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Innovations in Relative Care

A Case Management Model for Assessment

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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

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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

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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

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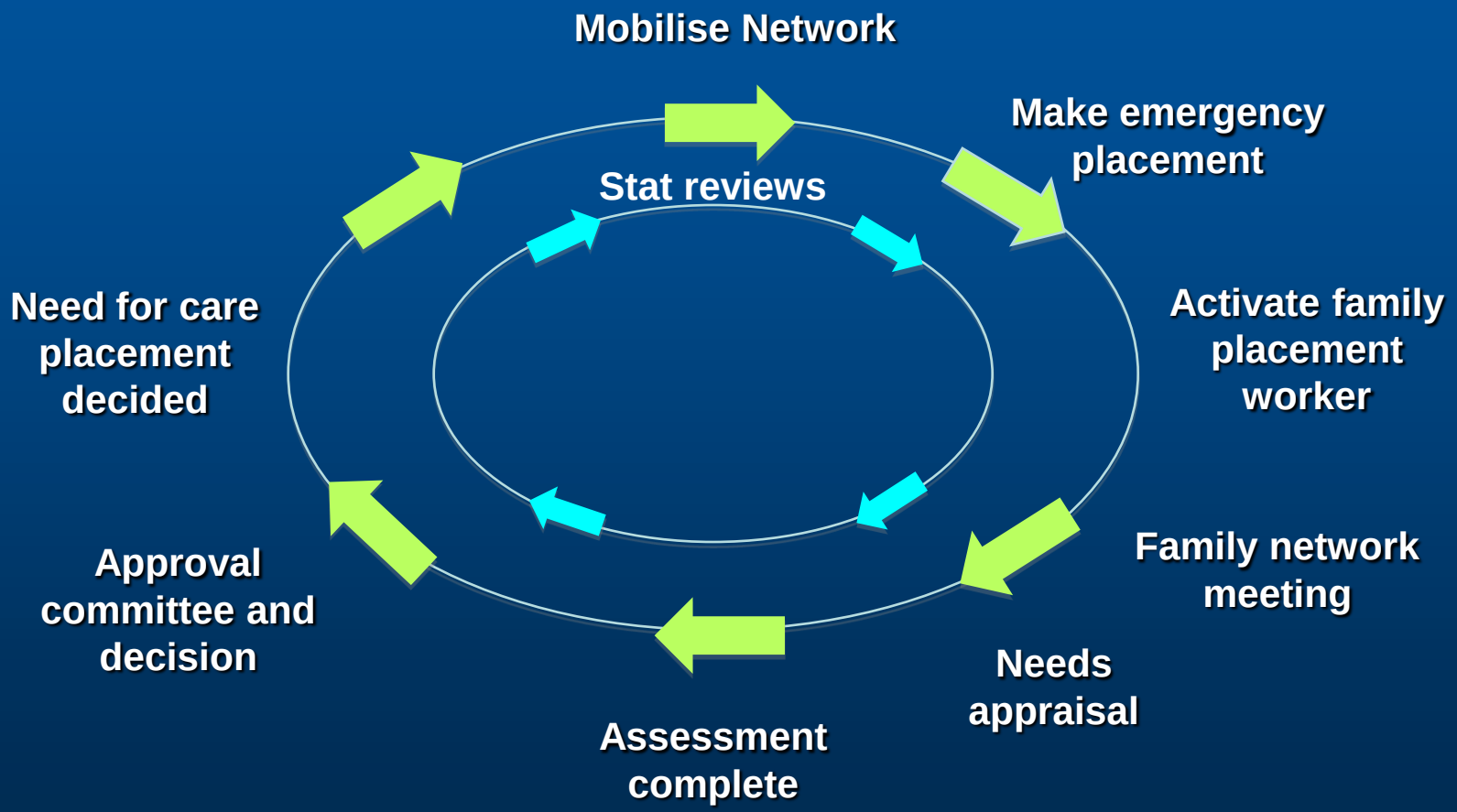
Stages of Relative Care Assessment



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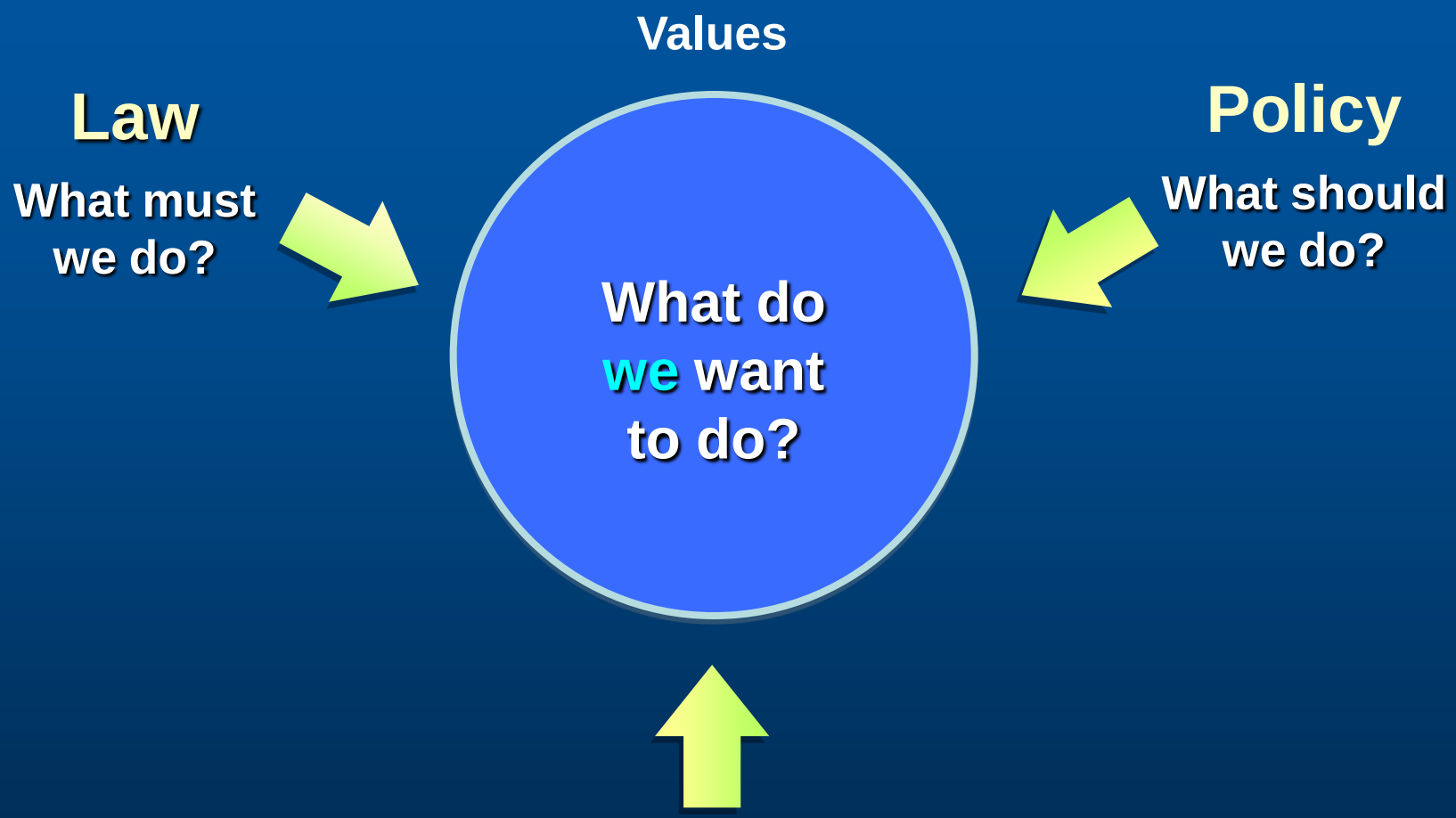
Context



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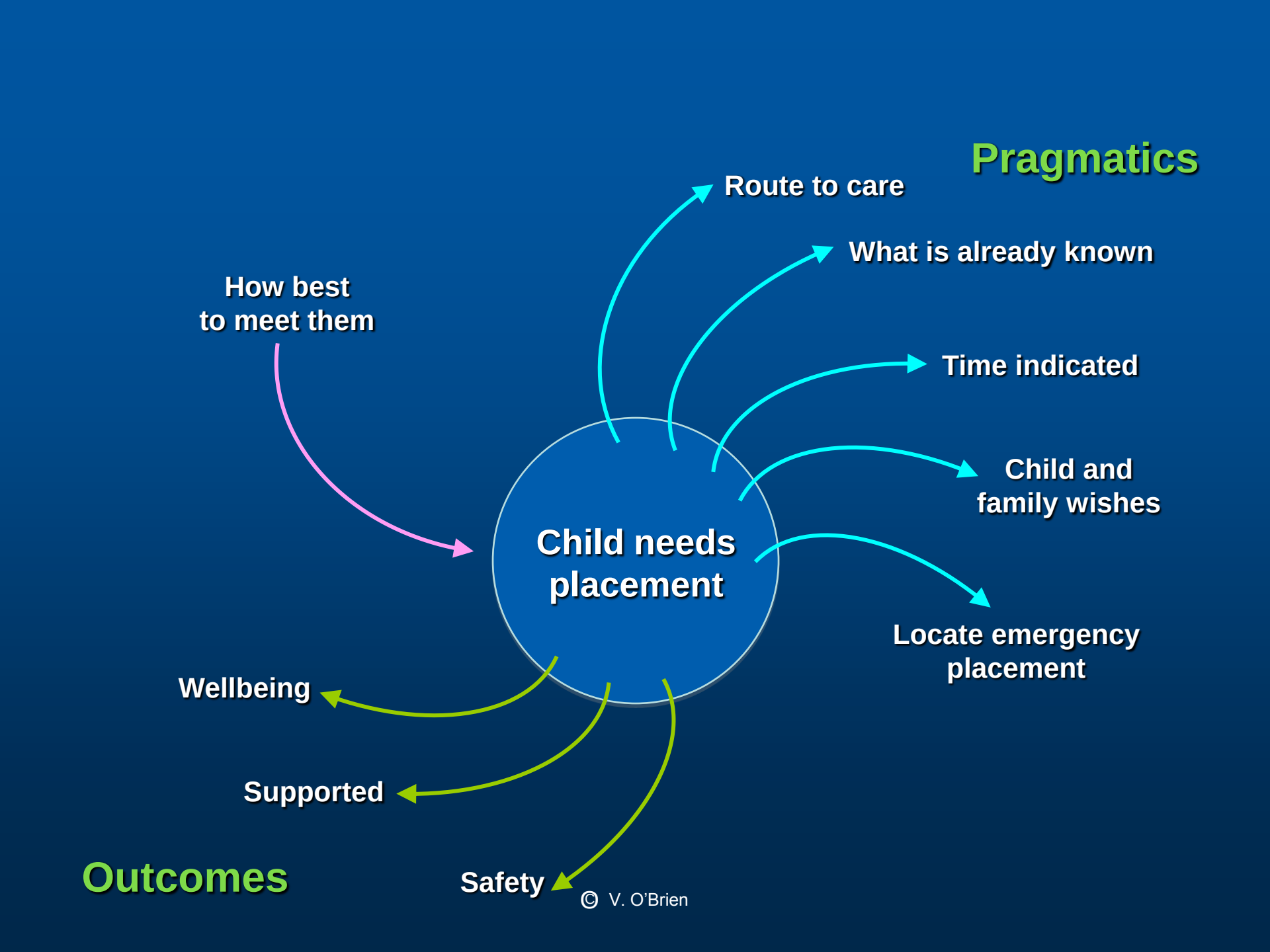
Pragmatics
Route to care
What is already known
How best
to meet them
Time indicated
Child and
family wishes
Child needs
placement
Locate emergency
placement
Wellbeing
Supported
Outcomes
Safety
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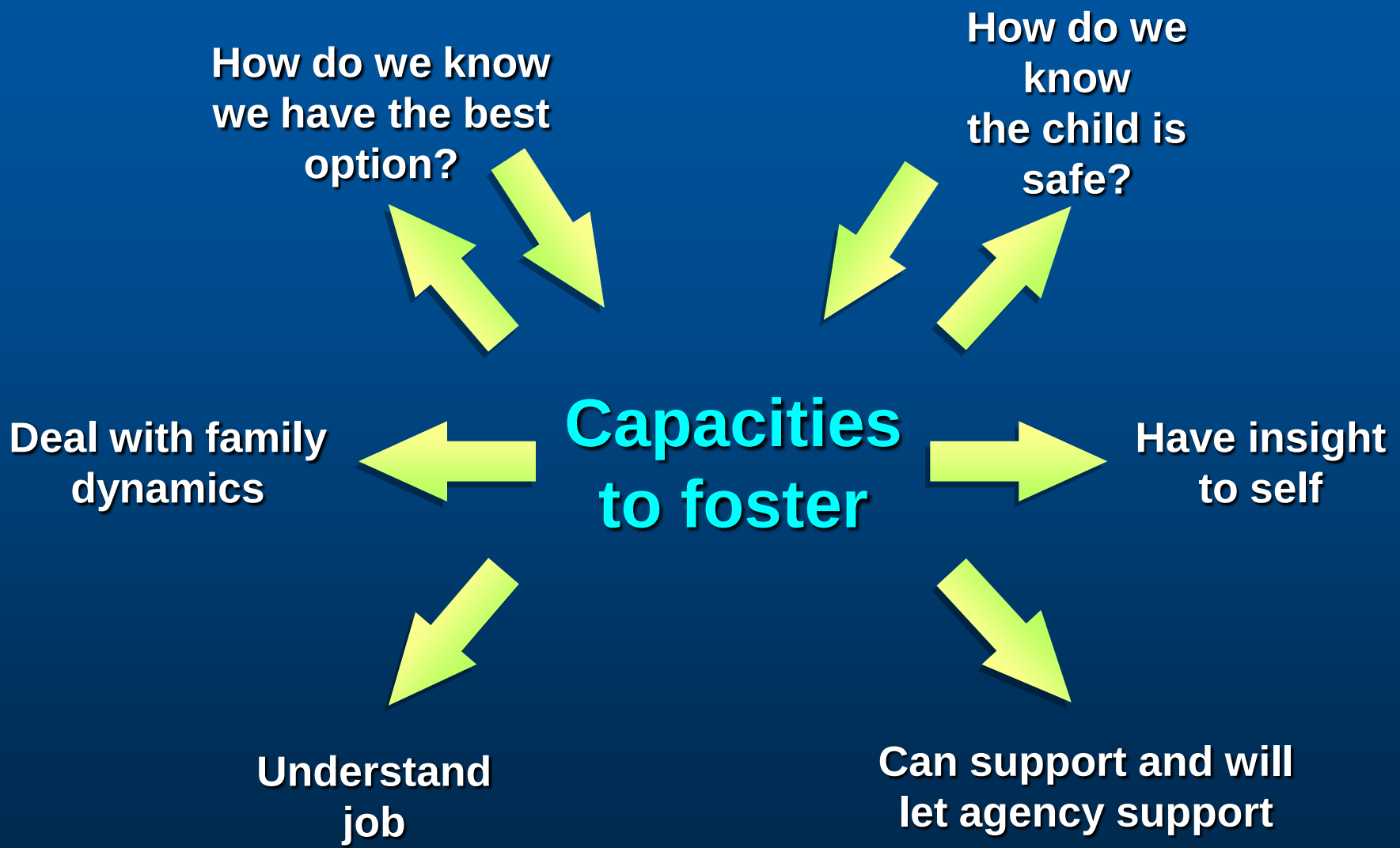
A relative care placement



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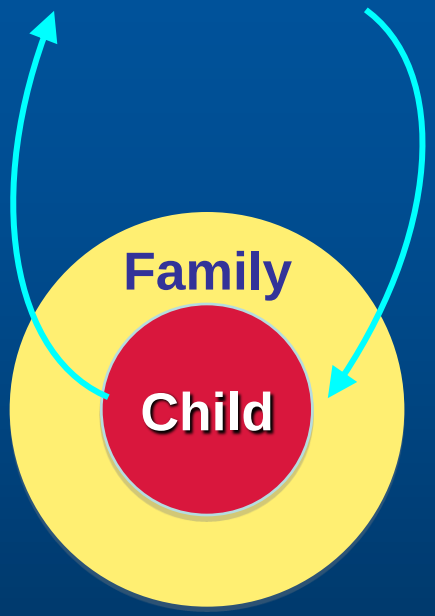
Overview of 12 week requirement

Agency – decision if appropriate



Decision making

Information

Needs / capacities

Strengths

Vulnerabilities

Analysis

Synthesis

Supports

Supervision requirements

Interventions — therapeutic

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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

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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

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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

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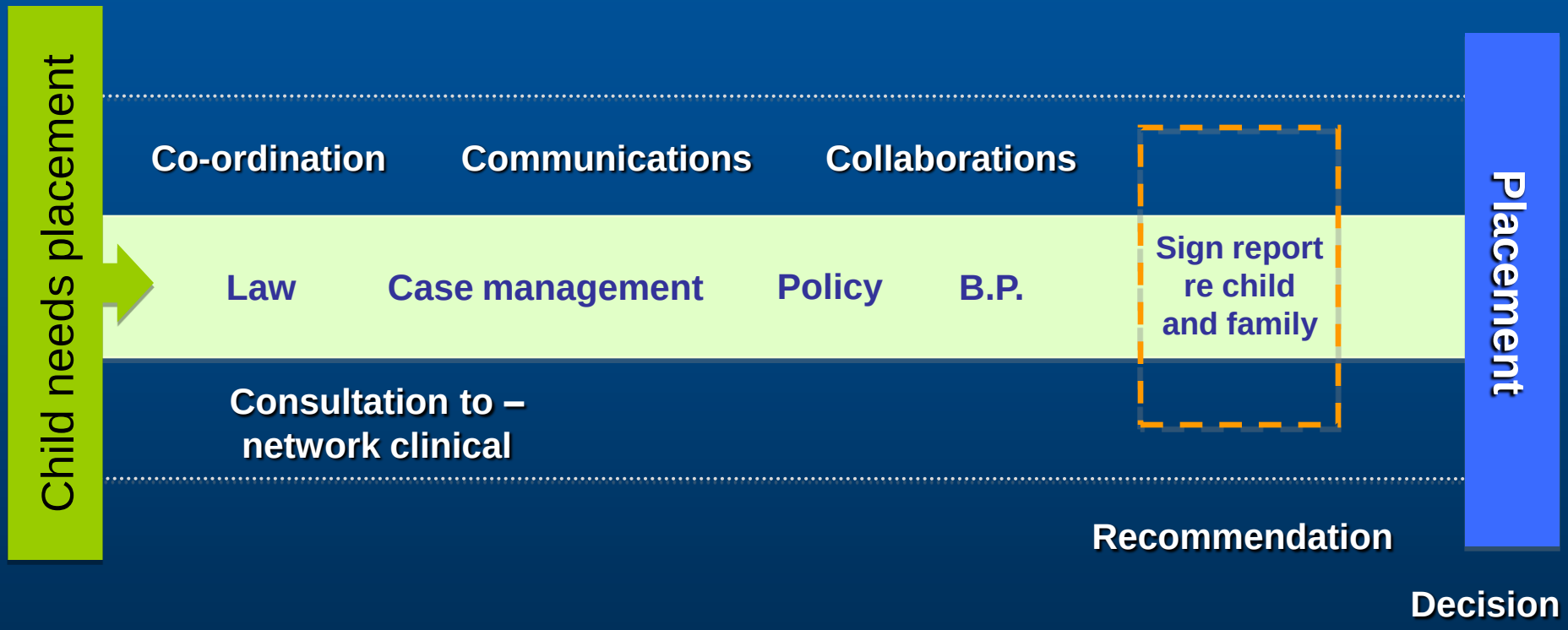
Case Management — Back Bone



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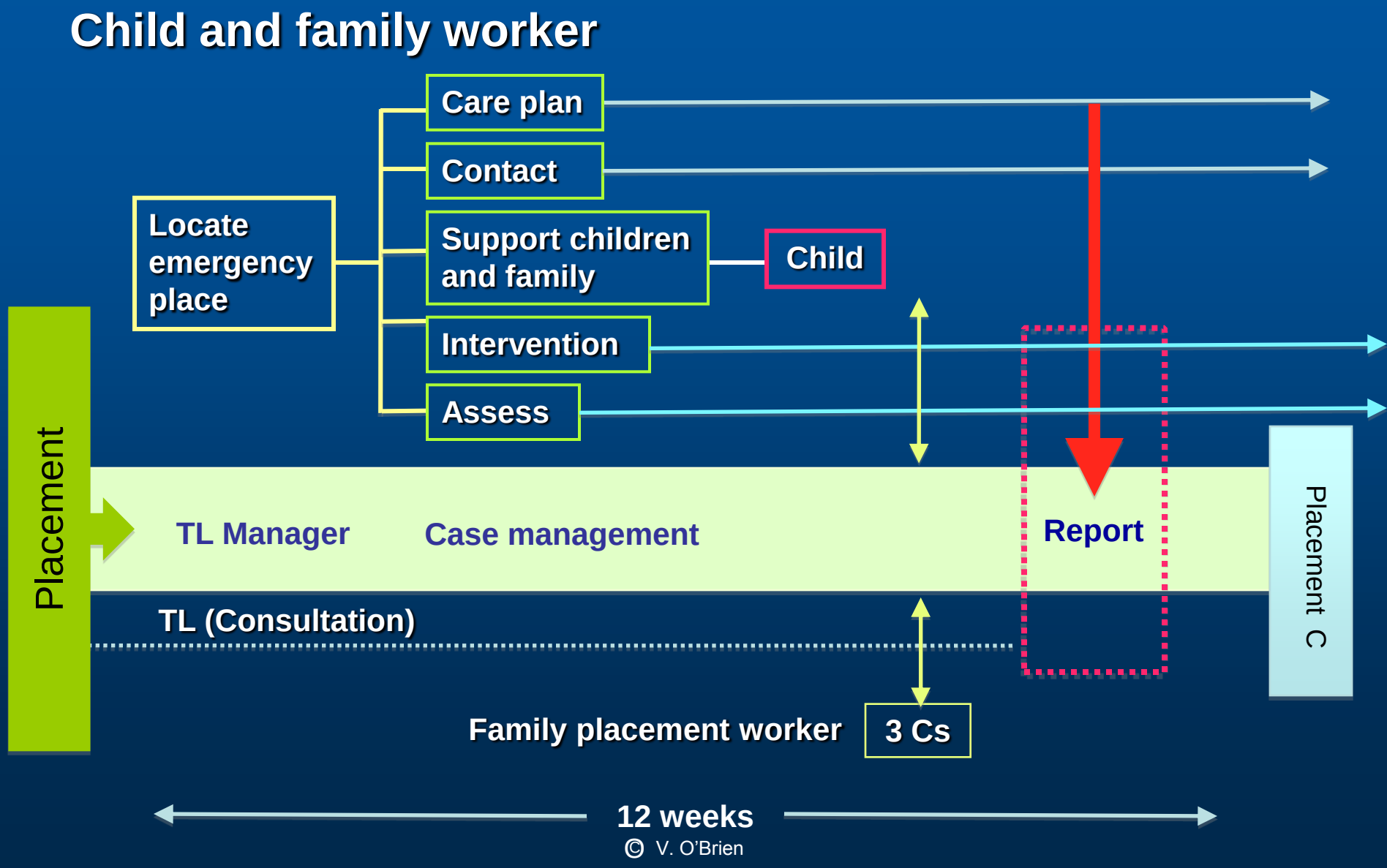
Tasks for assessment



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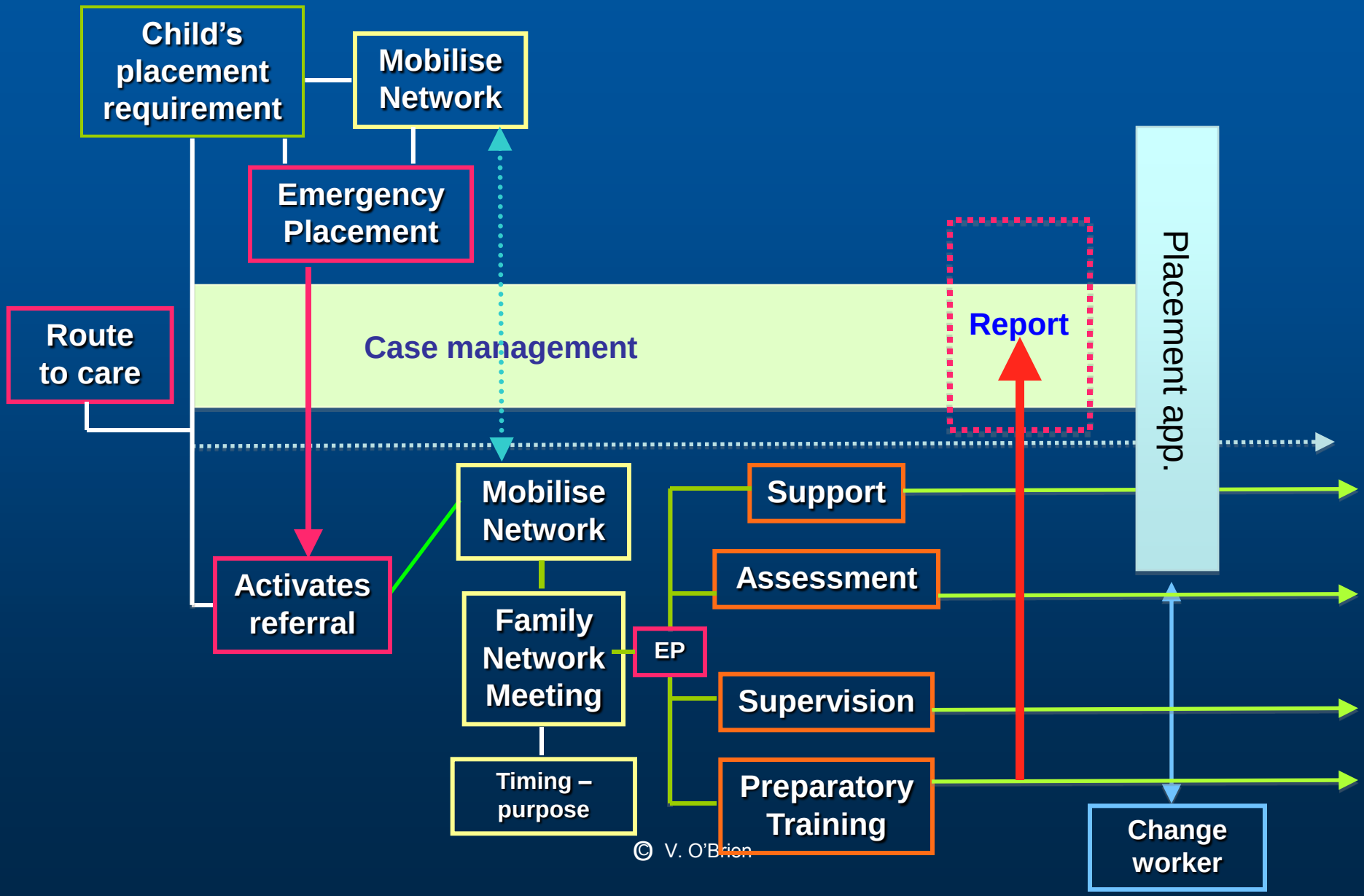
Tasks for Family Placement worker



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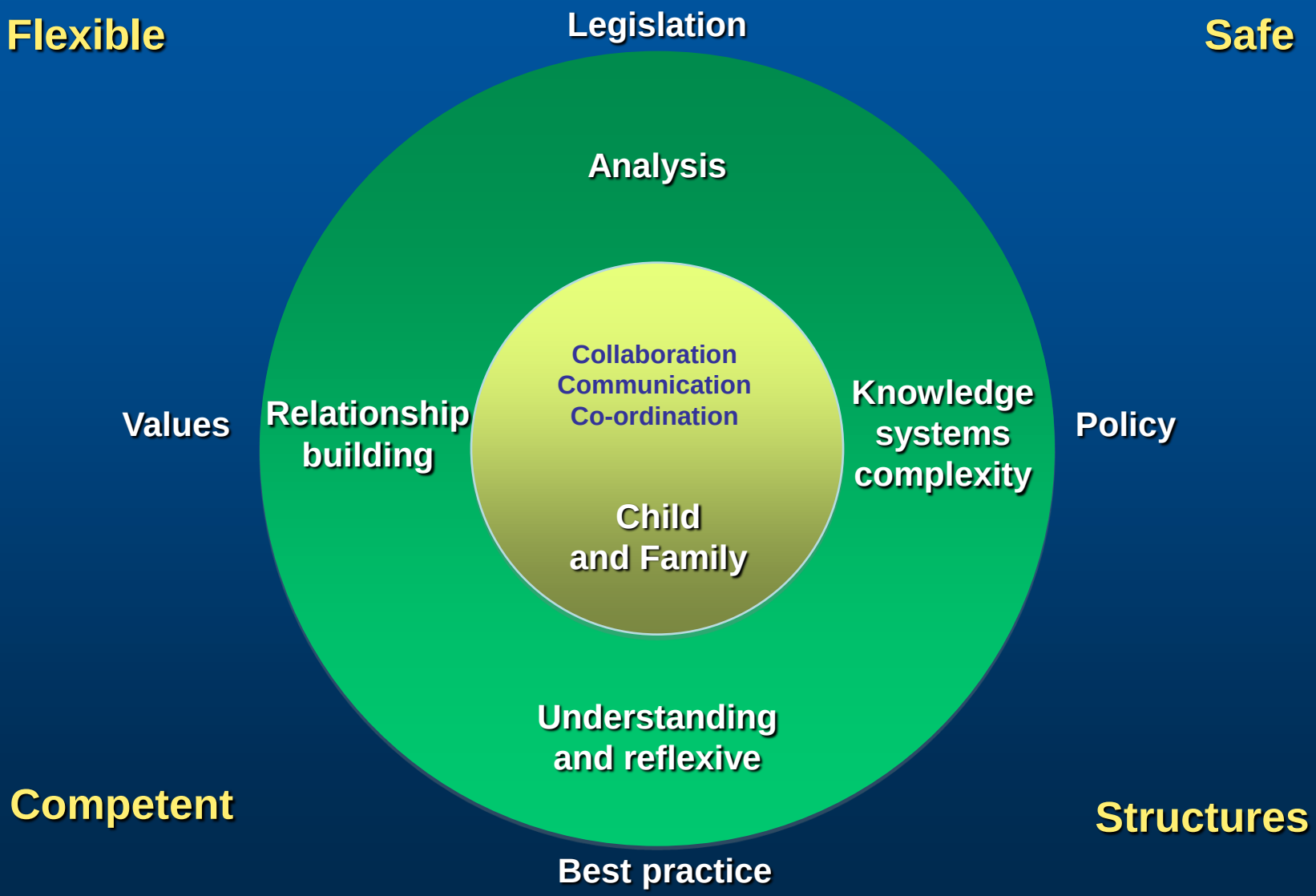
Innovative relative care



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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:

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Theory / Values

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

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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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