HOW AND WHY A HOLISTIC MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN AT RISK
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Introduction

Aim projects & study
Target group
Target group

Main criteria

- Unemployed parent(s) and contact with Child Protection Services

- Need to re-examine current interventions
Target group - 28 families

**Parents**

Early twenties – late forties
Living together
Shared parenting
Sole parenting
Employment, education, mental health

**Children**

Infants – 18+
Concerns for well-being
Parental efforts without effect
Target group example

Mother – 39 years old
Children - Age 9, 7 and 6 years old

Municipal interventions

**Employment**
- Job training
- Courses
- Internships
- Mentor
- Therapy

**Family**
- Practical at home support
- Family therapists
- Contact persons (child)
- Relief care
Baseline

What are the families experiencing before they enter the project?
Perception of cooperation - contact
“I haven’t heard anything. I don’t know what’s going on”

“You can call. You can leave a message. You’ll never hear any damn thing back”
Perception of cooperation - avoidance
”I’ll much rather see her (case worker) back than her face. When I know she’s coming, I’ll hurry to make an excuse about a need to go into town”
Perception of cooperation - humiliation
“If you go down to get help, you practically get told that you’re an idiot instead. He [the caseworker] rather minimizes it. I’m this close to pulling him over the desk for him to get the point. He has his paragraphs. I don’t give a shit about your paragraphs. There’s more to life than paragraphs”
Perception of cooperation - individualisation
“I just don’t like her and I think that instead of seeing me as a person, then I’m just a piece that needs to fit into the puzzle and I have to do like everybody else. It’s just like that. Instead of seeing okay, maybe it would be better for her this way “
So far so good

*The current experiences of the families*

How and why a holistic multidisciplinary approach makes a difference for children at risk
The general idea behind the project
So far so good

The current experiences of the families
When the municipality becomes a person, I become someone too
"The greatest thing is that now, they listen, they understand and they think about my problems and help me - as opposed to viewing me as a case, they see me as a person"

"Well, she (the caseworker) doesn't just view us as some kind of case number that needs to be forwarded in the system. It is a real pleasure that we are taken seriously and that she listens to us"
A case worker who knows me and acknowledges me for whom I am

To be influential in my own life
"Well, she (case worker) has seen us as the human beings we are - as opposed to looking at a piece of paper and seen that some kind of diagnosis is listed. She has met us in our own home and talked with us"

"Well before (the project started) I had a negative impression and view on my case worker, because I tried and tried to get hold of her, but I never succeeded. That has changed. Well now, I view my case worker as someone who wants to help me, rather than before where I had doubts if she (case worker) was genuinely interested in whether my family was thriving or not. I didn't know this version of her existed"
Only one case worker
"I think a lot of families could benefit from this approach. It is much better than this thing about having a caseworker for occupation and another caseworker for children and family. To me, it means that stress has been relieved because I only have one caseworker to consult with and to relate to. Before, no one collaborated with each other and it was a mess"

"Now, everything is more comprehensible. Well, she (caseworker) is much more understanding about our challenges. And if we need to take a day off (to participate in other things outside the mandatory occupation). Well, that is just doable and before that was usually something that we needed to plea and beg for"
Fast case worker response-time is giving agency back to the family
"Yes, it is an immediate support. Actually, it is there right away. It doesn't take several weeks before there is an answer"

"It is the best initiative the municipality have taken so far. It is natural that if first I have to call one person, and I am being patched through to the next one and the third one and they all have to talk to each other and then I have to fill out a lot of forms, well then, I give up"
So far so good
The current experiences of the families

How and why a holistic multidisciplinary approach makes a difference for children at risk
Educational implications

Case worker approach

Agency
So far so good
The current experiences of the families

How and why a holistic multidisciplinary approach makes a difference for children at risk