

The Challenges and Elusiveness of Supported Living

Why we should still attempt
to pursue it!

TASH Webinar

7/8/09

Presenters

- Jeffrey L. Strully
- Executive Director – Jay Nolan Community Services
- Past Board Member of TASH
- Parent
- Rebecca Burkhardt
- Director of Supported Living – Jay Nolan Community Services
- Board Member of California Supported Living Network
- Housemate to a gentleman with autism for over five years

Let's Agree

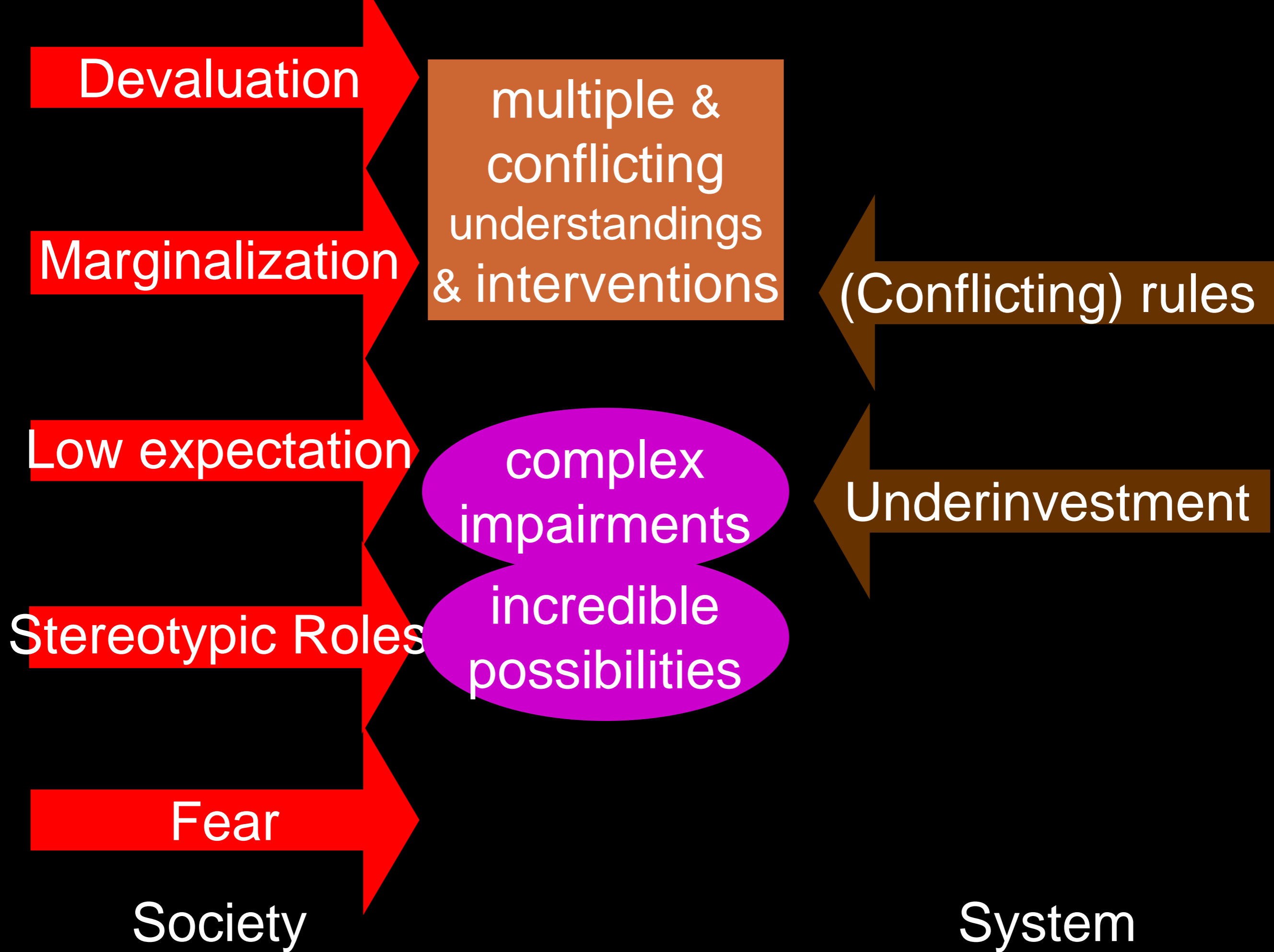
- Individualization
- Personalization
- Locus of Control and Power
- More than just a place to live
- Circles of support/Team
- Person-centered work

What can get in the way

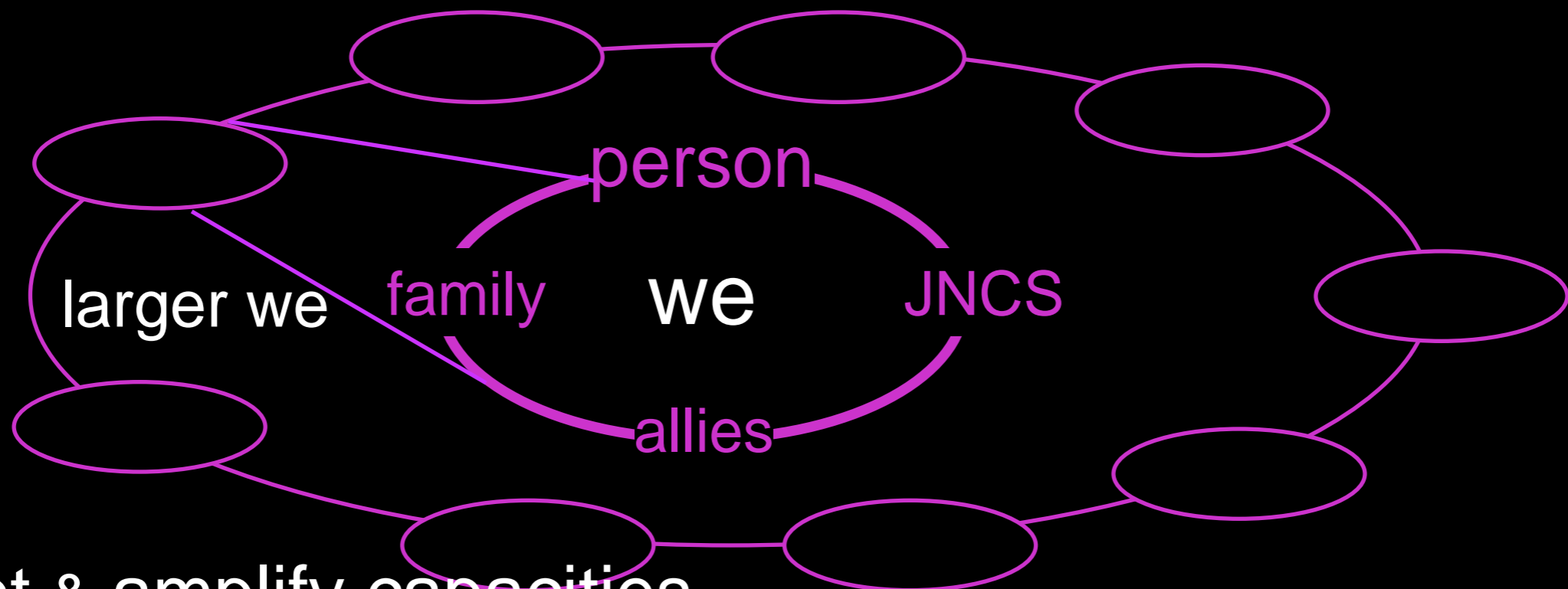
- Values, beliefs, and understandings
- Knowing the person
- Finding & Sustaining the right support
- Fiscal & administrative issues
- “Duty to care” – risk avoidance
- Balancing Act – People & Organizations
- Day to day stuff

Exploring Challenges





Purpose: develop & sustain a growing network of ties & relationships that can safeguard a vulnerable person & support their flourishing (creative interdependency)



Spot & amplify capacities

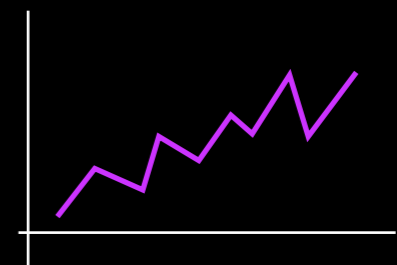
Seek & connect with opportunities (including new staff)

Find, test, & adapt better ways of assisting & accommodating

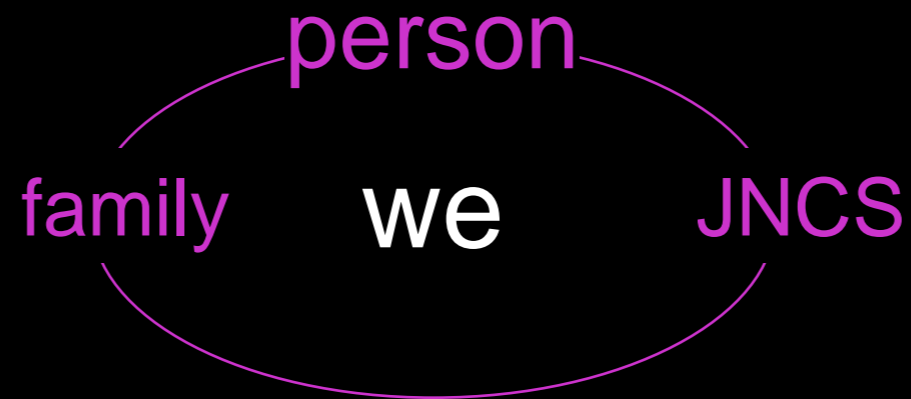
Support each other to assume new roles

Identify & solve support problems

Maintain respectful relationships



Purpose: solve support problems



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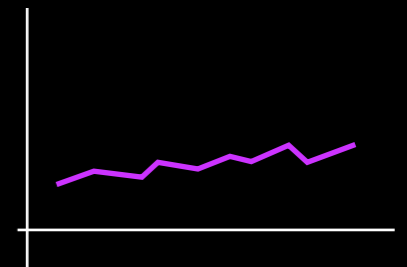
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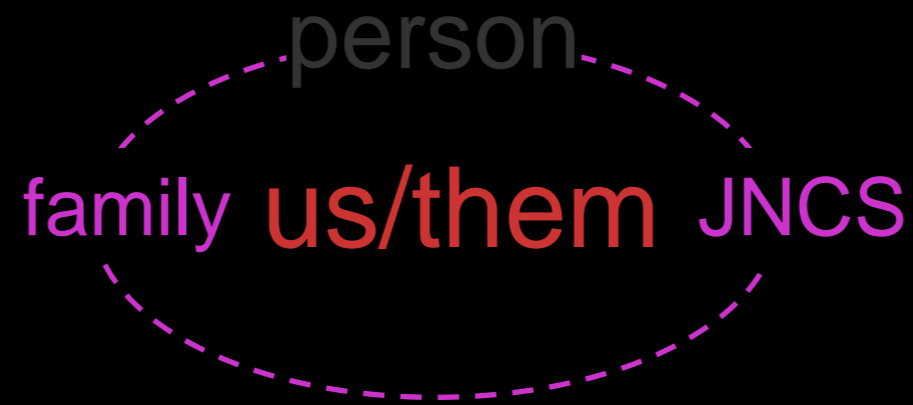
Identify & solve support problems

Maintain respectful relationships

Problem assigned by family to JNCS staff for resolution; staff usually accept & usually deliver through JNCS coordination process



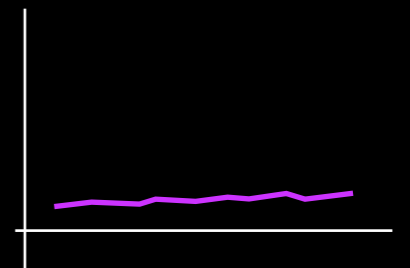
Purpose: solve support problems [satisfy/change family]



Manage conflict over definition & solve [manage] support problems

Maintain respectful relationships mutual tolerance

Problem assigned by family to JNCS staff for resolution; staff usually accept & usually deliver through JNCS coordination process



Purpose: solve support problems [neutralize or get rid of family]

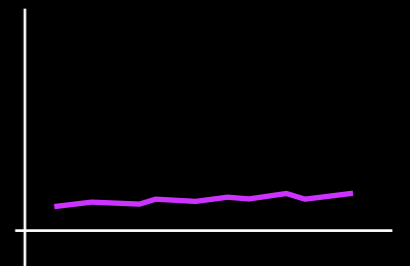
person

family us/them JNCS

Increased negative scan

Concern with fixing & avoiding blame: family overt blame
- JNCS blame accepting excuse (e.g. “wasn’t trained”), JNCS blames family away from family

Escalating stories on both sides that justify “us” by attributing negative motivations



Collaborate



Exercise
Total
Control

Dependence
on Institutional
Control

What specific strategies can we develop to support people to move from either end toward the zone of collaboration?

Possibilities for Strengthening Circles

Create a developmental path to skilled Circle facilitation (based on apprenticeship & mentorship)

Make explicit more of the understanding of Circle facilitation based on practices in Circles that have been effective over time (a clearer & more extensive map)

Study the way & knowledge skill diffuses from consultants & training through Circles

Make mediators & coaches available

Develop better maps of family dynamics across development

Regular & skilled support for the emotional dimensions of the work

Explore connections to sources of compassion & forgiveness

Assert Circle ethics at points of breakdown

awareness of un-discussables • signs of having swallowed too much • excessive defensiveness • intimidation • walking away

Why do this?

