



Best practice: challenges and alternatives

Mana whānau – a whānau-led alternative to child uplifts and foster care

Zoe Truell and Sher Gestro, Lifewise Trust

Robyn Pope and Andrea McKenzie, Wesley Community Action

About the presenters

Zoe Truell has practiced child protection Social Work since 1990 in New Zealand and the UK, in statutory and NGO organisations.

Sher Gestro has background in counselling and social work and currently leads several Lifewise teams working with children and families.

Robyn Pope is Manager Practice and Development at Wesley, she is an accredited trainer in Strength Based Practice and is responsible for implementing a client/community lead approach at Wesley

Andrea McKenzie is a social worker and is responsible for the operational management for Wesley Community Action services.

About the workshop

Mana Whānau is a successful, innovative whānau-led programme developed by Lifewise as an alternative to foster care.

Tamariki are removed from whānau because their parents are coping with multiple toxic stressors, lack of parenting capability, and struggle to meet their children's needs. Mana Whānau prevents tamariki from entering or remaining in foster care by providing intensive in-home support by skilled staff over six months thereby reducing immediate risk, addressing and removing stressors and building parenting capability and capacity.

We will present:

- Our strong evidence base
- Developmental evaluation learnings
- Holding a whānau-led approach in what can be considered risky situations



Cultural competence

Building inclusive communities

Birgit Grafarend-Watungwa, English Language Partners

About the presenter

Birgit Grafarend-Watungwa (MA Cultural Anthropology/Sociology) is currently the Operations Manager at English Language Partners New Zealand. She has also worked as a Community Development Advisor in Hamilton and was Research Associate in the Anthropology Department at Waikato University.

As a migrant herself, Birgit understands first-hand the challenges faced by newcomers in our communities. She has worked in community development and adult education in a multicultural environment for the past 20 years, both in New Zealand and overseas. She is passionate about diversity and empowering people to reach their full potential. Part of her role at English Language Partners involves advocating and lobbying on behalf of former refugee and migrant communities.

About the workshop

As we live and work in ever-changing environments, organisations want to ensure that their practices reflect the ethnic diversity of their communities.

In this interactive workshop, we will explore the challenges and opportunities of working in a multicultural environment, and consider best practice in terms of cross-cultural communication. Participants will share practical ideas of how to better engage with clients and volunteers from different ethnic backgrounds.



Partnering and collaboration in practice

Intensive whānau support: navigating complexity through collaboration

NGO partners: Heather Graham, Christchurch Methodist Mission; and Yvette Fass, Te Whare Hauora

With Karina Pawsey, Oranga Tamariki

About the presenters

NGO partners:

Heather Graham is an experienced social worker having worked in both the statutory and NGO sectors. Her current work is focused on completed home based parenting interventions, undertaking parenting assessments and running a group programme for parents who are having their children returned to their care following issues of abuse or neglect.

Yvette Fass currently delivers Domestic Violence education. She has BA double majoring in Psychology and Education, teaching and mental health qualifications. Registered Social Worker with past 24 years in Kaupapa Maori organisations utilising Maori Therapeutic models of practice to empower whānau to reach their goals and full potential.

Oranga Tamariki:

Karina Pawsey currently works for Services for Children and Families as a Supervisor within Oranga Tamariki. Karina is an experienced, Registered Social Worker, having worked in child protection in both NZ and the UK.

About the workshop

We share our experience of developing an innovative intensive support package for a whānau facing complex, high-risk stressors. As Oranga Tamariki and NGO partners we came together around the whānau to create a package to keep tamariki safe.

Firstly, we explore the practice model developed focusing on evidence-based approaches for effective intervention. This includes a Kaupapa Māori practice model, developed over 30 years, that restores whānau mana rangatiratanga.

Secondly, we examine the complexities of navigating cross sector collaboration, linking our experience to current research evidence, focusing on the need to break down silos so whānau get what they need.



Sustainable organisations

Planning for success: sustainable organisational development

Dr Catherine Savage and John Leonard, Ihi Research

About the presenters

Dr Catherine Savage is a registered psychologist and director of Ihi Research. She has produced research and evaluation projects investigating social impact from innovative approaches to achieving social change for clients such as Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu, Rātā Foundation, Bros for Change, Moana House and Ōtautahi Creative Spaces. She has published and presented nationally and internationally on culturally responsive practices and the development wellbeing initiatives.

John Leonard is the CE of Ihi Research and Development. He has over 25 years' experience in educational leadership, research and evaluation. John has worked on the evaluation of several Whānau Ora commissioned initiatives, specialist programmes delivered by Māori social service providers, including Moana House and Bros for Change, and philanthropic projects for Rātā Foundation.

About the workshop

This workshop explores critical success factors for sustainable organisational development. Five years of research and evaluation with not for profit organisations has led to the identification of seven essential critical success factors that form a framework to drive sustainable practices in not-for profit or NGO organisations. Ensuring that organisations are resilient, have a funding platform and can demonstrate the impact they are having is crucial for continued success. In this workshop you will work through a process of identifying opportunities for continuous improvement and organisational sustainability.



Best practice: challenges and alternatives

Poverty and social work: policy and practice implications for child and family social work
Emily Keddell, Otago University

About the presenter

Emily is a senior lecturer in the Social and Community Work programme at the University of Otago, researching child protection inequalities, decision-making in child protection, and algorithmic prediction in child protection contexts. Her practice background was in both family support and child protection social work.

About the workshop

Poverty rates are high amongst families with children, yet many of the frameworks used in child protection and family support policy and practice do not make explicit the links between poverty and family life. Models that emphasise cultural and psychological factors can obscure the deep inter-connections between poverty and everyday family life, leading to a focus on understanding cultural worldviews or individual psychology at the expense of recognising economic contributors to family distress.

Drawing on research into inequalities in contact with the child protection system, poverty-aware practice and normative discourses of parenting, this workshop discusses the current debates in child and family social work related to poverty, and provides space for practitioners to discuss the implications for their practice.



Cultural competence

Rukuhia te rētōtanga o te whanaungatanga – What is my connection with this whānau?

Turaukawa Bartlett, Kaiwhakahononga – Lead Māori Workforce Development, Careerforce Te Toi Pūkenga
Aimee Bartlett, Kaiwhakahononga hāpai – Māori Workforce Development Support, Careerforce Te Toi Pūkenga

About the presenters

Ko Ngāti Whātua ki Ōrākei, Ngāti Hako me Ngāti Pākehā ō māua nei whakapapa.

Turaukawa and Aimee Bartlett are passionately committed to workforce development and building a values-based workforce guided by the overarching vision of ‘what is good for Māori, is good for everyone’.

Turaukawa and Aimee bring with them their own personal lived experiences in mental health and addiction and passion for work in their rural community of Hauraki supporting whānau hauora-wellbeing, and also specialise in school-based youth support delivering an integrated clinical and cultural whānau model of care.

About the workshop

Sitting at the centre of whānau wellbeing is whanaungatanga; connections, identity and belonging as a whānau. Our role as kaimahi-practitioners working with whānau is having the ability to confidently and more importantly comfortably build connections with whānau to enhance their tino-Rangatiratanga-self-determination and mana that reinforce these connections.

The first step of the process is internally focused, and guided by the understanding that we must firstly acknowledge and understand how we connect to our own selves, and how this informs our practice.

In this interactive workshop, attendees will be supported to **safely** engage in understanding whanaungatanga as a guiding value of practice, as well as be equipped with practical skills such as writing and presenting their own custom whaiwhakaaro/self-reflection template in order to truly answer the question– ko wai au, who am I, and how does that inform what I do with whānau?



Partnering and collaboration in practice

Ngā Pou Tuarongo – delivering a whānau-centric response to family harm for Māori and Pasifika in South Auckland

Presenters from the partner organisations: Barnardos, Te Whare Ruru hau o Meri Trust, Fonua Ola

About the workshop

Over the past 2 years, three organisations have come together in South Auckland in a transformational project, Ngā Pou Tuarongo, to support whānau and families faced with family violence and harm underpinned by root cause drivers such as addiction, intergenerational trauma and poverty. Ngā Pou takes an intentionally cross-cultural approach to service delivery in the belief that this best serves tamariki, children, families and whānau in the most holistic way possible. It is grounded in the belief that 'ma te kotahitanga whai kaha ai tatou' – in unity, we find strength. This workshop is a chance to hear from the leaders of the project to learn what is making it successful, and the challenges and opportunities they have encountered.



Sustainable organisations

Supporting our collective workforce to grow

About the presenters

Presenters will be members or secretariat from the Workforce Working Group set up by Oranga Tamariki

About the workshop

Learn about the plan developed by the Workforce Working Group and discuss how you can get involved in next steps