



Empowerment

Listening

Goals

# evolve

INTERAGENCY SERVICES working together, maximising potential

## **TRANSITION WELL DONE**

### **Child Safety Research Forum**

**Karen Mork, SLP**

**Sally Rostas, Psychologist**

# The case

- 17 year old female referred to Evolve program on the Sunshine Coast in January 2007
- Intellectual Impairment
- Epilepsy
- Trauma history
- Diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Jessica was placed with Sunshine Coast NGO
  - Able to provide 2:1 worker support to reduce safety risks

# Family and child protection history

- Complex family relationships – long history of involvement of mental health and other services
- Family had history of not engaging well with external agencies.
- Complex relationship with birth mother which impacted on stability of young person's placement.

# Presenting Concerns at Referral

- High level self harming behaviour that was increasing in frequency and severity (Cutting, inserting glass and other objects, swallowing objects (including tampons, glass beads))
- High level aggressive and violent outburst behaviour
- Hitting, kicking, biting, swearing, damaging property

# Presenting Concerns at Referral

- Emotional dysregulation, including reports that she had recently experienced a sexual assault.
- Due to severe nature of presentation, Jessica's environment was highly controlled and restrictive at the time of referral.
- Jessica had no community access and no opportunities to participate in work or learning programs.

# Summary of Evolve Intervention

- The formation of an interagency team including representatives from the placement agency, Child Safety, DSQ, Health and birth family.
- Regular interagency stakeholder meetings were arranged and facilitated as part of the intervention.

# Summary of Evolve Intervention

- Development of an Interagency Support Plan with a focus of improving Jessica's quality of life and minimizing risk.
- Comprehensive assessments were completed, including Initial, Functional and Communication Assessments
- Implementation of positive behaviour support strategies across the environments.

## Transition from Care process

- Referral to Project Officer - Transition from Care
- Joint meeting between Evolve DSQ, CSO and Project Officer TFC
- Joint meeting between Evolve DSQ, DSQ Supports Facilitator and Project Officer TFC



## Transition from Care process

- Links made to adult services and the formation of Transition team
- Information sharing including provision of assessments and current behaviour support plan

# Transition from Care support

- Facilitated ongoing communication between Child Safety and DSQ, including continuation of Stakeholder meetings
- Continued training and support provided in relation to Behaviour Support Plan, including linking across agencies to maintain continuity of service provision.

# Transition from Care support

- Jessica participated in future planning and attended meetings.
- Facilitated Young Adults Exiting Care of the State (YACS) submission.
- Facilitated housing application and other support to identify accommodation options

# Transition from Care support

- Continued involvement post 18 in Behaviour Support and future planning
- Training to residential staff to facilitate key daily activities: e.g. menu planning, budgeting.

# Ensuring success

- Continued involvement of family - backing up behaviour support strategies and working intensively with birth mother as part of team.
- Involved direct care workers (residential) - specific tasks to give them ownership of process.

# Ensuring success

- Respecting the roles of others - honoring the person. Understanding the humanistic individuals within the larger system.
- Keep young person at the centre – active participation at stakeholder meetings

# Outcomes for Jessica

- Placement stability
- Significant decrease in high level outburst and self harming behaviours
- Moved from daily incidents that regularly required hospitalization to no reported incidents and no hospitalizations since November 2007.
- Jessica has regular contact with her birth family, including her siblings.

# Outcomes for Jessica

- Reduction in support hours required – reduction in worker support has occurred over time
- Participation in community based activities, including Get Set For Work program 4 days per week and volunteer work at local animal refuge.
- Jessica has demonstrated increased insight and improved emotional regulation over time.

# Future Focus

- Ongoing coordination and support being provided by Intensive Behaviour Support team, DSQ
- Transition from Focused Support Strategies to more independent living programs
- Continuing to enhance social connections and friendships

## Future Focus

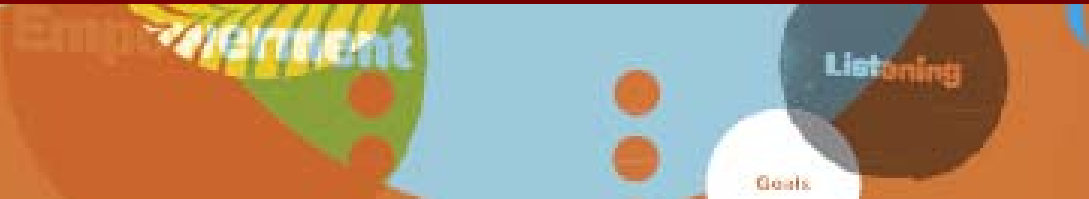
- Affordable and suitable accommodation
- Continued reduction in support hours
- Continued inclusion in community programs including work

# What has been achieved for stakeholders?

- Information sharing and networking has occurred across systems which has provided continuity of care for young person.
- Improved skill base, particularly for direct staff.
- Increased understanding of other professionals and their roles within their organizations.
- Enhanced relationships between government and non government departments.

# Our Key Learnings

- Keep the young person as the focus
- Communication is the key - needs to be effective, open, and with ALL stakeholders.
- Each person needs to do have a clear understanding of their role as a member of the team
- Never underestimate the power of a united team



# Evolve Interagency Services Behaviour Support Team

Maroochydore Service Centre  
19 George Street  
Maroochydore, Q 4558  
07-5459-9630

For further information please contact Denise Kane  
[denise.kane@disability.qld.gov.au](mailto:denise.kane@disability.qld.gov.au)