• The problem of relative care assessment
• An innovative model
• Model adaptations required?
• The potential to meet the long-term need
• The option of addressing the immediate problems faced in relative care assessment
• Retrospective application?

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Managing the backlog

• Analysis of existing files:
• Pattern of Information
• Present network typology to aid analysis
• Distinguish supervision/support axis
• Appraise against care plan & review data
• Family Network meeting to address need, support and safety
• Template for Worker and PC Report and Decision making

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