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<th>Innovations in relative and kinship care : a case management model for assessment</th>
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Innovations in Relative Care

A Case Management Model for Assessment

Dr Valerie O’Brien
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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
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
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

Outcomes

- How best to meet them
- Child needs placement
- Safety
- Supported
- Wellbeing
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

Capacities to foster

Have insight to self

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

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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
Case Management — Back Bone

Child needs placement

Co-ordination  Communications  Collaborations

Law  Case management  Policy  B.P.

Consultation to – network clinical

Recommendation

Decision

Sign report re child and family

Placement

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Tasks for assessment

Child and family worker

- Locate emergency place
- Care plan
- Contact
- Support children and family
- Intervention
- Assess
- Child
- TL Manager
- Case management
- TL (Consultation)
- Family placement worker
- 3 Cs
- Report
- Placement

12 weeks
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Tasks for Family Placement worker

- Child's placement requirement
- Mobilise Network
- Emergency Placement
- Case management
- Report
- Placement app.
- Route to care
- Activates referral
- Family Network Meeting
- Timing – purpose
- Support
- Assessment
- Supervision
- Preparatory Training
- Change worker

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Innovative relative care

- Flexible
- Safe
- Values
- Policy
- Competent
- Structures

Legislation

Analysis

Knowledge systems complexity

Collaboration Communication Co-ordination

Child and Family

Understanding and reflexive

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
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?
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