



NWIC

National Wraparound
Implementation Center

Advancing Systems  *Enhancing the Workforce*  *Improving Outcomes*

Helping Families Tell Their Story through Family Narratives: The Foundation of Wraparound

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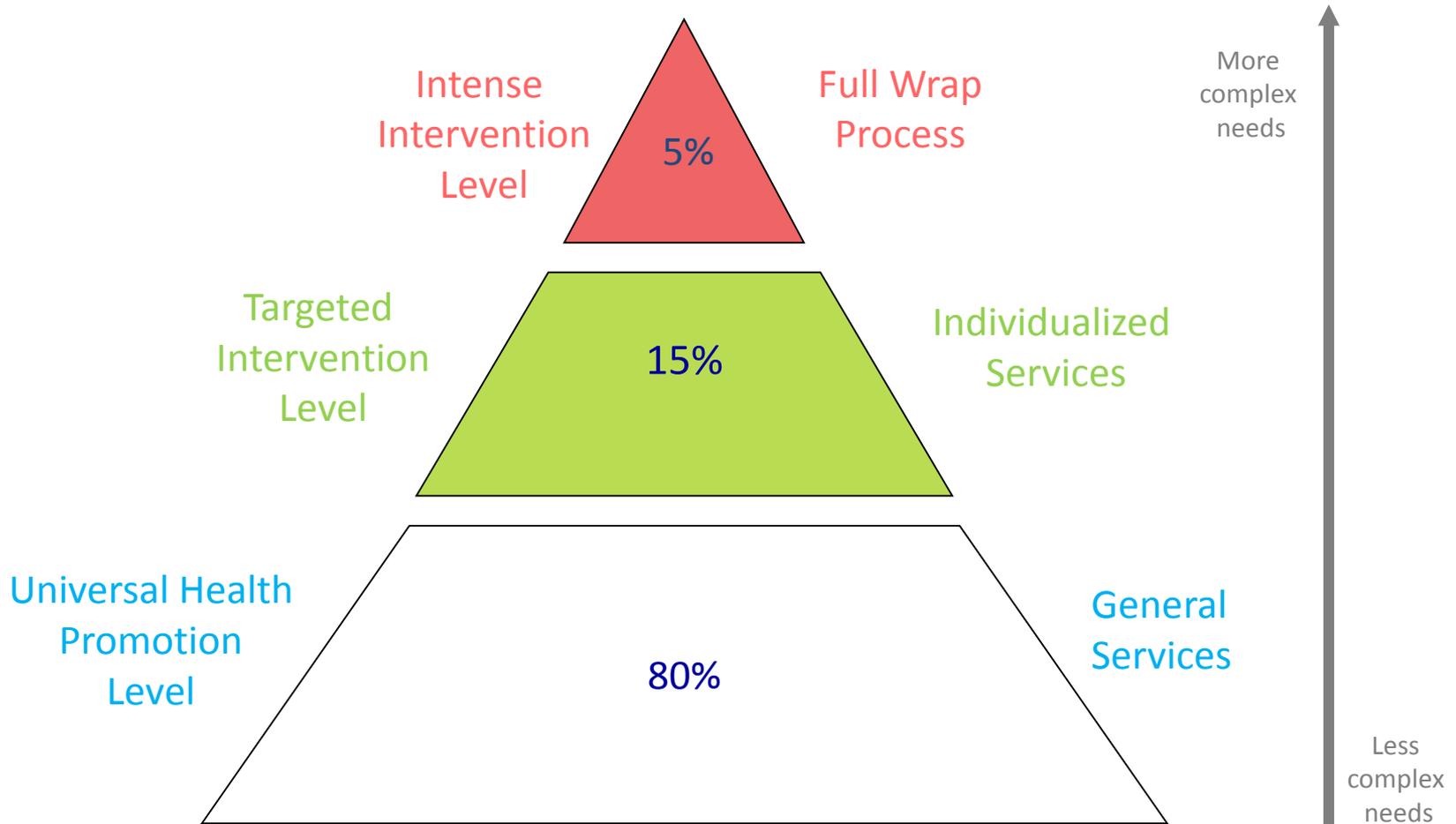
Objectives

- Develop a deeper understanding of the importance of the family narratives in Wraparound and the role they play in achieving positive outcomes for families & teams.
- Learn about the key components embodied in a comprehensive, strength-based family narrative.
- Develop concrete skills needed to gather essential information for the family story and learn how to engage multiple perspectives of the family and team.
- Practice using family narratives throughout the entire Wraparound process to inform planning and create meaning for families and teams.

If you want a happier family, create, refine and retell the story of your family's positive moments and your ability to bounce back from the difficult ones. That act alone may increase the odds that your family will thrive for many generations to come.



Who receives Wraparound?



Emphasis on Family Stories in Wraparound



- Child and family needs are complex and overlapping.
- Families that enter into Wraparound don't often feel like the system is working for them.
- Youth get passed from system to system as the needs escalate.

Families deserve to get the help they need within the time they need it.



Initial Conditions

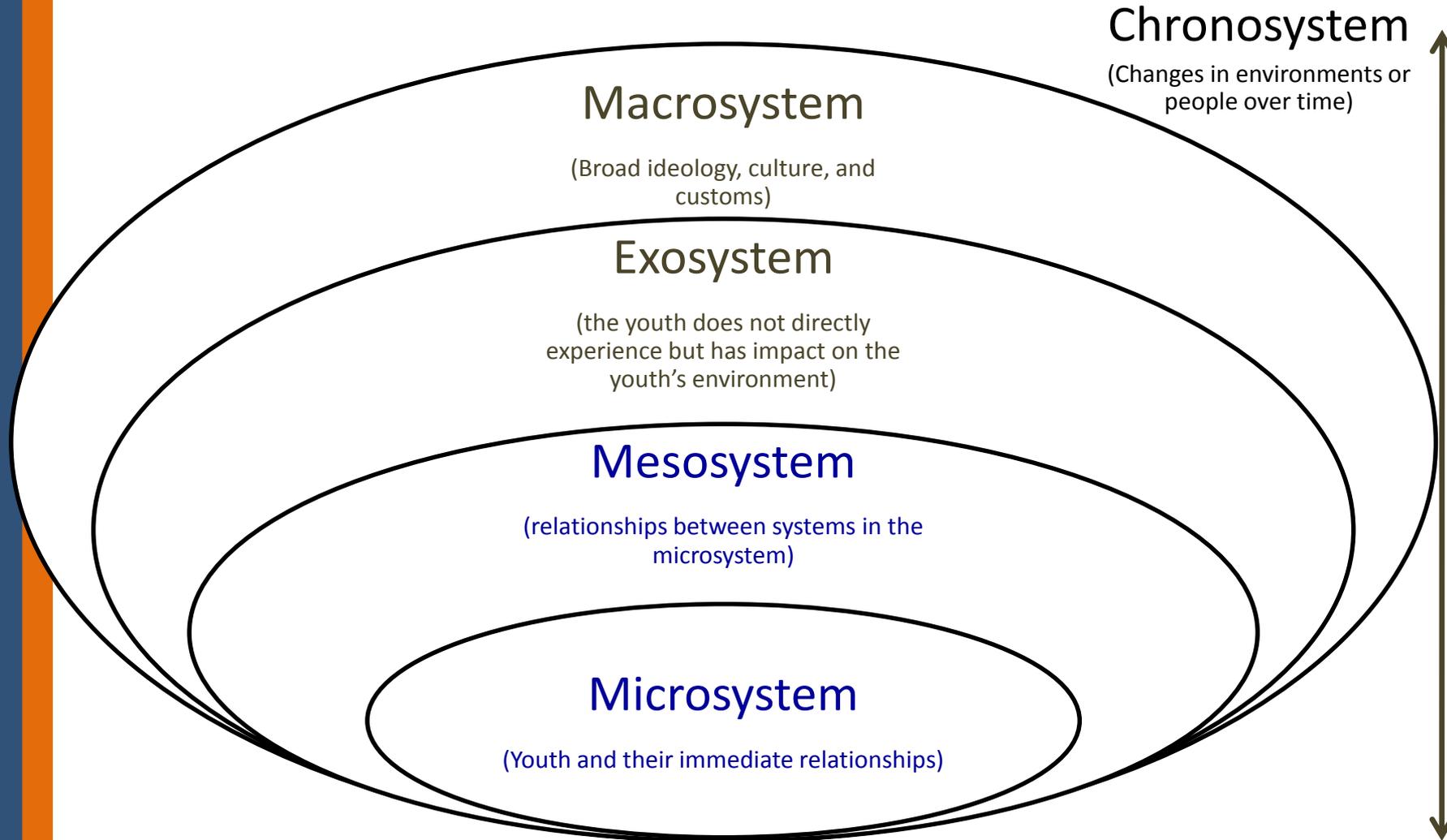
- Reason for Referral
- What was the family's first system contact and how effective have those contacts been?
- When did the caregiver first notice something was wrong and what did they tried?

Gathering a Comprehensive Family Story



- We must first understand the ecology of the families we partner with.
- Encompasses all 5 environmental systems.
- Starts with the caregiver's birth and create a picture of the youth's care-taking environment including resources, strengths and supports as well as risk factors and challenges.

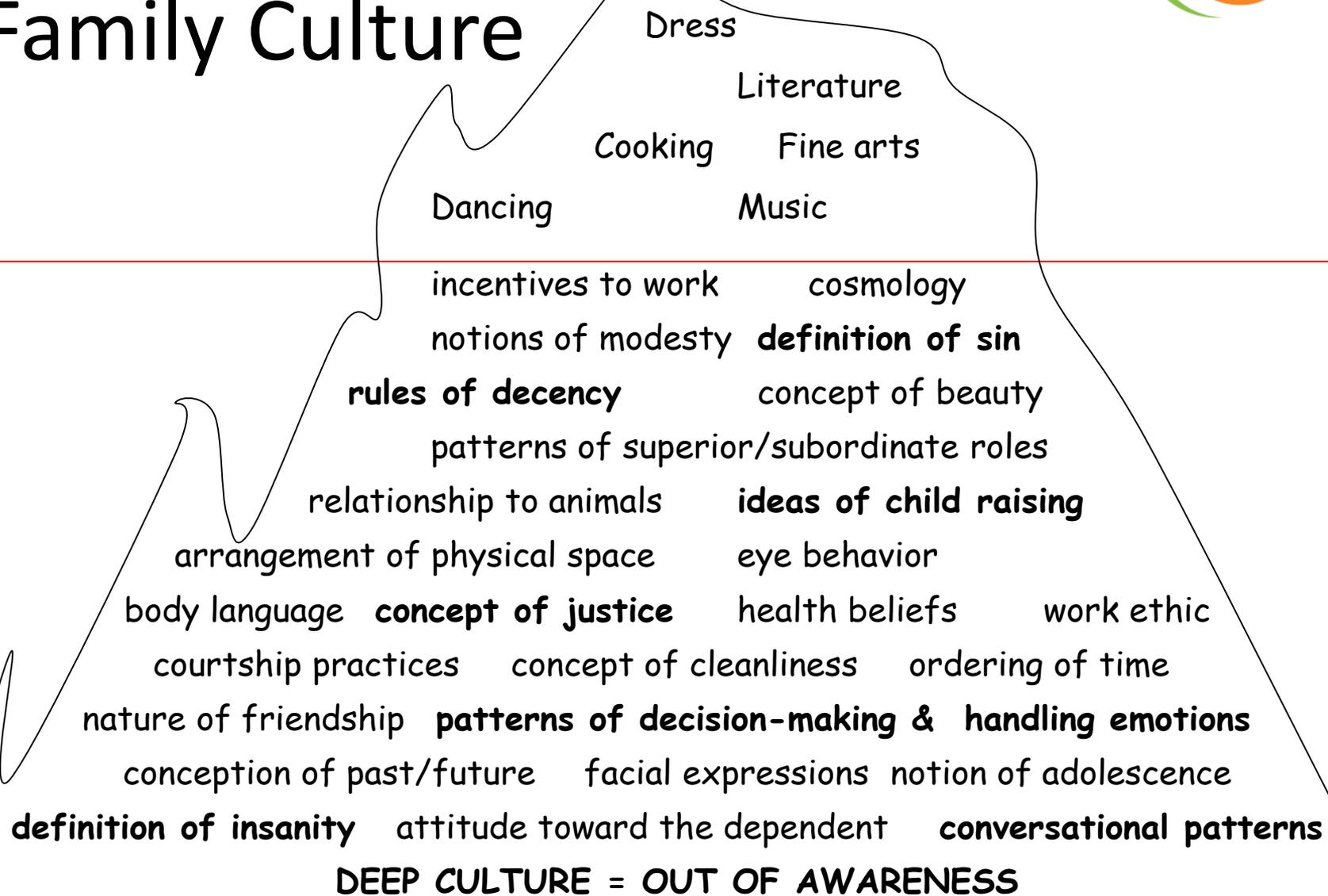
Ecological Framework



Bronfenbrenner, 1979



Family Culture



Perspectives on the Family Story



- Engage each member of the family
- Reach out to formal supports including the referral source.
- Elicit from natural and informal supports.
- Consider relevant individuals across all 5 environmental systems

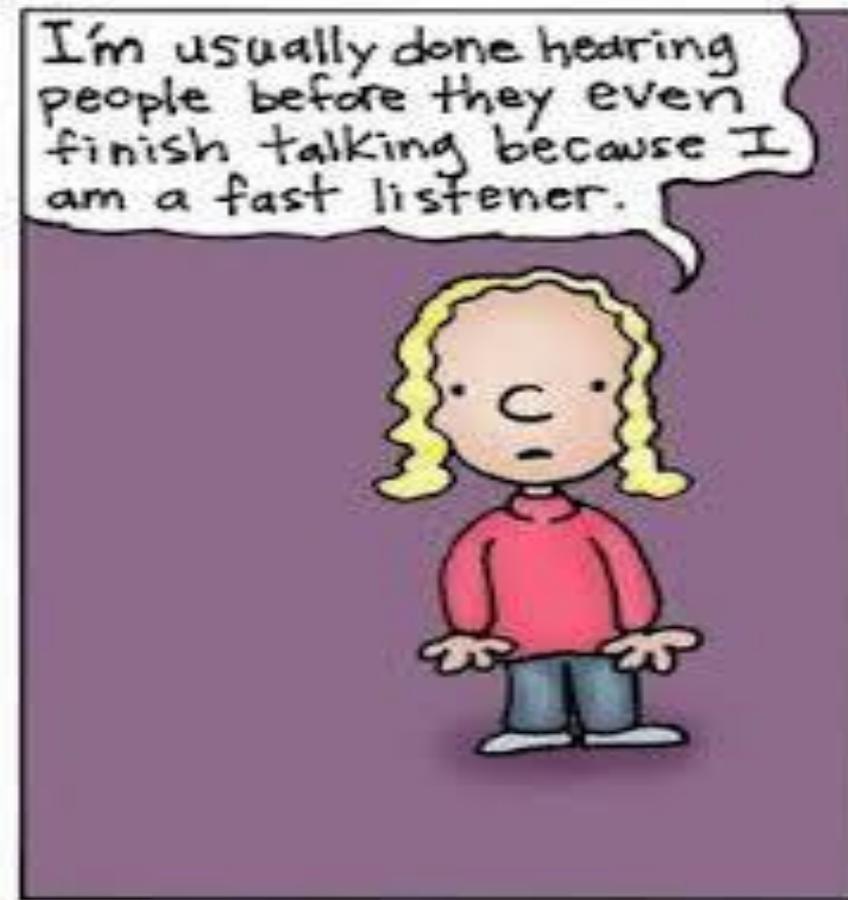
It's not about the 'facts', it's about the perspectives!

Factors to Consider When Writing a Family Story



- Does the family story incorporate the perspective of all family members and significant supports?
- Does it create a context so the team can develop an understanding of the current behaviors and challenges?
- Does it create a shared understanding of the family's experience that others can relate to and generate empathy?
- Does it empowers the family and team to feel hopeful about the future?

This is a lot of information!
How do we gather it all??



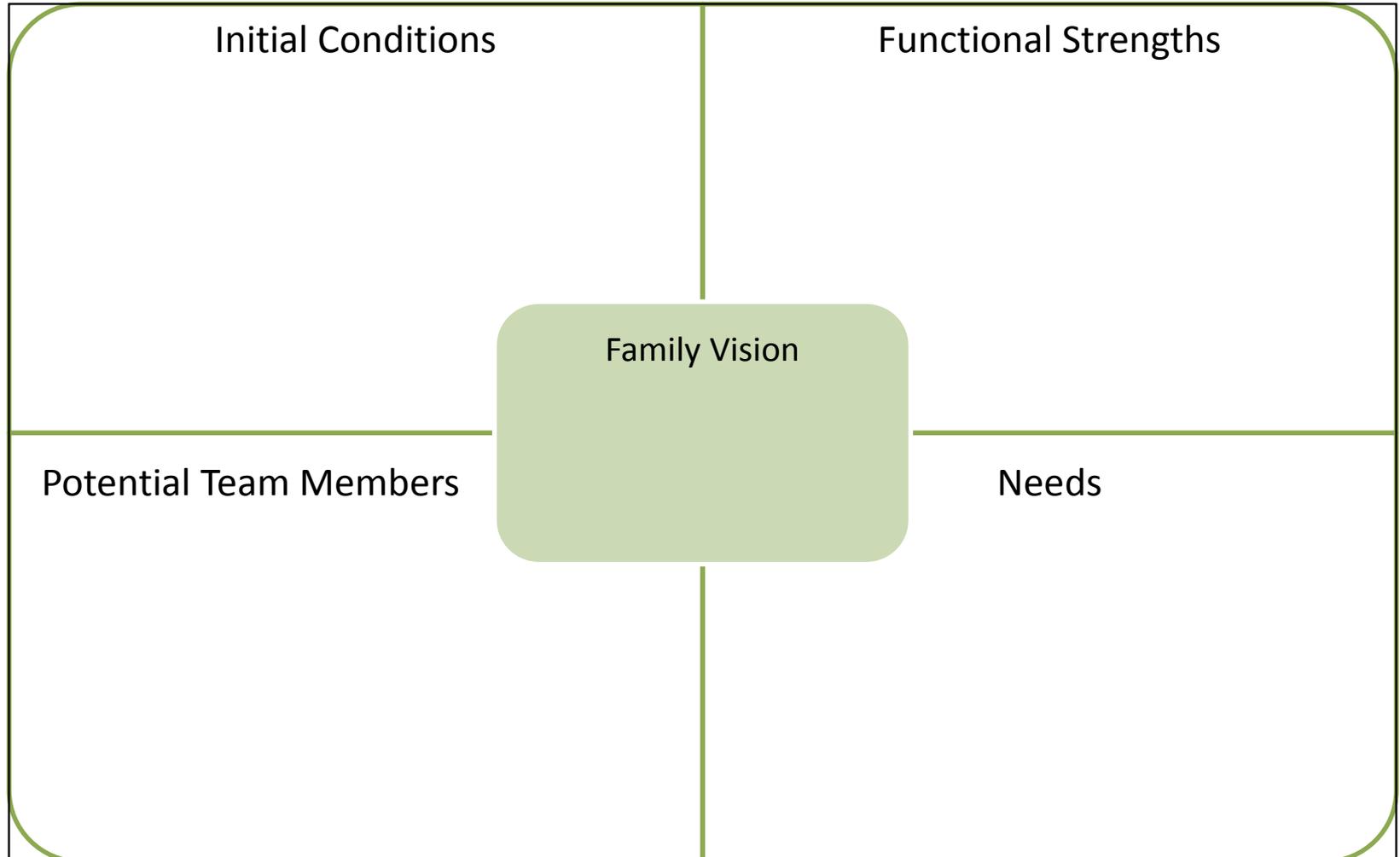
Information to Gather from Families



- Initial Conditions
- Strengths
- Potential Team Members
- Family Vision
- Needs



Family Story Tool





Write down a behavior that you engaged in as a child/youth that could have led you and your family to be referred to Wraparound.





Show us what you got...



Information to Gather from Team Members



- Strengths of the team member
- Strengths they have noticed about family members
- Their perspective on the current situation and initial conditions
- Any goals/‘agenda’ they may have – this could include court orders but may also include what they think should happen

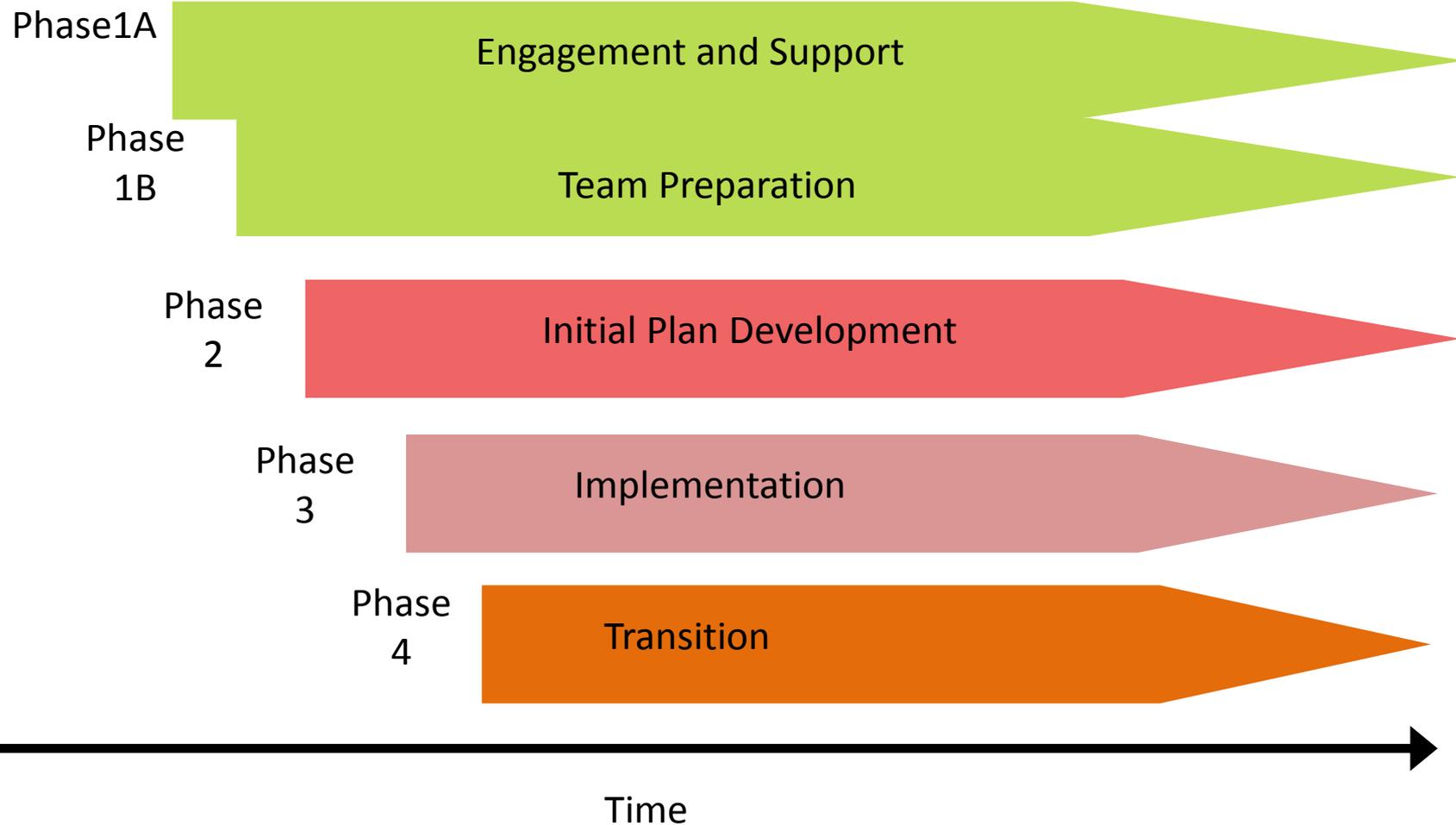
So what now?



How can this expanded family story help to make your job easier throughout the phases of Wraparound?



The Phases of Wraparound





What's important to you?





What else?

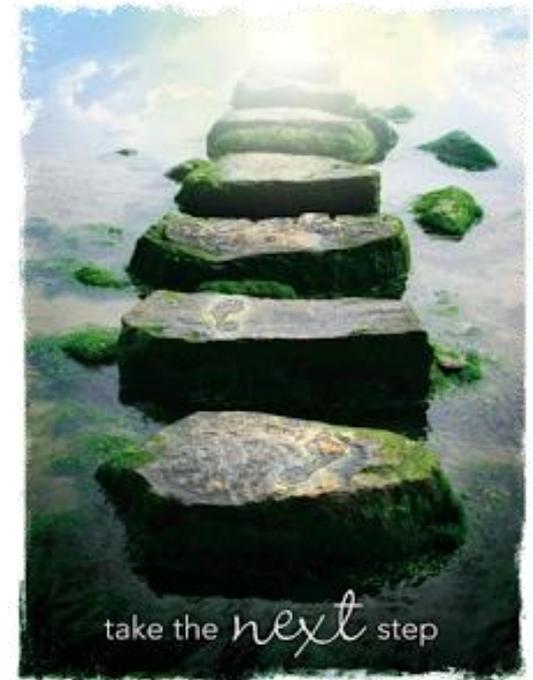


Next Steps



Based on your experience in this session what is 1 thing you learned that you will implement moving forward?

- Why is this task important?
- When will you start?



“Words are how we think;
stories are how we link.”

-Christina Baldwin



References



Baldwin, Christina. (2005). *Storycatcher, Making Sense of our Lives through the Power and Practice of Story*. California. New World Library.

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Feiler, B. (2013, March 13). The Stories that Bind Us. New York Times, Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/17/fashion/the-family-stories-that-bind-us-this-life.html?_r=0

Miles, P., Bruns, E.J., Osher, T.W., Walker, J.S., & National Wraparound Initiative Advisory Group (2006). *The Wraparound Process User's Guide: A Handbook for Families*. Portland, OR: National Wraparound Initiative, Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health, Portland State University..

Pires, S.A. *"Primer Hands On": Skill Building in Systems of Care*



Resources

- The Institute for Innovation and Implementation
 - <http://ssw.umaryland.edu/theinstitute>
- National Wraparound Implementation Center (NWIC)
 - www.NWIC.org
- National Wraparound Initiative
 - <http://www.nwi.pdx.edu>
- Family Narratives Lab-Emory University Dept. of Psychology
 - <http://www.psychology.emory.edu/cognition/fivush/lab/FivushLabWebsite/index.html>
- Wraparound resources
 - www.paperboat.com
 - <http://www.milwaukeecounty.org/WraparoundMilwaukee7851.htm>

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