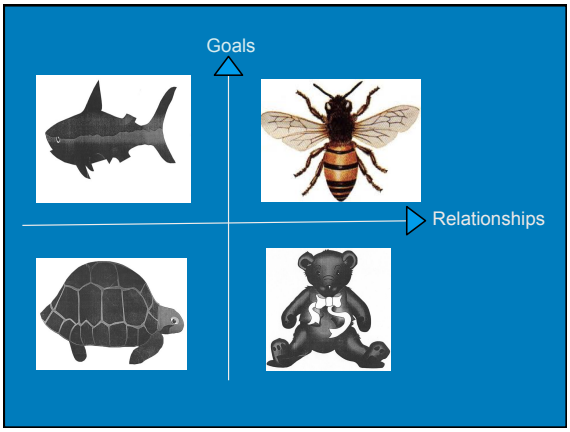
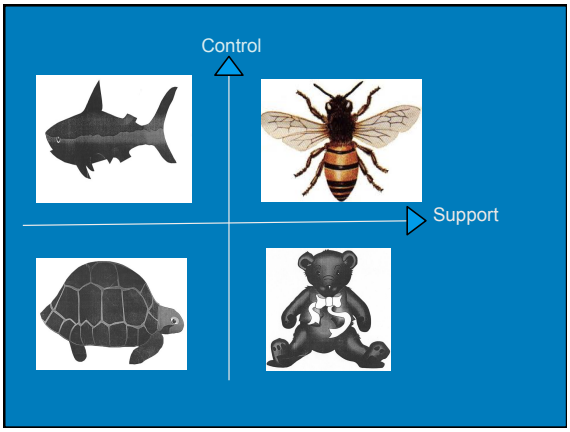
Family Group Decision Making

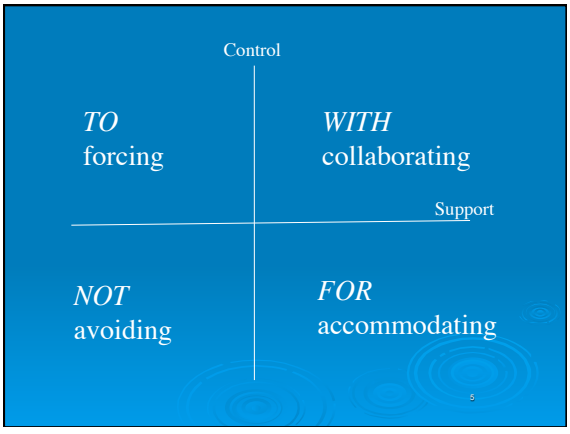
Building on the
strengths of families

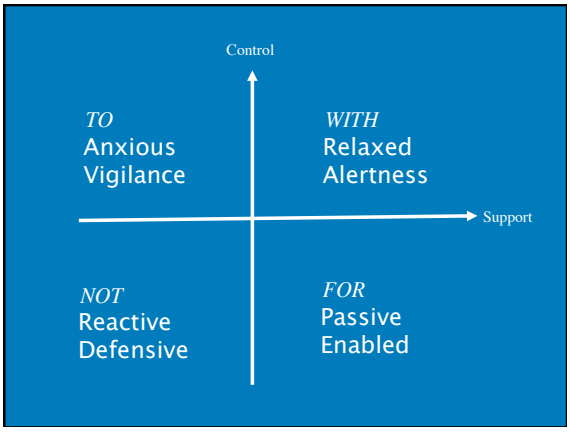
Case Study

Who's in Charge Here?









Control

TO
punitive

WITH
restorative

Support

NOT
neglectful

FOR
permissive

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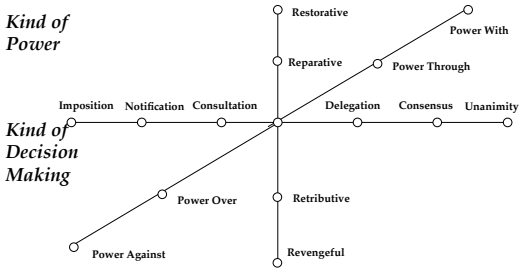
Power, Justice, and Decision Making



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The Nine Affects

Enjoyment-Joy +
Interest-Excitement
Surprise-Startle
Shame-Humiliation
Distress-Anguish
Disgust
Fear-Terror
Anger-Rage
Dissmell —

Compass of Shame

Withdrawal:
- isolating oneself
- running and hiding

Attack Other:
- "turning the tables"
- blaming the victim
- lashing out verbally or physically

Attack Self:
- self put-down
- masochism

Avoidance:
- denial
- abusing drugs and alcohol
- distraction through thrill-seeking

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FGDM History

- New Zealand Children, Young Persons and their Families Act of 1989
- Fairness concerns
- Cultural concerns
- Family private time

FGDM Paradigm Shift

- from “We know better”
- to “Families know best”

Family Group Decision Making

- A facilitated decision-making process designed to support families and youth in crisis
- Consensus decision model
- Family centered

Demonstration

MAYA’S STORY

Family Group Decision Making

- Child welfare
- School discipline
- Juvenile justice
- Prisoner re-entry
- Health care
- Elder care

Family Meeting Approaches

- This process of engaging and empowering families to make their own decisions and plans for their family members’ well being seems to lead to better outcomes, less conflict with professionals, more informal support and improved family functioning.

(Merkel-Holguin, Nixon & Burford, 2003)

Family Meeting Approaches

- Strength-based
- Team-based
- Openness and honesty
- Family defines their own family

DCFS Family Team Meeting

- The family case plan is developed based on an assessment of the family's strengths and needs, the reasons the child (ren) came into foster care, barriers preventing the child from returning to the family and the child's needs. The worker begins to gather this information with the family when the child first enters care. During this process, the worker also explains the team meetings, their purpose, and what the family can expect. Prior to the family team meeting, the worker sends written notification to the parents of the date, time and place of the meeting. This letter also addresses the purpose of the meeting.

DCFS Family Team Meeting

- A written, formal case plan is developed with the family, child(ren) and the foster caretakers. The plan is written in specific terms, behavior changes required to achieve the goal, actions required to achieve the behavior changes, services to be provided, participants' responsibilities and time frames for completion.
- The parents are encouraged to invite family or others who are a support system for them and will be able to aide them through the process.

Video

FAMILY VOICES

Family Meeting Approaches

- I do not believe that professionals can give power to families. That is not the basis of the approach. Rather, families will take power and become "power-full" when professionals create the right conditions for this to occur.

Mike Doolan
Former Chief Social Worker of New Zealand
(2003)