



The Role of Semantics in Cultural Change

When interacting with and defining families' needs, historically service providers and case managers have approached family support and intervention from an expert model. Inevitably when doing so it conveys to the family that they do not possess the resources to solve their problem and require someone to solve it for them. The expert model of intervention hinders the potential for equity and partnership in the relationship.

Deficit Based Frame of Reference

1. The family needs an assessment
2. The family refuses to engage in services
3. The family is resistant
4. The child is acting out
5. The family will not comply with the plan
6. The home is a disaster
7. The child is a sex offender/firesetter
8. The family is not meeting their goals
9. The parents are adversarial
10. The parents need services
11. Client/Case

Strength Based Frame of Reference

- It may help to explore the family history, traditions and cultural perspectives.
- It appears that the services do not match the needs of the family
- The family is multi stressed
- The child appears to have unmet, misunderstood needs
- The family needs access, voice and ownership of their plan
- The family needs support managing the home and establishing routine
- The child hasbehaviors
- The goals of the family appear to be challenging
- The parents are resilient, and strong advocates
- The parents have unmet needs
- Family/Child

12. The family is chaotic

The family lacks structure and routine

13. The child is explosive

The child is challenged with emotion regulation and distress tolerance skills

14. The child is unmanageable

The child needs support with interpersonal effectiveness and distress tolerance

Common Strength Based Terminology

Advocate
Passionate
Resilient
Loyal

Committed
Resourceful
Responsive
Hopeful

Assertive
Insightful
Driven
Passionate

Dedicated
Determined
Caring
Resourceful