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<th>Innovations in relative and kinship care : a case management model for assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Authors(s)</td>
<td>O'Brien, Valerie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publication date</td>
<td>2010-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item record/more information</td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10197/3040">http://hdl.handle.net/10197/3040</a></td>
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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
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
Stages of Relative Care Assessment

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

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Context

Values

Law
What must we do?

Policy
What should we do?

Resources
What can we do?

What do we want to do?
Child needs placement

Outcomes

Safety
Supported
Wellbeing

Route to care
What is already known
Time indicated
Child and family wishes
Locate emergency placement

How best to meet them

Pragmatics

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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

Understand job

Can support and will let agency support

Capacities to foster

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Overview of 12 week requirement

Decision making

Agency – decision if appropriate

Family

Child

Information

Analysis

Synthesis

Needs / capacities

Supports

Strengths

Supervision requirements

Vulnerabilities

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
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
Tasks for assessment

Child and family worker

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

Locate emergency place

Placement

TL Manager

Case management

TL (Consultation)

Family placement worker

12 weeks
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Innovative relative care

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Co-ordination

Analysis

Knowledge systems complexity

Child and Family

Understanding and reflexive

Best practice

Competent

Values

Relationship building

Flexible

Safe

Policy

Structures

Legislation
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?
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