

Mali Mali

Journey through a 'Modified Therapeutic
Community'

Mirikai TC – Complex Needs Assessment
Panel and Integrated Supports (CNAPIS)



The presentation – the challenges

- Reflection on the journey – the issues and challenges within
- No one really understands?
- Strong and proud Aboriginal Torres Strait Woman with traditional attitudes/beliefs
- White man intervention – removal of the children; demands from the Western Model CSS; white man attitudes and directives
- Rapid Response – Attitudes ignorant of the ‘real’ cultural needs
- Navigation through ‘white man’ laws through the eyes of indigenous life

The Complex Case Meeting

- 'Rapid Response' model – expensive with no sustainable outcomes
- Rapid Response to involve – QAS, QPS, QMH, CYMHS, relevant NGO
- Referral to – Case Coordination Working Group??
Rejected too Complex!
- Identified through the stakeholders as 'most challenging'
- Queensland Drug & Alcohol Council (QDAC) involved with complex case conference
- Assessment offered with recommendations
- Referral to Mirikai & Gold Coast Drug Council (GCDC) (Complex Needs Assessment Panel Integrated Services (CNAPIS))

The Journey

- Admission to TC – leaving country
- Is case viable (too complex for conventional TC)
- Are staff convinced & on side (traditional TC v Modified TC)
- Further assessments - Mental health exam/history – CNAPIS involvement
- Modified program/TC roles with CNAPIS grappling with complex needs – support to compliment TC treatment plan
- Culturally appropriate – linkages
- Travel – family needs, children reunification, geographical barriers

Treatment

- Meetings/case conferencing/complex case conferencing/team leaders meeting
- Partnerships & cultural links supported through CNAPIS
- Proximity a key element
- Interagency meetings on property
- Many involved under GCDC governance
- Relationships critical across varied & diverse levels
- Role modeling management of complex relationships

Treatment

- CNAPIS providing mechanism for imagination & innovation to modified TC approach
- Imagination realized through flexibility of funds/service delivery (brokerage)
- CNAPIS support worker & services as conduit to innovation and community/cultural linkages
- Links with CWAIS providing cultural security
- Geographical barriers reduced through allocation of flexible \$\$
- Connection as critical

Agencies involved on property

QDAC

Mirikai TC

CNAPIS

YODA (Youth Outreach Drug and Alcohol Service)

KIF (Kids in Focus)

OASIS (GCDC Halfway Program)

Dual Diagnosis Program/ Psychologists/Medical Team

Inter Urban Arts (Drastic Program)

CWAIS (Community Welfare Aboriginal Islander Service (AOD))

- Queensland Health/Mental Health


Indigenous Cultural Healing Team

Kalwun Health

Krurrungal Health

TAFE QLD

External Agencies involved at a distance

- Local NGO (Youth focus)
 - Cairns/Toowoomba Child Safety Services
 - QCS Cairns
 - Queensland Mental Health Services
 - Department of Communities
Homelessness Services (Cairns,
Tablelands)
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Treatment Break through

- Relationship as key!
- Imagination – opening of doors old/new
- Marli Marli willingness and participation
- Some 'AH HA' moments
- Old/new relationships kept alive – agencies, services, resi-rehabs, children, family – developing connection
- Development of new connections 'look who I'm talking to'
- Self care, self development
- House Coordinator role – amazing in the context of the journey
- Movie/life story/empowerment/validation
- Acceptance/support of new peers indigenous & non-indigenous
- 12 step support, realization that fellowship as critical element for recovery – crosses racial barriers
- Values shift, spiritual enlightenment, embracement of culture
- Integration close to treatment support/networks
- Acceptance of real circumstance of children

Outcomes

- 40 percent treatment provider
- 60 percent MALI MALI effort
- Foundation essential for engagement & self empowerment
- Engagement/relationship success = treatment outcomes
- Client/stakeholder outcomes generating 'amazing' outcomes
- Hope/halfway/self determination/support/community/cultural revitalization
- Diverse groups, differing philosophies working together for a common cause
- Family reunification a distinct reality – not a distant memory

The journey continues – recovery
lives, imagination thrives

