



Restorative Works

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Eigen Kracht Centrale NL

www.eigen-kracht.nl/en

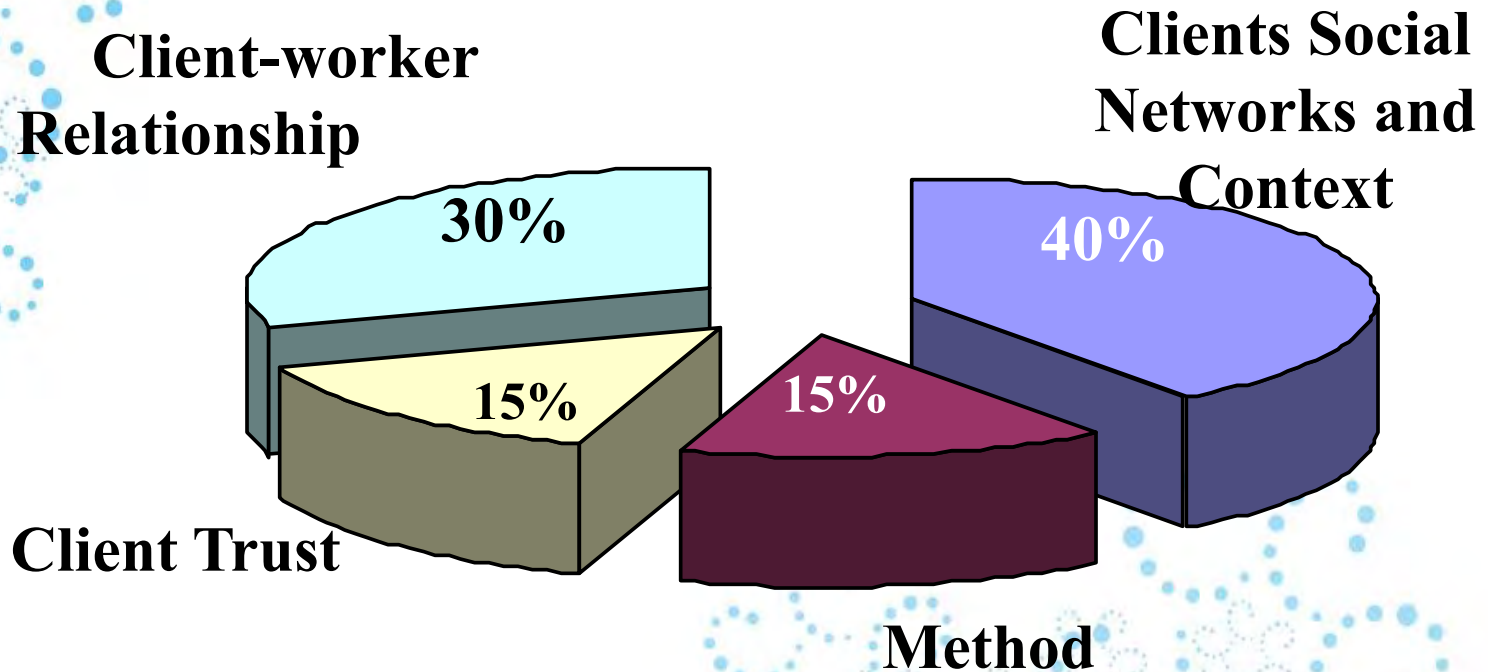
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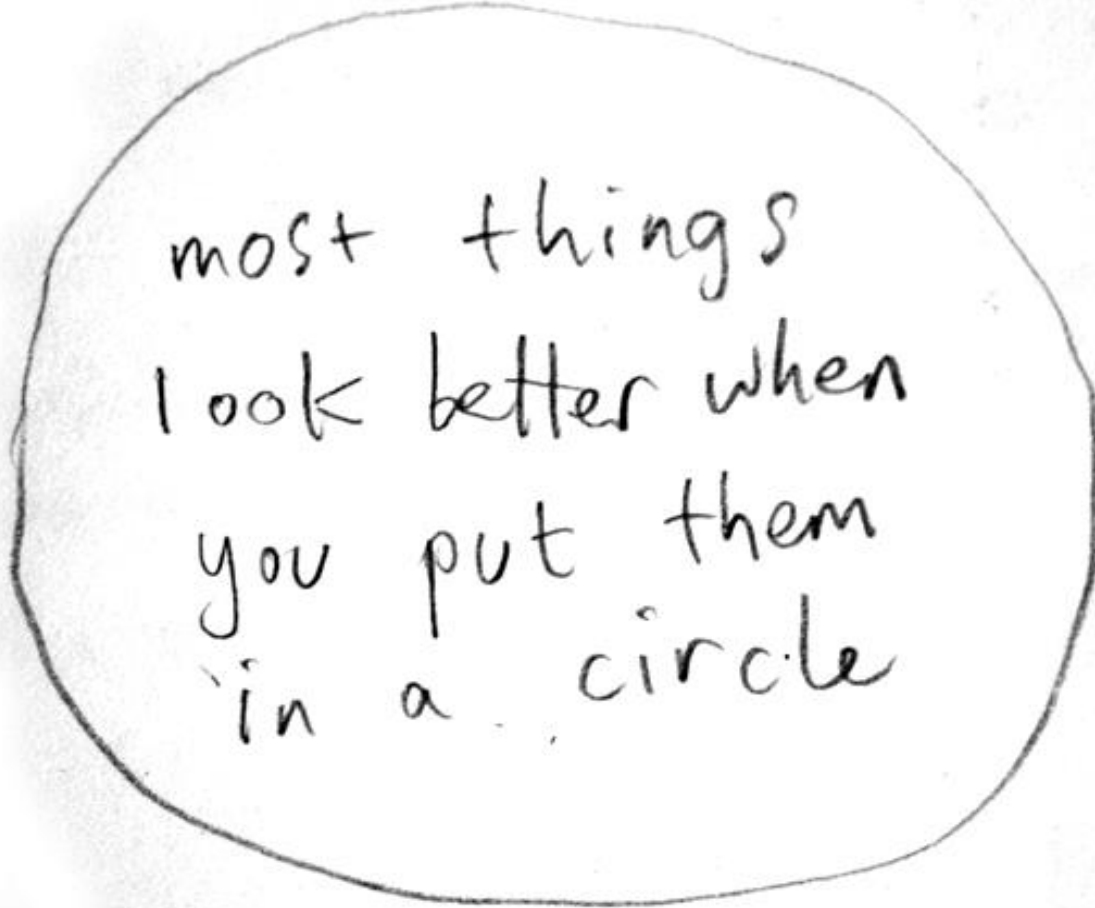
- **Not for profit, with a vision**
 - *Citizens are uniquely able to in their own situation and together with other directly affected, discuss what is going on, aimed at making a plan for a solution.*
- **Independent organisation**
 - Implementing FGC in NL since 2000
 - 2014: 10.000 FGC's
 - Over 60 studies in NL
- ***FGC in NL = Eigen Kracht-conferentie***

Orthodox Child Welfare Beliefs

- Agencies know best
- Professionals are expert
- Focus is on children and parents
- Professionals are key decision makers
- Families `fit in' to systems
- Compulsory plans
- Menu of agency services
- Worker specialisation

SUPPORTING FAMILIES: *WHAT WORKS?* (McKeown, 2000)





most things
look better when
you put them
in a circle



Different thinking about Families

- Active family involvement essential for good outcomes;
- Families know themselves best (source solutions);
- Families larger than parents and children;
- Children needs to maintain kinship and cultural connections wherever they live;
- Agencies must demonstrate respect for families;
- The state must defend kinship groups against unnecessary intrusion;
- Families capable of directing their own affairs;

NL: Outcomes...trends

- On the average 13 participants
- Plans after referral:
 - 15 % informal plans
 - 14 % no plan
 - 71 % formal conference plan
- No unsafe agreements
- Average plan = 18 agreements
 - 80% family group
 - 20% Professional help

Our 'discovery'...

- It is **not** about the kind of problems or about people who can or cannot..
- It is all about **how** the circle can be *widened* and *addressed* with regards to their joint capacity to use their common 'social capital' and as first, come up with a plan.
- It is about a citizens right to stay in control over their lives

Two worlds

Systemworld

Structured
Bureaucratic
Formal
Procedures
Legal mandate
Mo-Fri , 9 tot 5
Employment



Life world

Unique
Dynamic
Varying levels
Historic-
knowledge
Informal
Unconditional-
love
Free discussion

Purposes of FGC/EK-c

- Enabling discourse between two sets of legitimate interests
- Decision-making and case planning
- Mitigating power imbalances
- Making consensus-based plans
- Ensuring that plans are effected

Conferencing is a bridge

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independent community coordinator

FGC

1. Information
2. Private time
3. Presenting plan

A plan of all together by
co-operation and dialogue

Independence is key

- **Control and direction with citizens**
 - Independent community coordinators
 - CCI-staff: Coaching, Connecting, Implementation
 - Independent FGC organisation
- ***Independence meaning:***
 - *No interest in the outcome of the plan*
 - *No influence on the contents of the plan*

Fair process

- A professional leading and participating a decision making process, easily gets into a split position
- Whether or not they use their power, it threatens confidence in the fairness of the decision making process

• *Frieling (2008)*

Social Model or Citizens Right?

- Original inspiration FGC: New Zealand - CYPFA 1989
- Agencies/professionals/countries (system world) internationally most always turn FGC into a social model

• *Empowerment can be weak and short lived unless it is embodied in institutions'*

» *Chambers 1997*

Family group plan

- **2011 – Amendment CP & Youth Care Act**
 - Provides(..) with the opportunity to first construe an action plan, or to adapt an existing plan...
- **2014 – New Law on Child Welfare**
 - Family group plan.. Right to first make an aid or action plan as prepared by the parents together with (..)
- **In progress: involuntary placement in psychiatry**

Returns for citizens

- More support from their own people
 - Rapid improvement situation
- More care by their own people;
- Integral plan
 - 4 areas of life
 - 18 agreements per plan
 - faster safety and decrease professional concerns;
- Citizen remains the owner of problem/conflict;
- Directorship over their life with citizens

Returns for State & Agencies

- **Increase social cohesion in society;**
- **Responsibility where it belongs;**
- **Less congested professionals;**
 - No undue burden on shoulders,
- **Control by citizens;**
 - Thus better collaboration citizens and service providers
- **More efficient use of resources.**

FGC is system change

That it is going to be normal to gather a circle of people for..

- Settlement conflict victim and offender,
- Solving neighborhood conflicts,
- In case of domestic violence in a family,
- To keep a young person in school,
- To countering the risks of obesity
- To fight unemployment, debts....
- ...

Focus on social returns

- Less demand for intensive care
- Less demand by substitution
 - *vanNaem 2010*
- Families prevented 22 of 24 threatening supervision orders (n-100)
 - *Schuurman/Mulder (2011)*
- 100 MPF's: at least € 4,8 million
 - *Jagtenberg (2011)*
- Savings CPS Amsterdam 21.000 euro per child
 - *Schuurman/Mulder (2012)*

Where can this be done...?

Everywhere and always...

- **Families and individuals,**
 - Youth, Family, Vulnerable people: poverty, homeless, unemployed, debt problems, DV, health, multi problem families, in and out jail, evictions...
- **After wrongdoing and crime,**
 - Justice , Education, Business & Organisations,
- **For groups, neighbourhood or district,**
 - Issues in neighbourhood, Workplace,
- **Matters at school,**
 - Education, Restorative approaches

Renewal position professional

- Different position of the professional in making plans.
 - Rely on strength of families and social networks, (bravery, courage)
 - Providing the requested services;
- Activating the resilience of society
- Professionalism measured by:
 - increase of solidarity in society rather than number of interventions.

Conferencing is a modern democratic welfare approach

- A pathway for modern socialized citizens to recognize and shoulder the responsibility for the public matter; - Mijnhardt
- Conferencing is answer to the suggestion that public services is a market; - Mijnhardt
- Is a crucial vehicle of empowerment where spaces are created for active responsibility to displace predominantly passive statist responsibility; - Braithwaite

