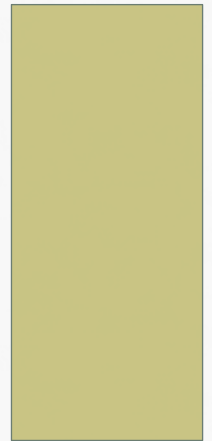
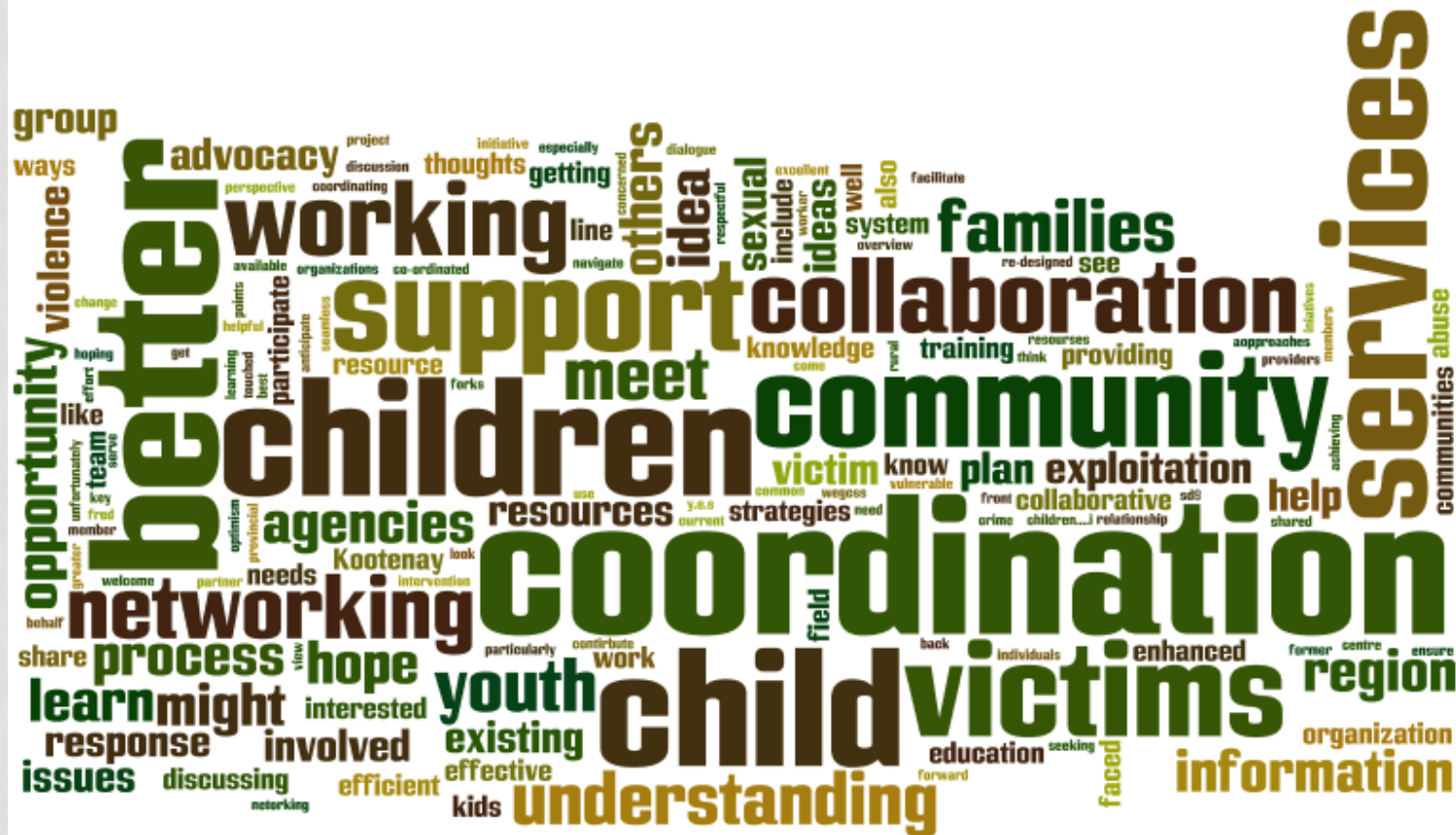


A COORDINATED RESPONSE FOR CHILD VICTIMS

WEST KOOTENAY BOUNDARY REGIONAL MEETING
OCTOBER 11TH, 2012



YOUR HOPES FOR THE DAY



BACKGROUND

- Kootenay Boundary Community Services Cooperative (KBCSC) applies for funding from the Victims Fund (Department of Justice)
- Feasibility Study completed June 2011
 - Interest in working more collaboratively
 - Suggested option:
 - 3 Child Advocacy Centres (CAC), child-friendly interviewing spaces
 - Nelson, Grand Forks and Nakusp – serve surrounding areas
 - One Child Advocate position in each
- KBCSC applies for funding from the Civil Forfeiture grants (Ministry of Justice)

OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

- Morning:
 - What are the issues from the perspective of the child?
 - What are other communities doing?
 - What are we already doing well?
 - What more could we do?
- Afternoon
 - How could we move forward as a region?
 - What can we do without additional funding?
 - What should we apply for more funding for?

VIDEO – ‘TRUTH BE TOLD’

- Part 1 – Three stories of abuse or neglect
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=kbB2wQ1Ttsw

DISCUSSION

- What are our hopes for these children and youth when they enter our shared systems?
 - What do we hope they WON'T experience?
 - What do we hope they WILL experience?
- What difference are we trying to make for them?

VIDEO – ‘TRUTH BE TOLD’

- Part 2 – the Zebra Centre in Edmonton

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRES

“A seamless, coordinated and collaborative approach to addressing the needs of child victims or children who have witnessed a crime”.

- Government of Canada, Department of Justice

“A children’s advocacy centre is a child-focused, facility-based program in which representatives from many disciplines, including law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical and victim advocacy, child advocacy, work together to conduct interviews and make team decisions about investigation, treatment, management and prosecution of child abuse cases”.

- (US) National Children’s Alliance

ZEBRA CHILD PROTECTION CENTRE



ZEBRA CENTRE



“Thank you for coming, we've been waiting for you”

19 police
8 social workers
56 victim services/child
advocate volunteers
5.5 Zebra centre staff

~460 open files
11 new cases in past four
days

ZEBRA CENTRE



Children's (under 8)
waiting room

Child Advocate creates
rapport and transfers to
interviewer

Next door is "parent
support room"

"Home-like" atmosphere
and furniture

ZEBRA CENTRE



“Child-friendly” details:

- Grouping of toys
- Nothing broken or missing
- “Good” toys, chosen by other children

All intended to reduce frustration and anxiety

ZEBRA CENTRE



Waiting room for
older (>8) children
and teens

ZEBRA CENTRE



One of two interview rooms, is for older children and teens

Interviewer is either social worker or police, depending on history of child

Skills more important than gender

Everyone 'Stepwise' trained, apprenticeship period

Privilege to interview kids, leave ego at the door

Co-location key to collaboration

ZEBRA CENTRE



Camera in corner

ZEBRA CENTRE



Monitor room:

Watching interviews in real time

Use 'For the Record', can make notes timestamped to the interview

Information sharing between child protection, RCMP and Edmonton Police Services fairly transparent

ZEBRA CENTRE



Toy closet

After kids “do their job”, get toy of choice

Colour group toys so not so overwhelming

ZEBRA CENTRE



Items for older
kids and teens

ZEBRA CENTRE



Satisfaction surveys showed that contact made during process more important than court outcomes

“My dad was acquitted but the blanket I got at the Zebra Centre will always be on my bed”

Young woman off to university 10 years later, taking her teddy bear with her.

ZEBRA CENTRE

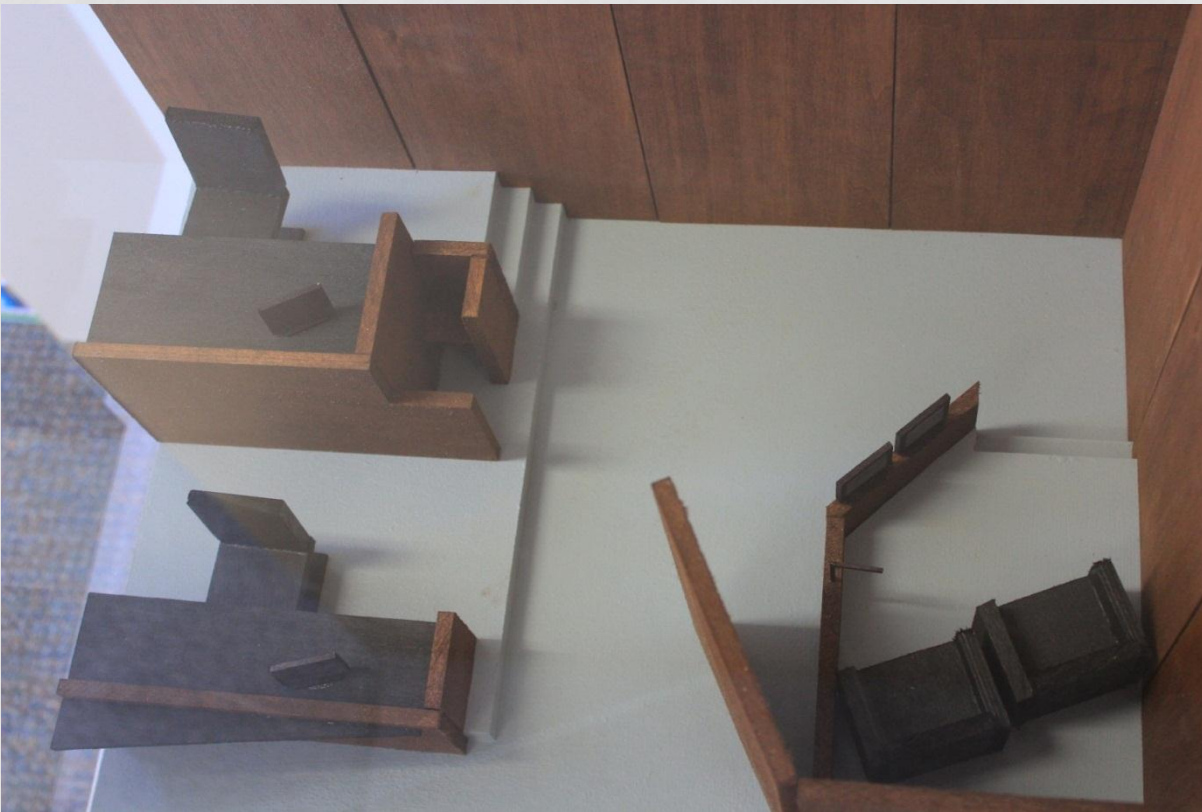


Crown prosecutors meet with kids in evenings to do court preparation

Use diagrams, and video that is a virtual tour of the court and what will happen there

Kids meet advocate who will accompany them to court

ZEBRA CENTRE



Edmonton has two child friendly courts, where the child can see only the judge

Kids are strong and confident by the time they get to court

ZEBRA CENTRE



Kids own the centre

One girl said the interviewer was “the first person who really listened” to her, “not just something on her ‘to do’ list”

Helping kids to find their new normal, letting kids define their lives rather than being defined by the abuse

OUTCOMES OF THE ZEBRA CENTRE

Evaluation of the Zebra Centre showed:

- Reduction in system-induced trauma
- Increase in charges laid
- Better quality of evidence
- More guilty pleas
- Higher conviction rates with more appropriate sentences
- Families more willing to access services

ZEBRA CENTRE



IMPORTANT ASPECTS:

- Continuous support for kids and families
- Forensic interviewing
- Collaboration, not siloes
- Passionate people who:
 - Really want to make it work
 - Will do what they can to make it work within agency/mandate
 - Believe it's about the kids
 - Believe in a multi-disciplinary approach
 - Open to other points of view, respectful of others

CARIBOU CENTRE



CARIBOU CENTRE



Located in PACE's building, a multi-service community agency

Governed jointly by PACE, RCMP, Child and Family Services, Victim Services, and Crown

One paid Coordinator

Volunteer Child Advocates

CARIBOU CENTRE

The Caribou Child and Youth Centre provides:

- a child welcoming venue for RCMP and Child and Family Services to conduct interviews of alleged crimes of abuse against children
- audio video recording of the interviews to be used for the court proceedings
- crisis intervention, support and counselling to child victims of crime and non –offending family members
- supervision of the children in child friendly waiting areas
- volunteers for child assistance while awaiting the interview
- volunteers to provide ongoing support to the non-offending family members
- court preparation, accompaniment and support through the court process
- therapists to provide counselling to the children upon completion of the investigation
- advocacy and referrals on behalf of the child victims of abuse

CARIBOU CENTRE



Kids' "child-friendly" waiting room



CARIBOU CENTRE



Waiting room for
older kids and
teens

CARIBOU CENTRE



Parent's Room

CARIBOU CENTRE

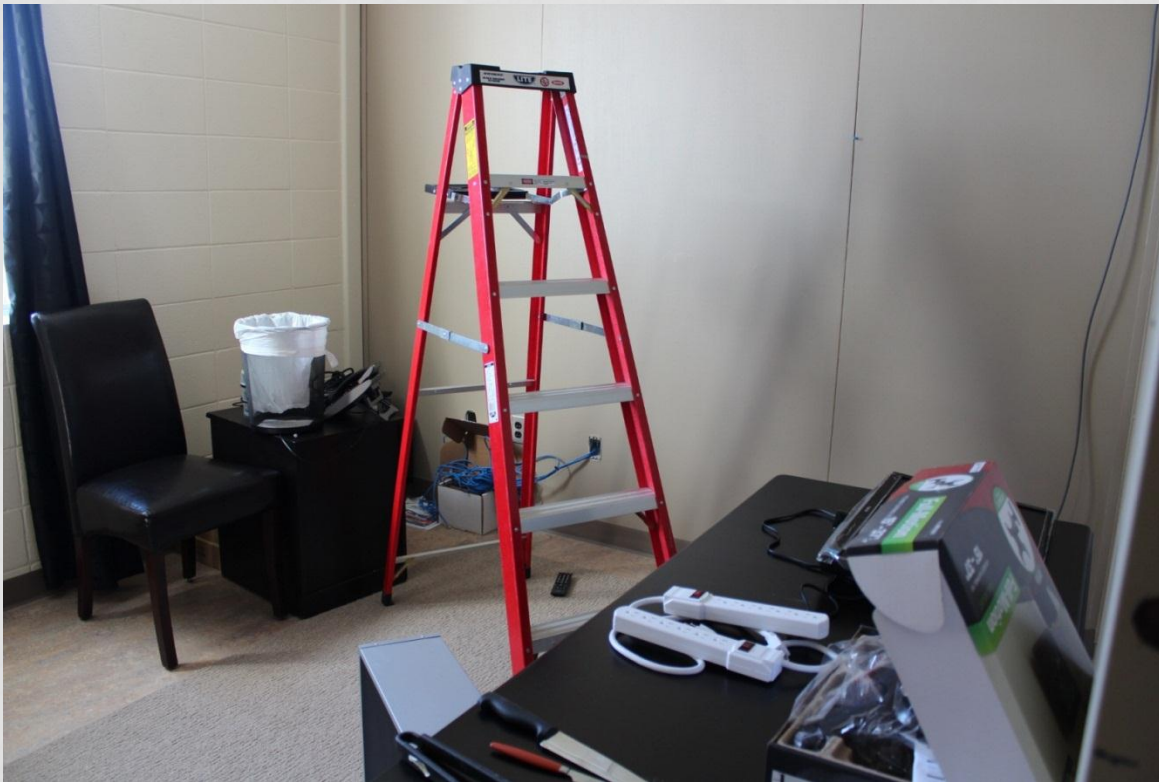


Kids' Interview Room

No toys in room (distracting)

Open for one week, did 9 interviews
(acute cases, not historical)

CARIBOU CENTRE



Monitor Room
(being re-wired)

Interviews
conducted by
RCMP or CFSA
(Stepwise trained),
depending on
what makes sense
for family

Interviewer will
consult with other
team members
during interview

CARIBOU CENTRE



RCMP and CFSA not co-located on site, but have this office to use

Two 0.5 social work positions allocated to Centre

Working on MOU, as well as protocols with all partners

Health services working to expedite process at hospital

CARIBOU CENTRE

Youth Interview Room

Not institutional,
compared to:

- CFSA does child interviews in “an office space with a few toys thrown in”
- RCMP have a “soft room” but kids have to wait with the general population



All partners prefer to do
interviews at Caribou

WEST KANSAS MOBILE CAC



West Kansas:

Low population density

~ 150,000 people in entire region

3 standalone CACs in communities with 2000-4000 people

Multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) not co-located

Child Advocates are paid positions

Trained Forensic Interviewers, not police or child protection (they see cases too rarely to keep up skills)

WEST KANSAS MOBILE CAC



Added mobile unit:

107% increase in interviews in first year, 158% increase by third year

Conducted 245 interviews last year, believe will reach 300 this year

WEST KANSAS MOBILE CAC

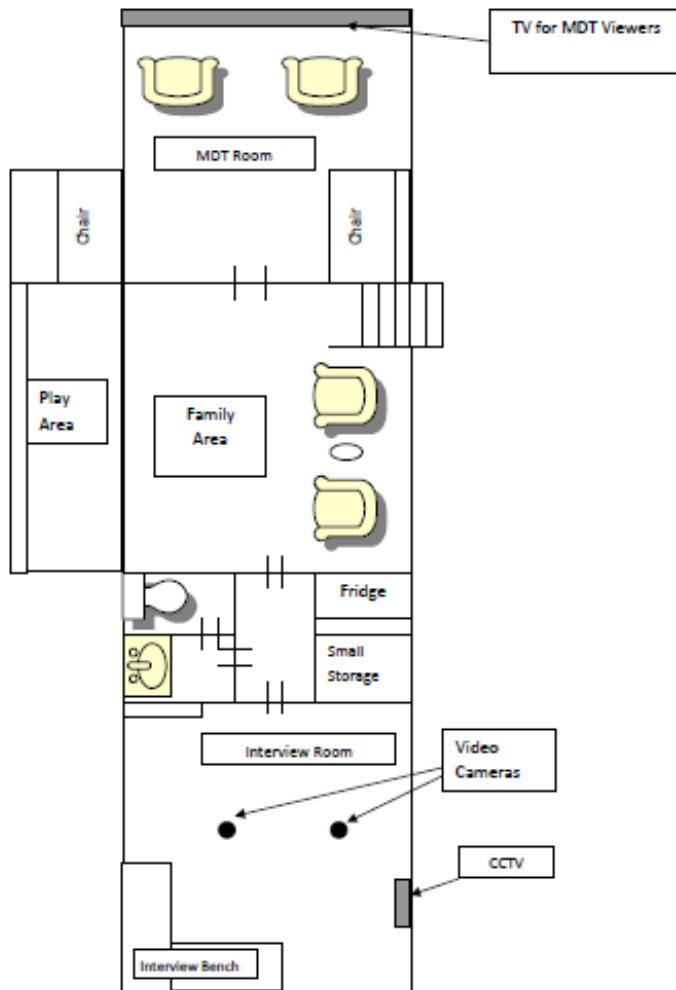


Diagram of interior

WEST KANSAS MOBILE CAC



Family
Waiting
Room

WEST KANSAS MOBILE CAC



Family Seating

WEST KANSAS MOBILE CAC



Children's Play
Space

WEST KANSAS MOBILE CAC



Interview
Room

CCTV, so child
can later
testify from this
safe, familiar
location rather
than taking
the stand in
open court
facing
perpetrator

WEST KANSAS MOBILE CAC



Interview Room

Cameras in ceiling have tilt, pan and zoom options

Controlled by MDT in front, transmits A/V to them

Interviewer wears earbud, so team members can insert a comment or question during interview

WEST KANSAS MOBILE CAC



Driving area

Multi-Disciplinary
Team (MDT) seating
for meetings and
during interviews

Holds up to 6 people

WEST KANSAS MOBILE CAC

6 Staff (all serve multiple roles):

- 1 F/T therapist
- 2 Child/family advocates (also trained in forensic interviewing)
- P/T medical position (SANE and medical wellness exams)
- Executive Director – also do interviews and therapy
- Program Director – also do interviews and therapy

Everyone trained to drive the bus

Can send out two teams of three, always have an advocate and a forensic interviewer.

WEST KANSAS MOBILE CAC

Benefits of Mobile Child Advocacy Centres:

- Reducing a child's trauma
- Providing services that are more available and more easily accessible to all community members
- Ensuring that children do not have to travel far to receive services
- Sparing law enforcement agencies with limited personnel the expense and time of escorting a child to a forensic interview
- Providing prompt and ongoing services that are tailored to a child's needs and family situation
- Empowering non-offending parents to protect and support their children throughout the intervention process and beyond

WEST KANSAS MOBILE CAC

Benefits of Mobile Child Advocacy Centres (cont.):

- *Holding more offenders accountable by coordinating investigative and interview procedures*
- *Processing cases in the court system more quickly*
- *Educating the community about the problem of child abuse and the appropriate response methods*
- *Allowing for easier prosecution, because specially trained forensic interviewers conduct neutral and defensible interviews*
- *Providing additional specialized mental health treatment resources*
- *Investigating allegations of abuse more thoroughly and producing more usable information*

WEST KOOTENAY BOUNDARY

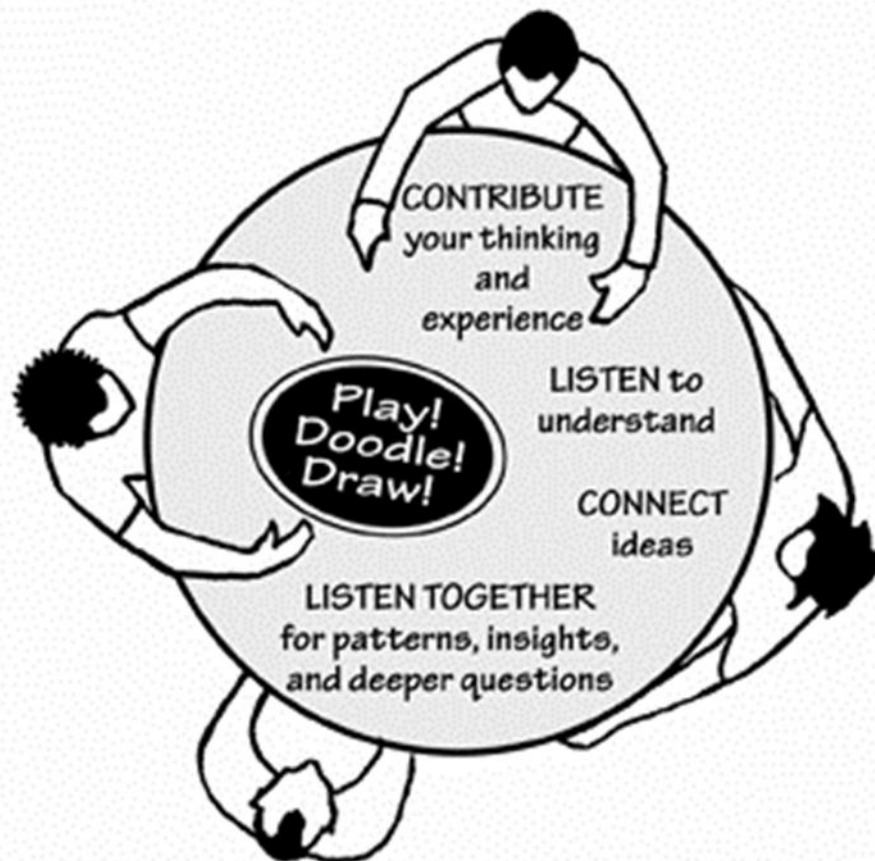
In your 'sector':

1. What three things are you **already doing** to work towards meeting these goals for children and youth?
2. What three **more** things could you be doing?
3. What are three **challenges** to doing so?
4. What three things do you **need from other sectors** in order to be able to do more?

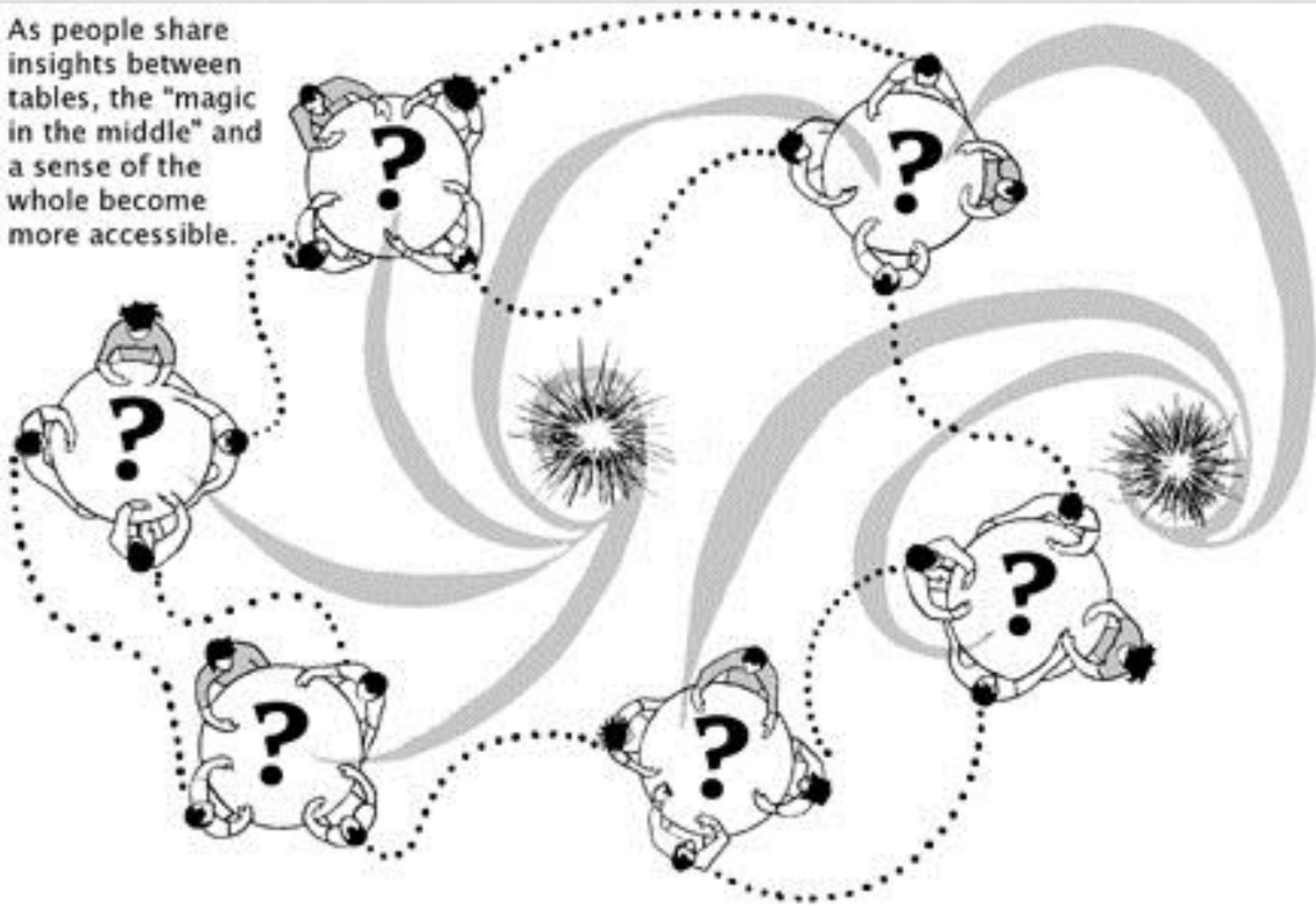


CAFÉ ETIQUETTE

FOCUS
on what matters!



As people share insights between tables, the "magic in the middle" and a sense of the whole become more accessible.



ROUND #1

- Everyone discusses the question at your small table for 10 minutes and writes on flipchart.
- When time is up, one person (the “host”) will stay at the table.
- Everyone else moves quickly to a different table anywhere else in the room
 - Keep groups similar size
 - Don't sit at same table as anyone from your first table discussion

ROUND #2

- The Host starts by sharing some of the highlights from the first round with the new people at the table.
- People talk together for rest of the round.

ROUND #3

- People move a third time
- Host shares what was discussed in last round.
- People then reflect on what patterns & connections they have heard.

After last round, the facilitator will ask for themes and patterns.

THE CAFÉ QUESTION

Given what you've heard today, what do you think we could start doing better as a region right now, and what should we apply for more funding to do?

COMMUNITIES/ AREAS

- As a community/area, what are you going to do better?
- What are you going to do right now?
- What are you going to do next year?
- Who's going to do what?
(everyone commit to at least one small thing)

CONCLUSION

Thank you for coming today, and for your
commitment for child and youth victims
and their families!