



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement, Ireland

uniTwin

NUI Galway Of Galway

**Family Partnerships**  
**Prof. Pat Dolan**  
 UNESCO Chair  
 Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway  
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**OVERVIEW**

1. **Frighten you with Some Theory that Underpins FP**
2. **Family Partnerships as a mode of work That ‘Makes Sense’**
3. **Give some Practice Examples From Service models to a student who learned FP the hard way and including a “Nun with a Gun”**

**Social Support Theory**

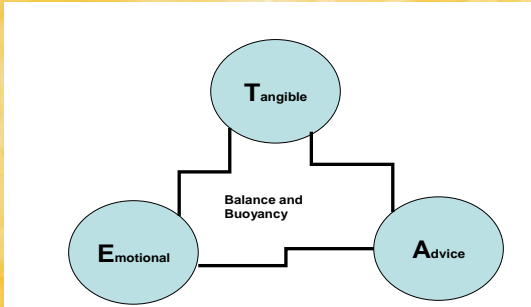
**Power of Informal Natural Support in Families**  
 (Pinkerton & Dolan, 2007)  
 Principle of Reciprocity (Cutrona 2006)

**Family Engagement as shareholders to stress as part of the Solution** (Connolly 2008) - Commonality of Outcomes

The Charlie Bruner Rule (Bruner, 2006)

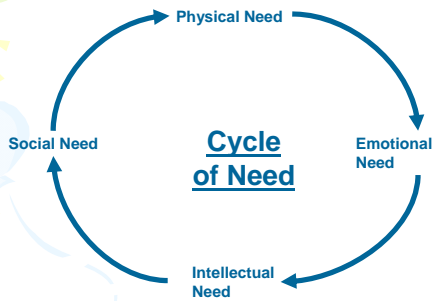
Most Recently – The Power of Hidden Support (Bolger 2009)

**TEA as Types of Support that Aid Coping**



Dolan 2010

Common across Adulthood, Dementia, Ageism, Intellectual and Physical Disability



Adapted from Kelmer-Pringle, 1970

### Rationale

Who knows the Family Best – Stresses/Strengths?  
Who is ideally placed to contribute to the solutions and coping mechanisms/plans?  
Who are most likely to be excluded?

The Going to Doctor Principle –Public Health Policy  
RCTs and Evidence Base  
Limitations – Tooth Extraction in Childhood  
The move away from Professionals who Retain Power as a tool in their working Relationships  
Historically almost an owner-pet Relationship

Family Partnership as Pragmatic as well as a Right  
Sometimes Family are not willing Sometimes so are Professionals

### Effective Models of Family Partnerships

In Child Protection Springboard (McKeown 2001) and in Internationally in preventing Child Maltreatment (Thompson 1995)

Family Group Conference (Family Community Involvement in Law in New Zealand – Connolly 2008)

For Youth - The Winthrop Project UK 1966 – Families signed off on assessment – intervention and evaluation

Nurse Family Partnerships - David Olds } ✓  
Communities that Care - David Hawkins }

### The Student Who Learned the Hard Way on Family Partnership

Developing an adapted Version of Well Known Diversion Programme – for Parents of Young Offenders

100% Compliance

100% Failure

Parents complied as recipients and subtly afraid of the Law and in an opposite place to partnership } ✓

Sr Molly and the Alan Kerins Projects



Sr Molly and the Alan Kerins Projects



**Core Principles of Family Partnerships**

- Five Mutual R's**
- Respect**
- Regard**
- Responsiveness**
- Review**
- Relationships**

