Linking the evidence from research to practice – strengthening families in caring for their children and keeping them safe

Pauline Dixon
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Introduction to Wanslea

Working with families

History of the Practice Framework

Target Population

Families with children aged 0-18 years experiencing life challenges and stressors that impact on their ability to meet their children's needs

Guiding Principles

Adult and child voices and choices are heard

Parent and youth/child perspectives are intentionally elicited and prioritised. Planning is grounded in family members' perspectives and practitioners strive to provide options and choices such that the plan reflects family values and preferences.

Concrete services

Wanslea practitioners provide or help the family access concrete goods and services that are directly related to achieving the family's goals, while supporting them to meet ongoing needs independently.

Working towards meaningful outcomes

Wanslea practitioners tie the goals and strategies of services and supports to observable and measurable indicators of success, monitors progress in terms of these indicators, and revises strategies accordingly.

Working with strengths

Services and supports identify, build on, and enhance the capabilities, knowledge, skills, and assets of the child and family and their community. Wanslea supports the belief that people are the experts in their own lives and Practitioners therefore build on what parents are doing well.

Working within the community

Services and support provided to adults and their children take place in the most inclusive, most responsive, most accessible and least restrictive settings possible.

Promoting culturally competent practice

Services and support provided to adults and their children demonstrates respect for and builds on the values, preferences, beliefs, culture and identity of the child/youth and family and their community.

Skills development

Wanslea practitioners teach parents a wide variety of 'life skills', using 'teaching interactions' processes including practice, feedback and homework.

Collaboration across Wanslea Family Services

Wanslea practitioners work cooperatively and share responsibility for supporting adults and their children.

Assessment and goal setting

Wanslea practitioners use client-directed assessment across life domains, ongoing safety assessment and planning.

Behaviour change

Family support uses cognitive and behavioural research-based practices and behavioural interventions.

Providing individualised support

Services and supports are customised to the unique needs of individual adults and their children.

Engagement

Wanslea practitioners use a collaborative and collegial approach to engage and motivate families.

Remaining persistent

Despite challenges, Wanslea practitioners persist in working toward adult and child goals.

Building on natural supports

Planning reflects activities and interventions that draw on sources of natural support.

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Practice Framework
Map Overview

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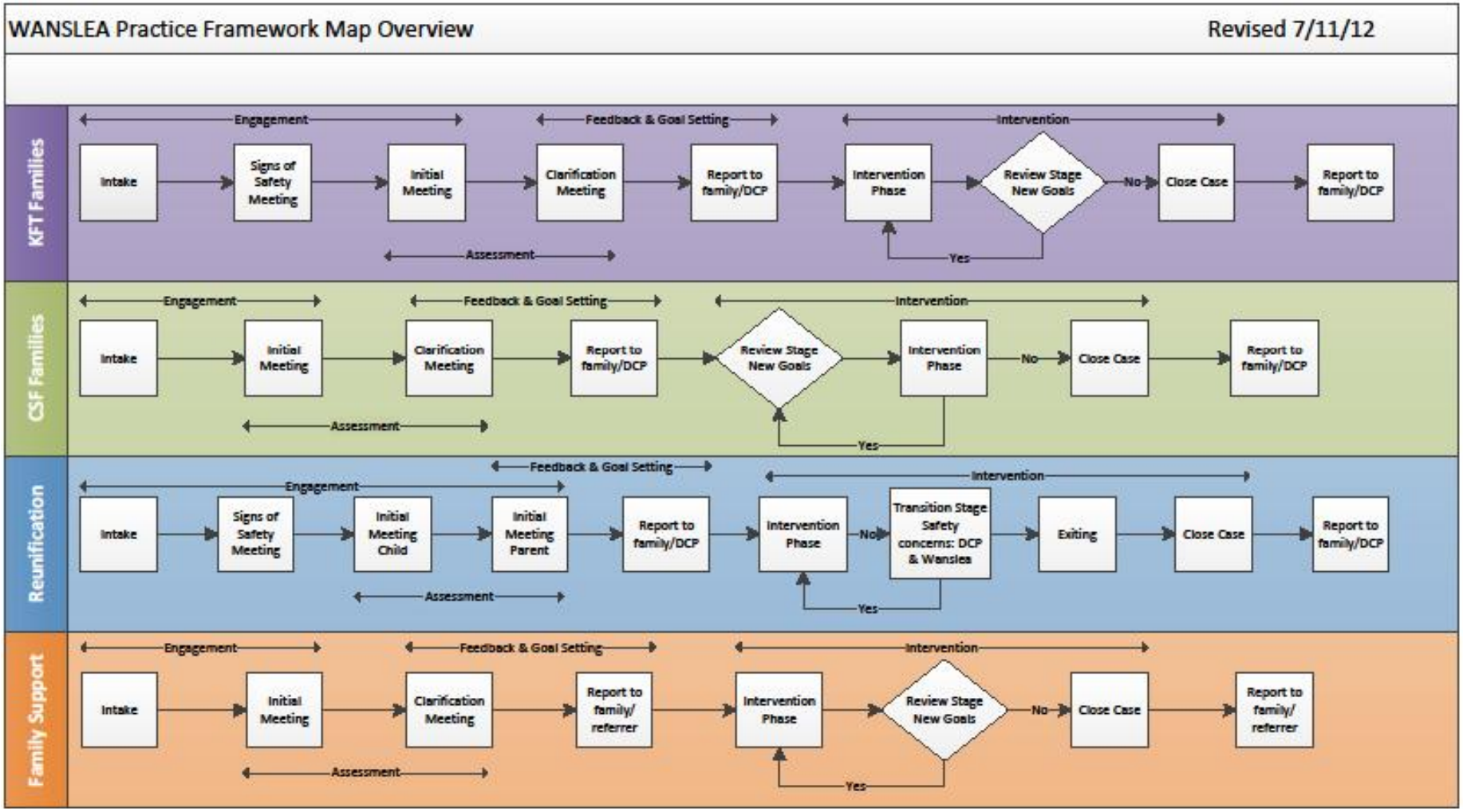


Wanslea Practice Framework

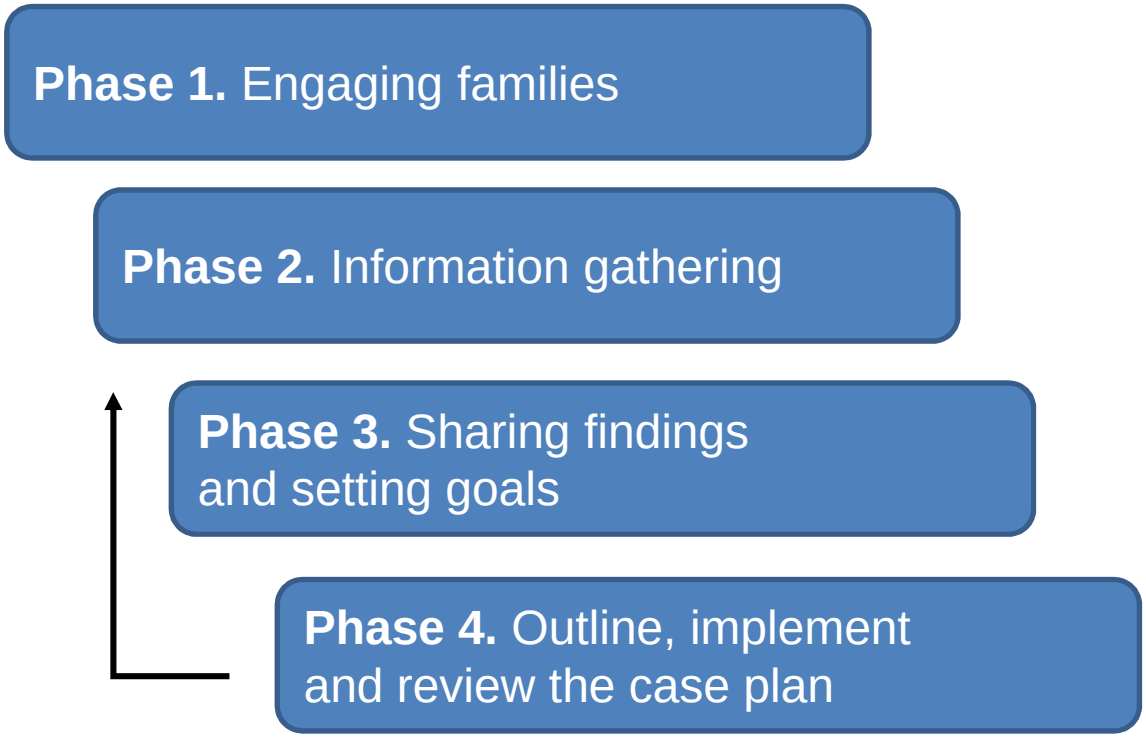


Figure 1: Framework for the Supporting Families Practice Guide

Wanslea Practice Framework

Steps in Phase 1	• Outlining the Wanslea Family Services Program • Clarifying roles • Discussing referral concern
Steps in Phase 2	• Establish purpose of assessment • Undertake assessment (Family Information Tool, Strengths and Stressors,)
Steps in Phase 3	• Sharing assessment findings • Setting specific goals • Prioritising goals to meet outcomes
Steps in Phase 4	• Using assessment results and goals to create family case plan • Selecting family case plan strategies: (i) refer, (ii) provide information or (iii) teach skills

Outcome 1.
Increase in positive parent – child interactions

Outcome 2.
Improved child physical safety and wellbeing

Outcome 3.
Positive child development

Outcome 4.
Increase in social connectedness

“Children and families cannot benefit from interventions they do not receive”

“Evidence” on effectiveness helps you select what to implement for whom

however

“Evidence” on these outcomes does not help you implement the program or practice

Fixsen & Blase (2008)

Knowledge to Implementation Cycle (based on Fixsen et al 2005)

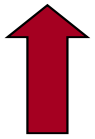
Sarah

The implementation process felt inclusive and respectful of the staff on the ground carrying out the day to day work. Effort and time was put into hearing our perspective of the job we do, including taking note of the structural challenges as well as the processes that were already working well. The process was supported by management keeping the staff updated on where the process was at, as otherwise it may have felt slow and disconnected.

Jenny

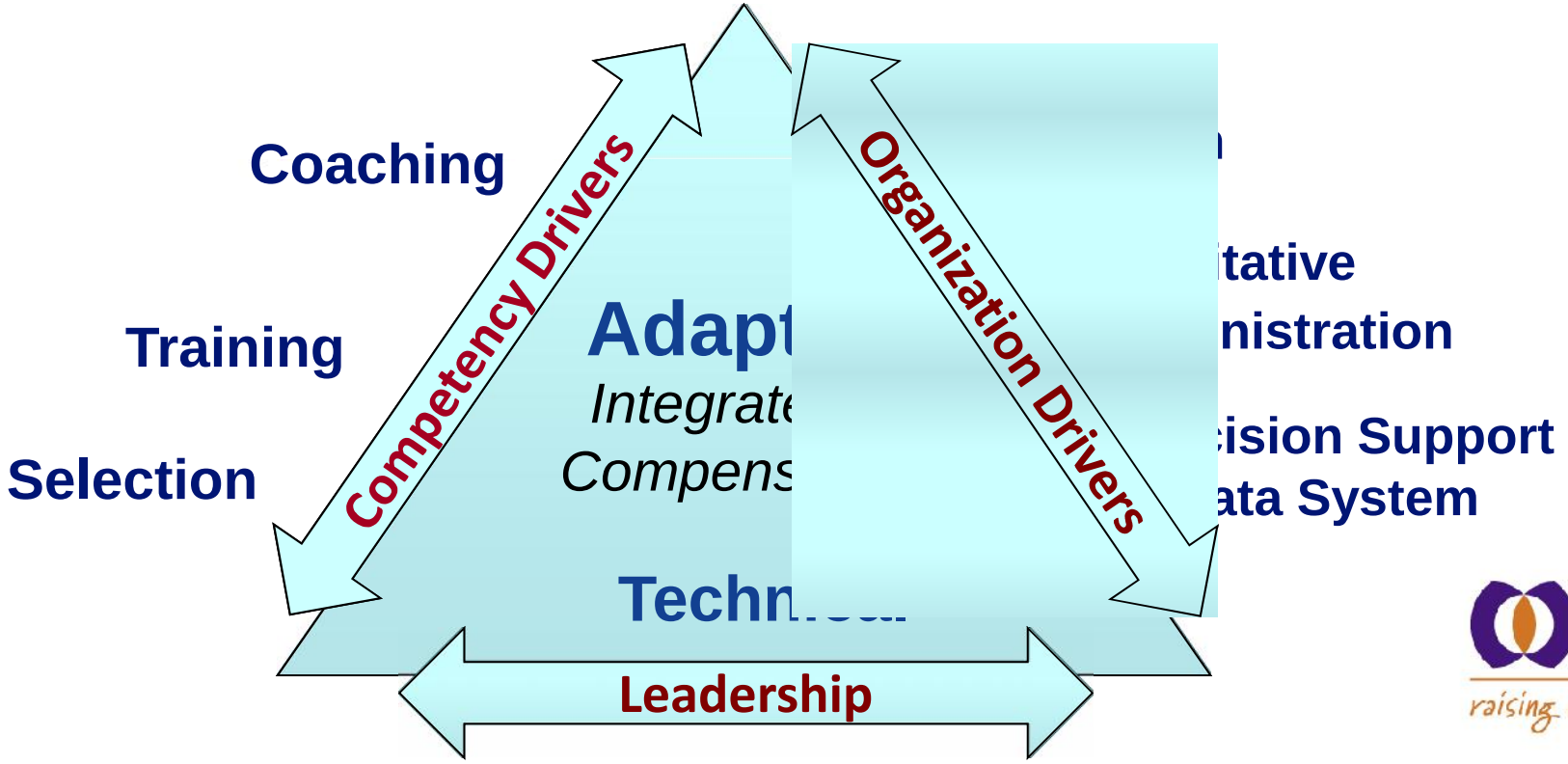
I remember people saying it was exciting that we were working on an evidence base. It was challenging to refine what we do and articulate exactly where we work from. How to contain the complexity in a few sentences. This process has helped us to refine what we expect to happen in our work. If we are clearer, then our work with families has a better chance of being effective.

Improved outcomes for children and families



Performance Assessment

Implementation Drivers



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Parenting Research Centre
raising children well

Graphics by Steve Goodman,2009

© Fixsen & Blase, 2008

In the words of Parents and Grandparents

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“PP made me feel very comfortable. I made huge gains with developing sleep routines. Feel like I have a home instead of a train wreck”

“Beryl’s husband arrived home from work and praised Wanslea. He stated that “Beryl is motivated and is organised and maintaining the house”. He then “thanked Wanslea for changing our family’s life, things are so different, the children’s behaviour, my wife’s depression has improved, family relationships improved”

“One big success we had was with a family that have worked with Wanslea many times with ongoing mental health issues and both intellectual and physical disability. The key to the success with this family has been getting Dad on board, and involving him in tasks, and giving him lots of positive praise. We used the practice framework to ensure we were focusing on small achievable goals, rather than trying to "fix the big things". We had lots of small successes which added up to really important changes for the family”

“At the commencement of one program, the Social Worker was not sure if mum had the capacity to work on goals. This was due to her mental health and her 3 year old son’s violent behaviour that had resulted in expulsion from day-care. Mum said that Wanslea helped her enormously to find the way forward when she has been completely stuck”.

“It is heart-warming to see parents’ become empowered in their role as a parent, and also to see how this is reflected in the relationship between them and their children”

Implementation Drivers

Coaching – Introduction

- Worker development plans
- Case reviews
- Field observations

“I would like to highlight the continuing development of coaching and particularly how it has come together in Case Reviews. The process has led to deeper thinking by practitioners and adaptation of their practice leading to greater accountability and professional development”.
(Clinical Manager)

Abby

For me practise coaching was like being a grouchy old lady without her specs on!! Initially the picture I saw of practise coaching was fuzzy and disjointed however once I focused it was easy to see a clear picture of how the tools all worked together. I now have a clear vision of practise coaching for the future and feel I have the tools to help me do my job properly.

Dawn

I can't say that the coaching hasn't been a bit challenging but it has encouraged me to think more about how effectively I deliver the programmes that Wanslea offers. It has reminded me that I am to work toward the goals that the family has identified, to value the knowledge and experience that the family brings to the programme and to assist the family to arrive at some solutions for themselves. Our team's coach is very experienced in delivering the Wanslea programmes and she has helped me to identify the areas in which I struggle.

Data Decision Making

- Use of evidence based tools to gain a better picture
- Collecting data
- Use of data for the Implementation team
- Use of data for clinical decision making

What's Next

Full Operation

Program fully integrated into practitioner, organisational and community practices, policies and procedures.

1. Staff assessment and evaluation
2. Evaluate outcomes
3. Facilitative administration

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CONTACT DETAILS

Pauline Dixon
Executive Manager Family Services

Phone: (08) 92452441
Email: pdixon@wanslea.asn.au