



NWIC

National Wraparound
Implementation Center

Advancing Systems  *Enhancing the Workforce*  *Improving Outcomes*

Part 2: Making Your Job Easier: Using Authentic Strengths throughout the Process



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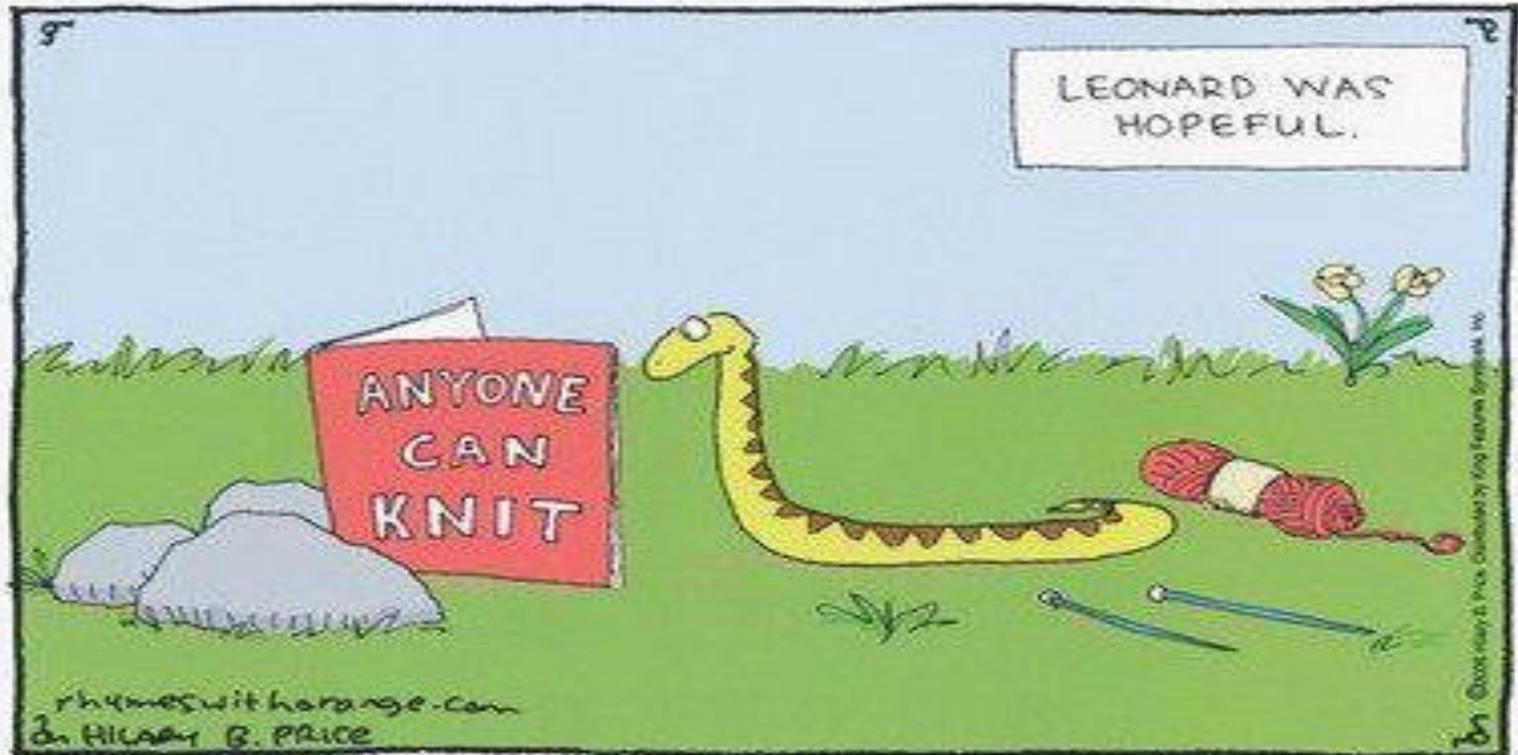
THE INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION & IMPLEMENTATION



Be Overt!

- Functional strengths should be imbedded within the story.
- Clearly identify who has the strength and how it was used.
- Strengths should be evident from multiple perspectives.
- Everyone in the family and relevant relationship should have strengths in the story.

Let's put our skills to use!



Retell and empower others to
reframe the family story from a
strength-based perspective



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.





Build a bridge

Timeline Activity: Develop the section of the timeline provided into a chronological history that is grounded in a strength-based perspective. All events on the line must also include how they overcame or persevered. Identified functional strength. Don't forget about relationships!

Functional Strengths rules apply: No attributes/one word strengths, describe how it was used.



For Families.....

Imagine waking up one day and having everyone you encounter understand the ways in which you are unique and extraordinary. What if everyone viewed the things you did as needed contributions, and rather than looking for what is wrong with you, people pointed out what is right with you? If that happened, you would be super-charged. You would feel free and released from the burden of having to defend yourself. You would be psyched to jump out of bed and get to work. You would feel well and strong. Wouldn't it be nice if just one day your life could be like that?

- From Your Child's Strengths



For the entire team

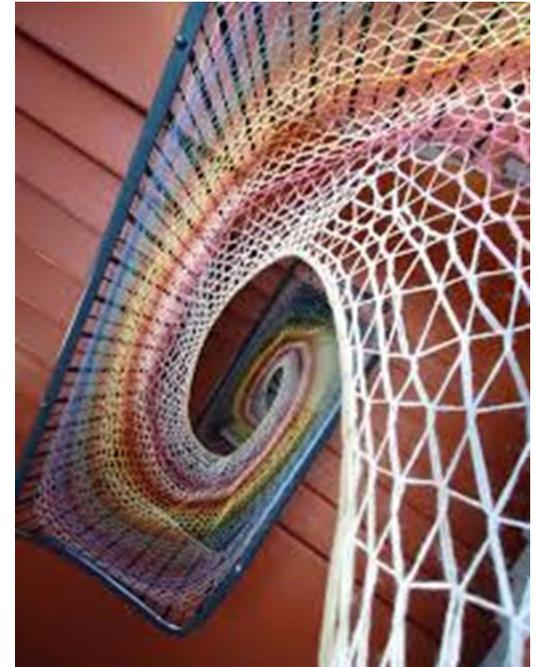
- Derives a changed meaning around the situation they are experiencing and that shifts their perspective
- Service practitioners change their approach based on information gathered through the team process to address needs and build on strengths



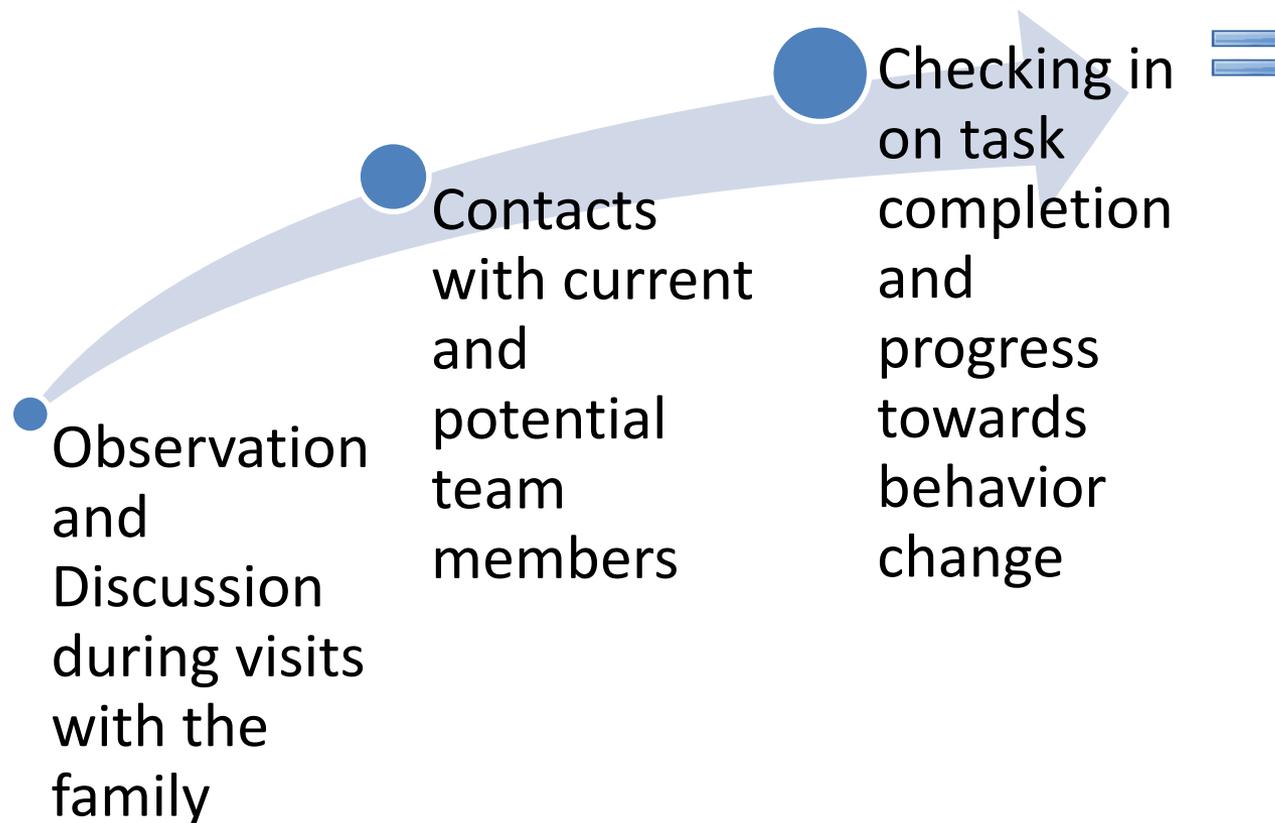
Functional Strengths throughout the Process



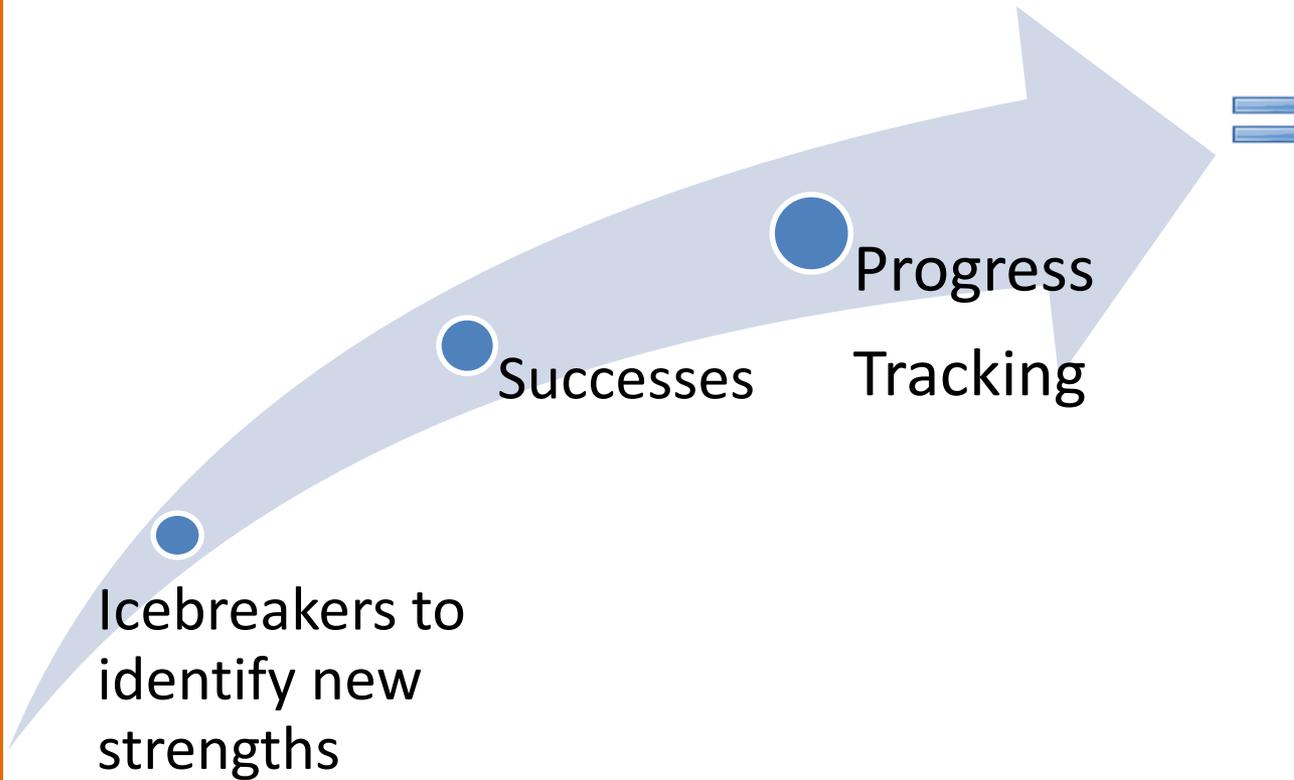
It is our job to create opportunities to listen for, explore and identify newfound strengths though out the process



Strengths Finding Coordination Activities



Strengths Finding CFTM Activities





Ongoing Strengths

- Ongoing keys to strength discovery
 - Use accomplishments to find new capacities
 - Listen for strengths when checking in with family and team members
 - Notice, remark, and record on how skills and capacities have addressed challenges
- Best practice targets:
 - Services and supports are created based on strengths
 - No service is used without a corresponding strength
 - More is documented about strengths than problems
 - Strengths of each family member and the team as a whole are recorded

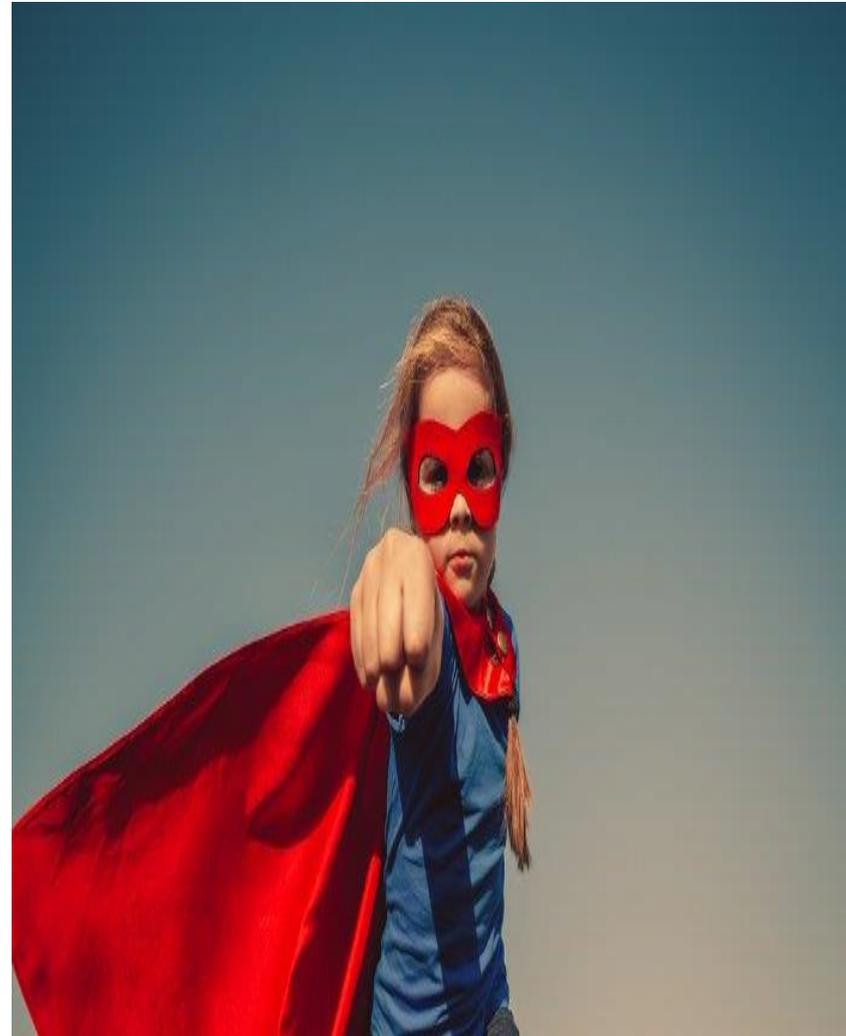
Quick Test in Implementation:



- Do I understand the roles and talents people possess outside of their standard role?
(Mom, therapist, teacher)
- Does each person's strength list give me ideas of how I can engage with that person?
- Can I see the value of the team member to the team process?
- Are there lots of ways I can include this person in planning by their strengths?

Functional Strengths Recap

1. Functional strengths are a cornerstone in planning throughout the process.
2. Make your job easier— Start with a strength-based story.
3. Model strength-based listening for your teams throughout the process.
4. The strengths should be connected between all activities.





Reflection

Based on today's sessions:

- What activity or skill do you feel like you were demonstrating consistently?
- What area(s) do you need to focus on moving forward?
 - Identify two things that you learned today that will help you move forward.

Resources



- The Institute for Innovation and Implementation
 - <http://sww.umaryland.edu/theinstitute>
- National Wraparound Implementation Center (NWIC)
 - www.nwic.org
- National Wraparound Initiative
 - <http://www.nwi.pdx.edu>
- Wraparound resources
 - www.paperboat.com
 - <http://www.milwaukeecounty.org/WraparoundMilwaukee7851.htm>
- System of Care Resources
 - <http://systemsofcare.samhsa.gov/>
 - <http://youthmove.us/>
 - <http://www.tapartnership.org/>
 - <http://www.ffcmh.org/>



Additional References

- 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
- McQuaide, S. & Ehrenreich, J. (1997) Assessing Client Strengths. Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services: 1997, Vol. 78, No. 2, pp. 201-212.

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