CULTURALLY INTEGRATIVE FAMILY SAFETY RESPONSE MODEL (CIFSR)

A CULTURALLY INFORMED RESPONSE TO FAMILY VIOLENCE IN COLLECTIVIST FAMILIES

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Outline

- Challenges related to responding to family violence within newcomer communities
- Promising Practice: MRCSSI’S CULTURALLY INTEGRATIVE FAMILY SAFETY RESPONSE (CIFSR)
  - Brief Overview of the Model
  - Four Aspects Screening Tool (FAST)
  - Coordinated Organizational Response Team (CORT)
  - Final thoughts
- Questions and Discussion
Challenges Related to Responding to Family Violence within Newcomer Communities

- Conflicting concepts of protection and safety
  - Family focused system versus an individual focused system (victim of violence)

- Rights oriented versus roles oriented system
  - The emphasis on family traditional roles

- Accountability?
  - Based on traditional role expectations
  - Based on individual rights

- Preserving the family is a priority

- The role of extended family here and in the country of origin

- Shame of betraying the family
Where that would lead to?

- Women at-risk or experiencing violence would be reluctant to outreach formal services.
- Males who are at-risk of perpetrating violence would not outreach for help
- Increased social isolation of women experiencing domestic violence
- Family and community become more involved in protecting the family unit on the cost of the victims.
- Traditional approach to outreach newcomer women at-risk will fall short of meeting the unique needs of abused women.
- Heighten the risk of violence and potential risk of homicide
PROMISING PRACTICE: MRCSSI’S CULTURALLY INTEGRATIVE FAMILY SAFETY RESPONSE (CIFSR)
Culturally Integrative Family Safety Response (CIFSR)

CORE FOCUS
Keeping Families Safe

CONTEXT
Collectivistic Culture

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
Collaboration, Flexibility, Trust

KEY PARTNER GROUPS

CONTINUUM OF RESPONSES TO FAMILY VIOLENCE
Culturally Integrative Family Safety Response Engagement Continuum

INFORMAL
- Building Awareness in Communities
- Building Capacity with Service Providers

ENGAGEMENT
- Consultation
- Advocacy
- Counselling
- Support & Planning
- Home Visits

FORMAL
- Case Conferences

with COMMUNITIES
- PREVENTION

with FAMILIES and FORMAL / INFORMAL SERVICES & SUPPORTS
- EARLY IDENTIFICATION & INTERVENTION

with MANDATED SERVICES
- CRITICAL INTERVENTION

ESCALATING RISK OF VIOLENCE
HOW DOES CIFSR WORK?

CIFSR
- Culturally Integrative Family Safety Response
- Promising Practice
- Strength-based approach

FAST
- Culturally Informed Four Aspect Screening Tool

CORT
- Coordinated Organization Response Team
Four Aspects Screening Tool

Four Aspects Screening Tool (FAST)

- Ethno-Cultural Aspects
- Religious & Faith Aspects
- Universal Aspects
- Migration Aspects
FAST (Development & Context)

Four Aspects Screening Tool (FAST):

- Universal – relational aspects of family
- Migration
- Ethno-cultural
- Religious & Faith
FAST (Development & Context)

Why FAST?

- Provides a context for current risk sources
- Helps determine who needs to be part of Coordinated Organization Response Team (CORT)
- Helps determine focus of CORT discussions
- Can be used for risk assessment and risk management purposes
- Helps understand rationales for domestic violence that are being made within collectivist family
FAST (Development & Context)

How FAST works

- Through a culturally-based service provider
- Through a mainstream service provider
Universal Aspect

- Citizen status, country of origin, arrival, rural/urban
- Family structure – marriage, children, extended family
- Conflict – presenting concerns
- Health – physical, emotional, mental health
- Education
- Family economics
- Family support (providing and/or receiving)
Migration Aspect

- Migration experience – pre-migration, armed conflict zones, internal displacement, forced displacement

- Witnessing and directly experiencing war-related violence (self, family members, losses) – effects

- Post-migration – integration/adjustment, socioeconomic status, barriers, community involvement & support
Ethno-cultural Aspect

- Cultural dynamics
- Family dynamics – gender roles, relationships, supports
- Sense of belonging/support & safety – ethno-cultural community
Religious & Faith Aspects

- Religious affiliation, role of faith in daily life
- Role of religion/faith in family
- Support/belonging to religious community
Coordinated Organizational Response Team (CORT)

- A collaborative approach in a collectivist structure that supports the family

- Customized intervention based on the result of FAST screening
  - Migration journey
  - The role of culture
  - The role of religion working in a collectivist, structural way
    - Working with all parties involved in a family’s life
    - Look at strengths and resources within the family and community

- Build support system around the family
  - All agree to stretch (through negotiation and compromise) to meet the needs of the family without going into/reverting into mandates

- Implement the intervention plan (up to 6 months)
  - Involves developed and agreed upon protocols that guide the working relationships
  - Built on trust
Coordinated Organizational Response Team

- Mandated Services (Justice System, Children’s Aid)
- Voluntary Services (Family Doctor, Counsellor)
- Parents/Spouse
- Community of Origin
- Non-Mandated Service Providers (i.e. Settlement Services)
- Extended Family
- Broader community

Parents/Spouse

Victim
Final Thoughts

- To better assess and respond to the complex needs of new comer families we need to see things from the perspectives of these families as they describe them and as we as researchers, policy makers and service providers.

- Newcomer families need time to adjust with their new reality especially for those coming from a conflict zones. Our policies should take this factor in to account when dealing with families at risk

- One size doesn’t fit all.

- We need to encourage diverse and faith groups to be part of the solutions

- We should move from culturally sensitive practice to culturally integrative practice ( integrating best practices within cultural context)
QUESTIONS
Thank you