



Multifocus: The power of connecting

Systemic interventions in the event of domestic violence

“The whole is more than the sum of the parts”

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1. Introductions
2. My development in the field of DV
3. The consequences of DV
4. Cooperation in cases of DV
5. Multifocus in practice
6. What does an Intensive Casemanager?
Pauze
7. Dynamics: attachment and relational conflict styles
8. Working trauma-focused (film)



Let's get to know each other first











Background





Quotes from clients:

“Despite everything, it is still my partner.”

“Despite everything, they are still my parents”



The complexity of DV 1/2



- Social workers identify themselves more with victims than with perpetrators
- Victims: care and support, perpetrators: checked and punished
- Treatment of victims falls short in the attention for the role of women
- Attempting to control the perpetrators → punitive attitude → shaming men → repetition and strengthening of dynamics
- Treatments for perpetrators are hardly effective in reducing recurrences



The complexity of DV 2/2



- Perpetrators are often victims and victims are also perpetrators
- More than a sum of partial problems of the victim, perpetrator and children
- The question of guilt: + violent interaction
- the demand for responsibility: – violent interaction
- Victims often stay behind with unanswered questions
- The problems are criminalized too quickly



Multifocus

Starting point of the intervention



- A system-oriented intervention
- From one point of view, violence prefers to stop preserving mutual relationships
- Multiple perspectives are applied in a value chain to achieve this



Cooperation based on shared values



Creating a value-based cooperation because:

- All forms of violence in dependent relationships are complex in nature;
 - Extensive
 - Context bound (often transgenerational)
 - No direct cause - effect relationship
- Domestic violence as a complex theme requires a multidisciplinary approach
- A multidisciplinary approach results in involvement of various services and municipalities and requires coordination



Problems developing true collaboration (Gwinn, 2012)



Different value systems, priorities, goals



Problems developing true collaboration (Gwinn, 2012)



Different visions for service delivery



That's my contribution,
right there



Problems developing true collaboration (Gwinn, 2012)



Poor, inconsistent communication



Weak collaborative leadership





Possible values

1. The violence stops
2. Safety comes first
3. Direct action is taken with 24-hour availability
4. The type of violence is recognized
5. The violence as a pattern is recognized
6. System diagnosis focuses on family and cooperation partners
7. Result instead of effort is decisive
8. Case management for each case
9. Awareness of interdependence



The way Multifocus works

- Multifocus: one Intensive Casemanager
- Precondition:
 - a respectful attitude
 - able to see different perspectives
 - taking into account the family's taxability
- Involved for one year if needed





The Intensive Casemanager is:

- Context-oriented
- Focused on direct safety on the short term
- Focused on sustainable safety on the long term
- Immediately active
- Client perspective is leading
- Respectful
- Normative
- Doesn't judge or condemn
- Leadership in the case = leadership in the collaboration





The work process of a casemanager



- Within 24 hours: contact with all family members for intake
- Broad analysis → hypothesis intervention to achieve sustainable violence
- Engage necessary professionals
- Directing, monitor, evaluate, adjust plan
- Monitoring safety



Dilemmas in complex cases



- Pressure from society: quickly towards safety
- Tension between:

Paying attention to the experiences and world of meaning of clients	Appointing the effects of the behavior
Zooming in on constructive facets in relationships and identity	Speaking directly about the facts
Non-judgmental counseling attitude	Opening directly with society's judgment





Talking about safety



- Courage needed to overcome your own fear
- Being able to work with uncertainties and contradictions
- Solidarity to all family members
- Talking to ALL family members, also listening to the children
- Being clear about what is and is not possible
- Be transparent
- Appreciative alliance: common goal
- Looking for family strength and social network







We are going to watch a film fragment



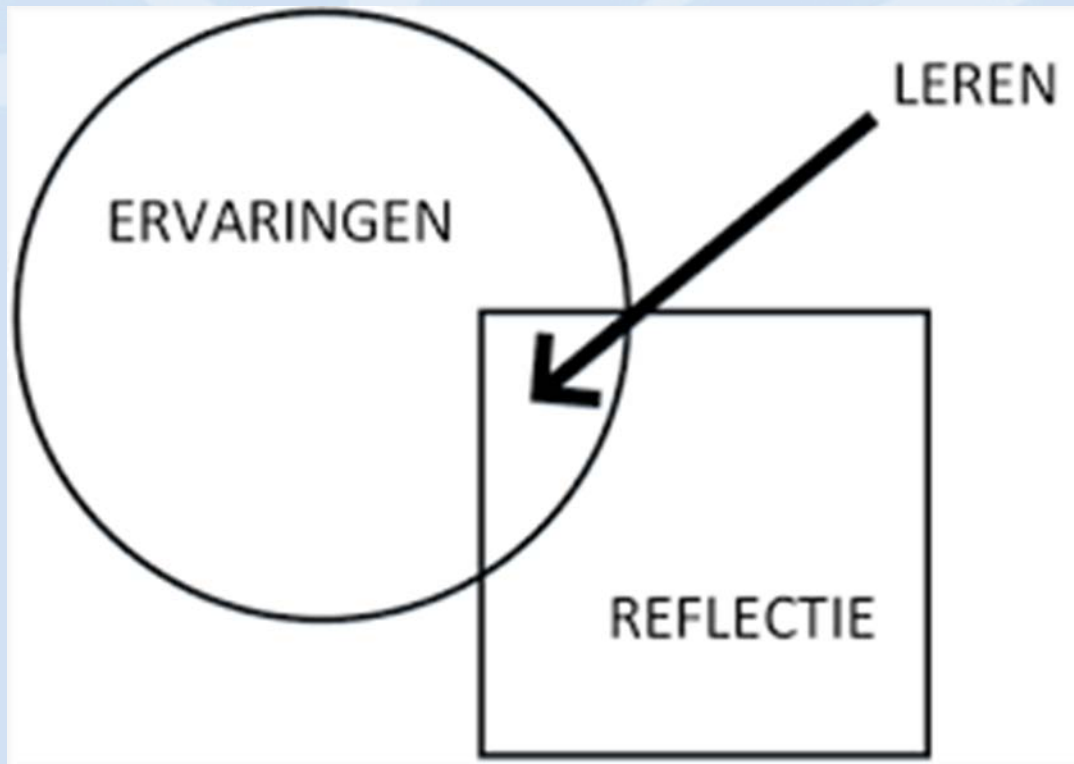


Important elements in which the Multifocus intensive case manager is trained:

- System-based approach & system analysis (attachment & conflict patterns)
- Attachment patterns and interaction patterns (trauma-sensitive work)



Experience assignment: attachment





Love & Attachment

Secure Attachment

Positive View of Self
Positive View of Others
Interdependent
Comfortable with Emotional Intimacy
Comfortable with Closeness
Healthy Relationship Bonds
Secure & Trusting
"He is there for me when I need him"
"She always calms me"

Anxious Attachment

Negative View of Self
Positive View of Others
Dependent
Fear of Losing Relationship
Emotional Highs & Lows
Can be aggressive
Clingy on Separation
"She'll let me down"
"He'll leave me"

Avoidant Attachment

Positive View of Self
Negative View of Others
Independent/Self-Reliant
Difficult to Get Close with Others
Puts up Walls
Leaves or Avoids During Conflict
"I don't need her"
"I can't take care of myself"

Fearful Attachment

Negative View of Self
Negative View of Others
Seeks Closeness & Avoids Closeness
Disorganized
Fearful of making Connections
Could be Self-harming or Abusive
"There's something wrong with me"
"No one can love"



Conflict styles in relationship



- Find The Bad Guy
- The Protest Polka
- Freeze and Flee

The 4 attachment styles in relations:

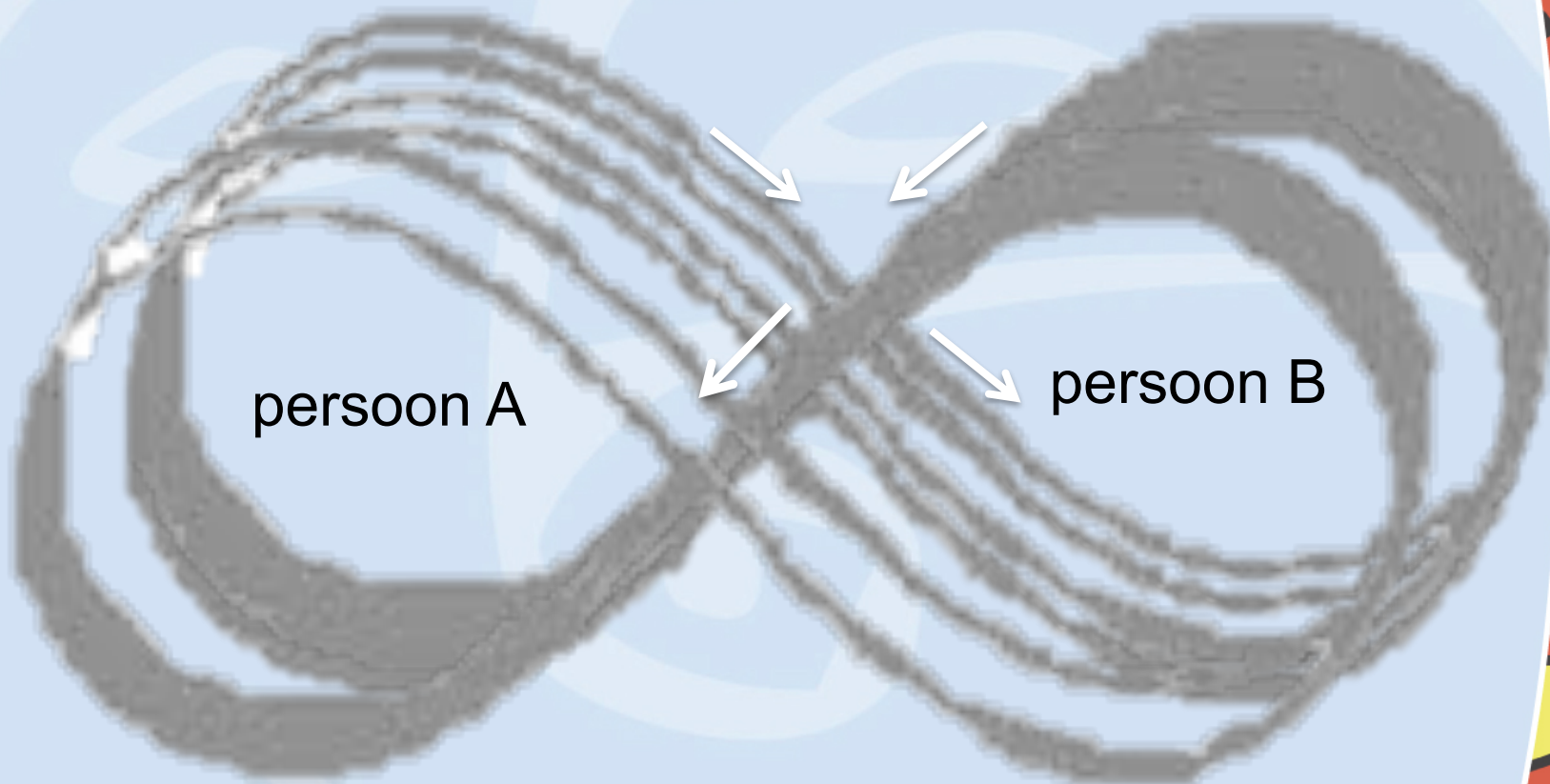
- between partners but also
- between care provider and client





Gedrag persoon A

Gedrag persoon B



persoon A

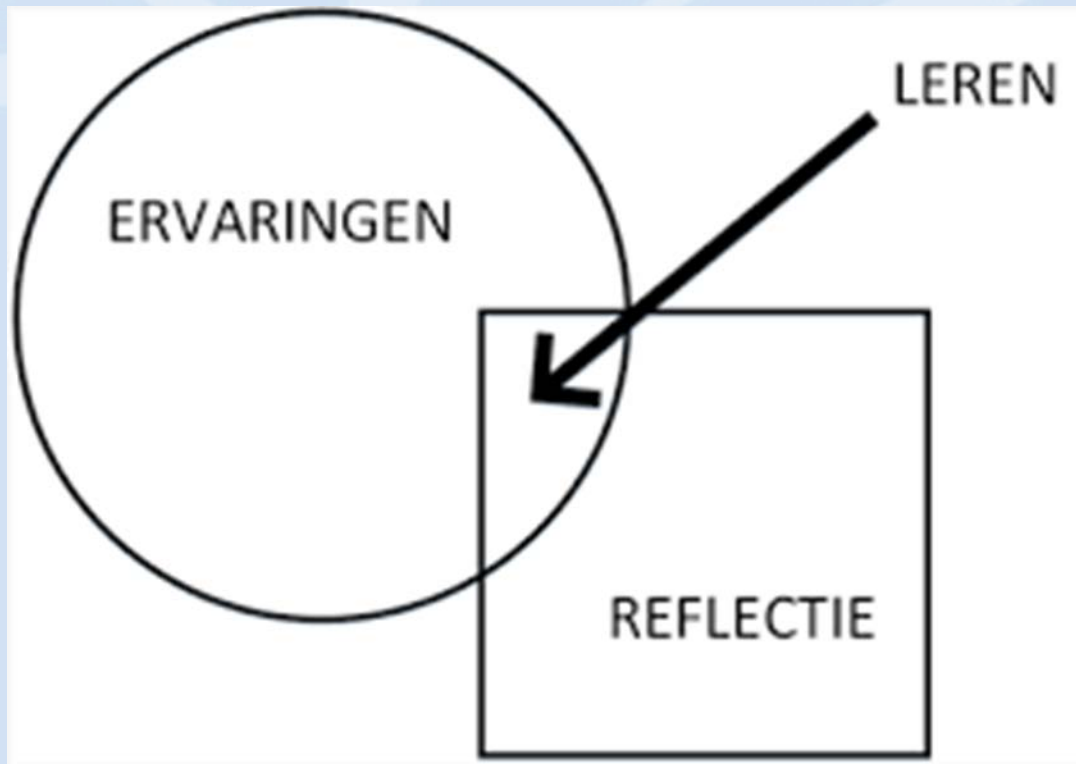
persoon B

Emotie persoon A

Emotie persoon B



Experience assignment: balloon



Emotion regulation: Window of Tolerance



Hyperarousal

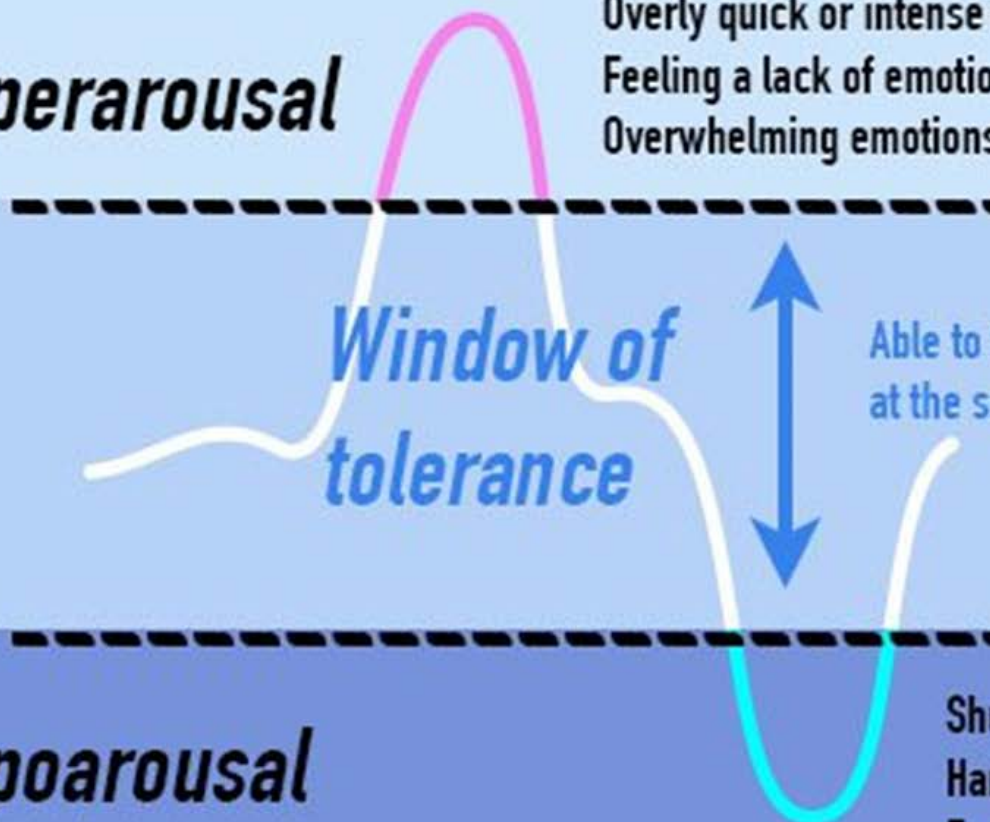
Hyperaware or vigilant
Overly quick or intense reactions
Feeling a lack of emotional safety
Overwhelming emotions

Window of tolerance

Able to think and feel
at the same time

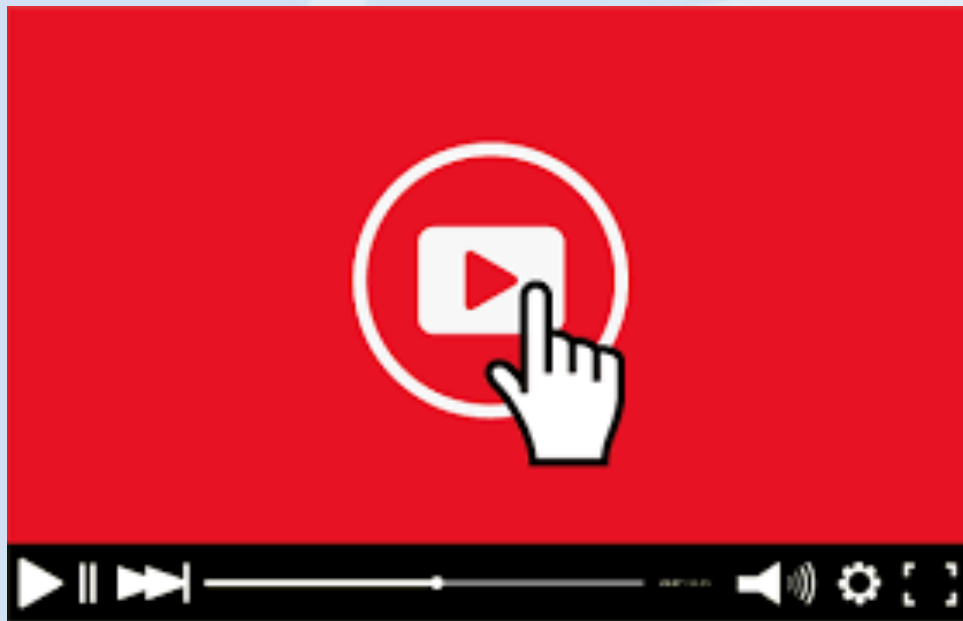
Hypoarousal

Shut down, flat or numb
Hard to think, disconnected
Feeling shame, can't say 'no'





We are going to watch the rest of the film





Remembering trauma

In pairs, look at the questions below and try to find the best possible answer together

- What do you see happening at the Window of Tolerance with this man?
- What attachment style do you see when you look at this man?
- Do you hear/see the transgenerational pattern?
- What are protective factors in this case?





In conclusion: back to Multifocus



The Intensive Casemanager applies all this and more to each situation

Multifocus is effective:

- Risk of recidivism drops to only 9%
- Probability of reporting to an imminent reoccurrence rises
- Chance of divorce in common couple violence drops
- Probability of separation in case of intentional violence and intimate terrorism rises
- Chance of children being placed in foster care drops





In conclusion: specific



- The violence is clearly and forcefully rejected
- The entire client system is involved in the intervention (wider than just the family)
- Parents are educated about what partner violence does to children
- Multiple perspectives: all parties are given the space for their side and perception of the problem
- The violence is explicitly discussed and in the here and now some incidents are meticulously investigated
- Clients are helped to see their own share and take responsibility for this





Questions or discussion?





Mutsaersstichting

