



Community Weaving

Building on Family Strengths: Research & Services in Support of Children & Families

Seattle, WA

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Presenter: Cheryl Honey, Master Weaver



Community Weaving

Graphics by: Daniel Crawford & Peggy Deal



Agenda

1. Overview of Community Weaving
2. How Community Weaving works
3. What we learned in the field
4. Keys for Sustainability
5. Measuring Success





Question #1

Why don't neighbors ask for help when they need assistance?





Question #2

Why don't neighbors offer
To help others who are
in need of assistance?





Barriers

Isolation

Disenfranchised

Stigma

Expectations

Apathy

Liability

Confidentiality



Community Weaving



Our Mission

Weaving a community web
of support for families
to create a more caring,
just and civil society.



Community Weaving



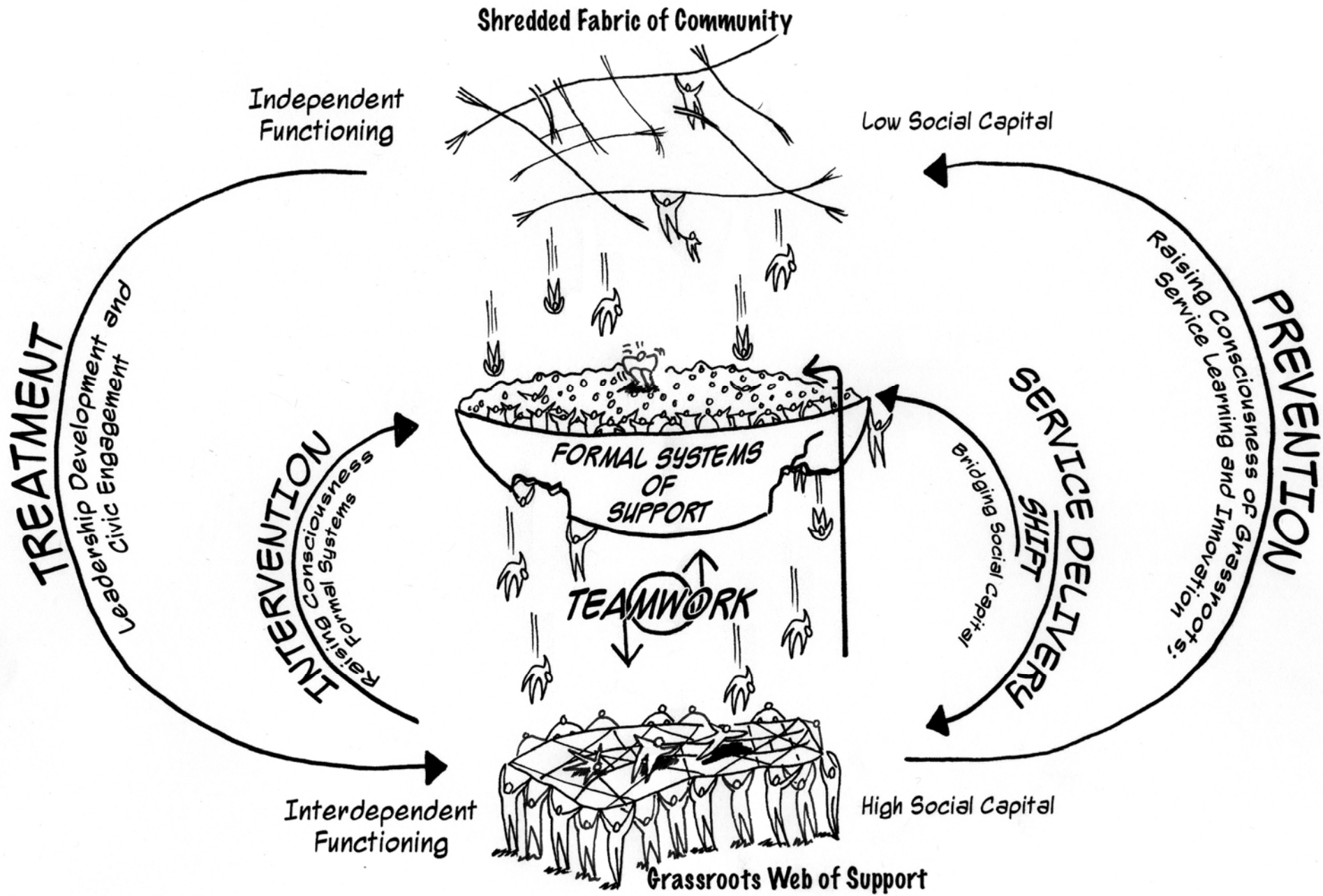
Our Purpose

Weave the human and tangible resources of the grassroots with the skills and expertise of formal systems using cutting-edge technology.



Community Weaving

Weaving the Fabric of Community





Goals

- Build and bridge social capital across systems
- Shift service delivery paradigm
- Shatter stigma of poverty
- Enable self-organizing to occur
- Coop human, financial and tangible resources
- Mobilize volunteers to respond in emergencies





Objectives

- Increase face-to-face interactions
- Build trusting and meaningful relationships
- Create opportunities to lead & mentor others
- Provide direct access to no/low cost resources
- Empower people to help themselves & others
- Generate data to affect change in service delivery





What we do

Provide the tools, techniques and technology to implement Community Weaving across community systems fostering conditions where people thrive.



Community Weaving



Family Support Networking

Volunteers or staff from schools, churches, agencies, social clubs, businesses and neighborhoods are trained as Community Weavers. They learn how to use the tools and technology to recruit Good Neighbors who form their own Family Support Networks. Those who want to provide direct services are trained as Family Advocates. All direct service providers must pass background checks. Community Weavers are the hub of the Family Support Networks and are part of a Community Weaver Network.



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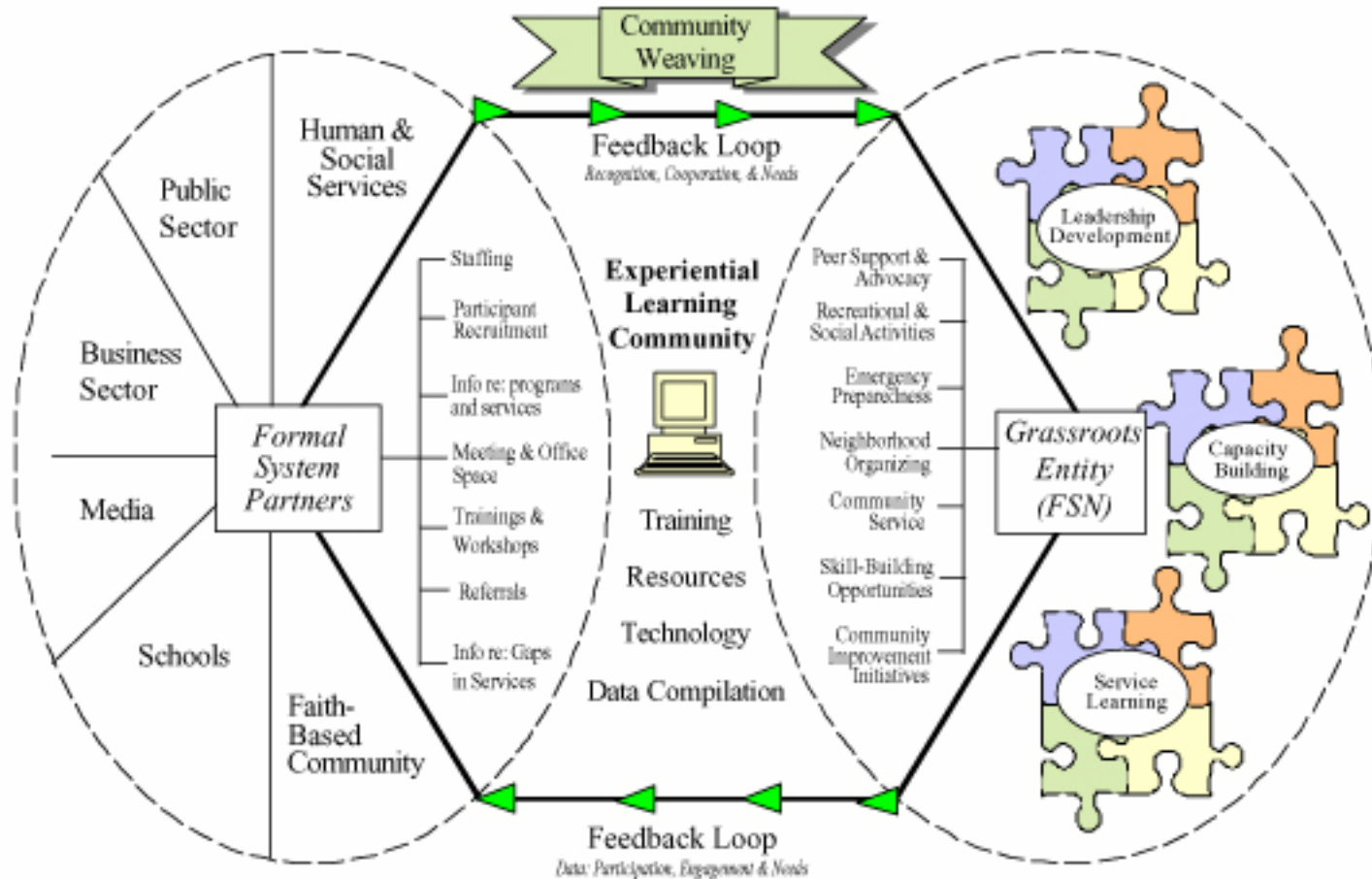


Why it works

- Community-Based & Participant-Driven
- Builds trusting relationships and social networks
- Opportunities to lead & mentor others
- Saves time & money by pooling and sharing resources
- People empowered to help themselves & serve others
- Serves as infrastructure to generate data from grassroots



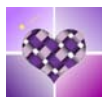
Model of Community Weaving





How it works

- Shared purpose, values and goals
- Specific roles and responsibilities
- Collaborative partnerships across community sectors
- Training & tech support on tools and technology
- Engagement and service learning opportunities
- Free and immediate access to resources



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What we learned in the field:

- Multiple implementation approaches
- Implement according to level of readiness
- Train Trainers (Community Weavers)
- Get buy-in of Community Leaders
- Willingness to support grassroots initiatives
- On-going assessment and cross training



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Keys to sustainability

- CW Coordinator (paid staff, subcontractor, Vista)
- Entity that serves as fiscal agent
- Entity to be responsible for liability issues
- Self-sustaining (donations, training fees, fundraising)
- Incorporating CW duties into job descriptions





Benefits

- Reduces demand on depleting resources
- Tracks shift in use of grass roots resources
- Reduces caseworker burnout
- Fosters self-sufficiency and cooperation
- Raises protective factors to improve health & safety





Outcomes

- Taps innovation at grass roots to solve problems
- Citizens are invested in outcomes
- Reduces caseworker burnout
- Fosters self-sufficiency
- Grows cooperatives and micro-enterprises
- Raises protective factors to improve health & safety





Technology

- Sign-up as Good Neighbor and/or FSN Partner
- Register & Search for Resources (specify criteria)
- Post & Search for Activities
- Pick a Group ID (optional)
- Generate Reports (i.e. Village Resource Directory)
- Data tracking to measure outcomes





Implementation Approaches

- Grassroots
- Single Site Organization
- Multi-Site Organization
- Community-Wide
- Emergency Response





Projects: Small Scale

- Furniture Exchanges
- Baby-sitting Coops
- Coop Meals
- Community Gardens
- Garage Sales
- Yard work
- Clothing Swaps
- Support Groups
- Business start-ups
- Auto Repair



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Projects: Large Scale

- Supervised visitations (Child Protective Services)
- Transitional Housing (American Red Cross)
- Operation Safe Haven (Community Weavers)
- Emergency Responders Network (CERT)



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Activities: Social

- Barbeques
- Bingo Night
- Pumpkin Carving
- Quilting
- Movie/Date Night
- Book Club
- Go Green Group
- Christmas Parties



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Activities: Recreational

- Bowling
- Snow Skiing
- Ropes Course
- River Rafting
- Campouts
- Horseback Riding
- Hiking
- Biking



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Activities: Educational

- Computer Classes
- Budgeting
- Organizing
- First Aid
- Parenting
- Investments
- Do it yourself classes
- Accessing Healthcare



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Evaluation: Quantitative

- Good Neighbor Registrations
- Trained Community Weavers
- Types, level and frequency of engagement
- Number and types of activities posted to website
- Number of requests met by volunteers
- Demographics of volunteer responders



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Evaluation: Qualitative

- Quality of life
- Number and quality of social ties
- Ease in accessing resources
- Connectedness to community
- Community Impact Survey





Motto:

The more resourceful we are among ourselves, the more valuable a resource we become to our families, our communities and our world.



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Invitation

Sign up as a Good Neighbor at:

www.familynetwork.org

Explore the features yourself!

It's free and easy



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Thank you

Any questions?

Cheryl Honey, C.P.P.

Family Support Network, Int'l

(206) 240-2241

wecare@familynetwork.org

www.familynetwork.org or

www.communityweaving.org



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