Do You See What We See?

Children in Therapeutic Communities
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Objectives

Interactive forum
Some preliminary discussion
Workshop to generate ideas for possible future directions
Saranna Women and Children's Program

- 14 Individual chalets for women and their children (under 12)
- Onsite Crèche
- 4 stage program 3 – 12 months depending on client goals
- Average length of stay 9 months
Saranna

Two key aspects of the program contribute to its positive impact.

1. The service recognises women as mothers who can parent and recover
2. The needs and interests of the child is central; promoting safety and well being of the Saranna children is a whole of community responsibility
Program Elements

- General AOD (the usual suspects)
- Positive parenting
- 123 magic – emotion coaching
- Protective behaviours (whole TC and children)
- Bonding and attachment
- Reparative experiences
- Staged Approach

- Home management
- Nutrition and diet
- Process group (grief and loss, anger, shame, schemas, emotional regulation, boundary setting, assertive communication, conflict resolution)
- Outreach
What We See

Children of residents utilise TC tools; parallel process

Flags and bouquets – using the F & B system to communicate to parent their observations of parents inappropriate behaviours

Conflict resolution

Boundary setting

Children developing emotional literacy (child:parent, child:child)
What we don’t see?

Children interacting and negotiating outside the TC

We are in the process of collecting anecdotal data

Preliminary findings; examples of quotes

“mummy I am flagging you for not listening to me” ..... 
“mummy I am flagging you for swearing” (4 yr old Aboriginal boy)

Girl aged 7 has ‘rules’ for her bedroom.

Children have reported at school they will say “stop it I don't like what you are doing’ or tell a teacher if they are feeling uncomfortable.
What do you see?

Discussion
Whiteboard