

Systems Maps: Ecomap and Social Network Map

Engagement

Talk about what has been working for you as you meet with families. What are your needs? If you are ready to improve your skills in using systems maps, this guide can support you as you assess and plan.

Explore:

When you think about the systems maps, what are your strengths?
What improvements would you like to make in your use of the systems maps?

Assessment

Scaling:

On a scale of 1 (need to learn) to 10 (can mentor), where would you place yourself?
(Record on the Functional Assessment.)



Scaling Continuum:

<u>Learning</u> Learning the Skills	<u>Working</u> Using the Skills with Families	<u>Mentoring</u> Using the Skills to Mentor
1. Understand and interpret the symbols of the Ecomap legend used to construct an Ecomap.	1. Engage family in developing systems maps.	1. Engage caseworker in seeing the values and uses of systems maps.
2. Use the legend symbols to construct an Ecomap.	2. Use solution-focused questions to obtain information to create systems maps.	2. Demonstrate the uses of systems maps for caseworkers with families.
3. Construct Social Network Map.	3. Use systems maps to identify formal and informal supports.	3. Coach caseworker through completing systems maps with families.
4. Identify formal and informal family supports through use of Ecomaps and Social Network Maps.	4. Use systems maps to identified potential child and family team members and/or placement options.	4. Process uses of systems maps and the valuable information that they can provide the caseworker.

<u>Learning</u> Learning the Skills	<u>Working</u> Using the Skills with Families	<u>Mentoring</u> Using the Skills to Mentor
5. Differentiate between systems maps, their uses, and the information that can be obtained through using them.	5. Use systems maps to identify gaps in services and resources for family.	5. Process with caseworker the differences between an Ecomap and a Social Network Map and when and how you might use the maps.
		6. Demonstrate using solution-focused questions to obtain information and engage families.

Planning

1. What will it look like when you use the systems maps as you would wish?
2. What steps can you take that will lead to the desired result?

Practice Opportunities

Mentor with Caseworker	Caseworker with Family	Family with Family
Coach caseworker through doing an Ecomap of their own family or the family of another caseworker, family member, or friend.	Do a systems map with a family.	Coach a family through using a systems map to look at their support systems and ways they might fill in gaps in their support systems.
Coach caseworker through doing a Social Network Map of their own or with a coworker, friend, etc.	Support a family in using the information obtained from a family systems map to identify formal and informal supports that could make up their family team.	Coach a family through using a systems map with a child who feels they are alone and/or unneeded.
	Process with the family, using a systems map, the gaps in their support systems and ways those gaps can be filled.	Coach a family through using a family systems map to look at strengths and needs in their relationships.
	Use a systems map to identify family team strengths.	

Knowledge Base

Concept:

Using systems maps to identify formal and informal supports

Basic Elements:

- Ecomap
- Ecomap legend
- Social Network Map
- Formal supports
- Informal supports
- Solution-focused questions

Definitions:

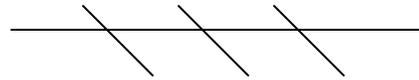
Ecomap

An Ecomap is a drawing that places a family within its ecological system. The map is:

- Completed by the worker and family together.
- Dated for comparison purposes.
- Used to evaluate progress though it looks at life today.
- Used to show the isolation and supports within the family.
- A visual illustration that provides a lot of information.

Ecomap legend

A stressful, conflict-laden relationship



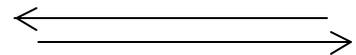
A tenuous uncertain relationship



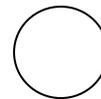
A positive relationship (the thicker the line, the stronger the relationship)



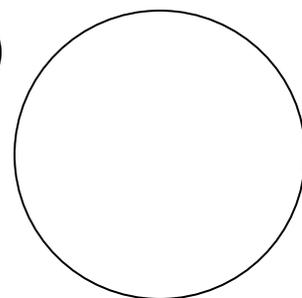
Arrow directions depict give and take of a relationship



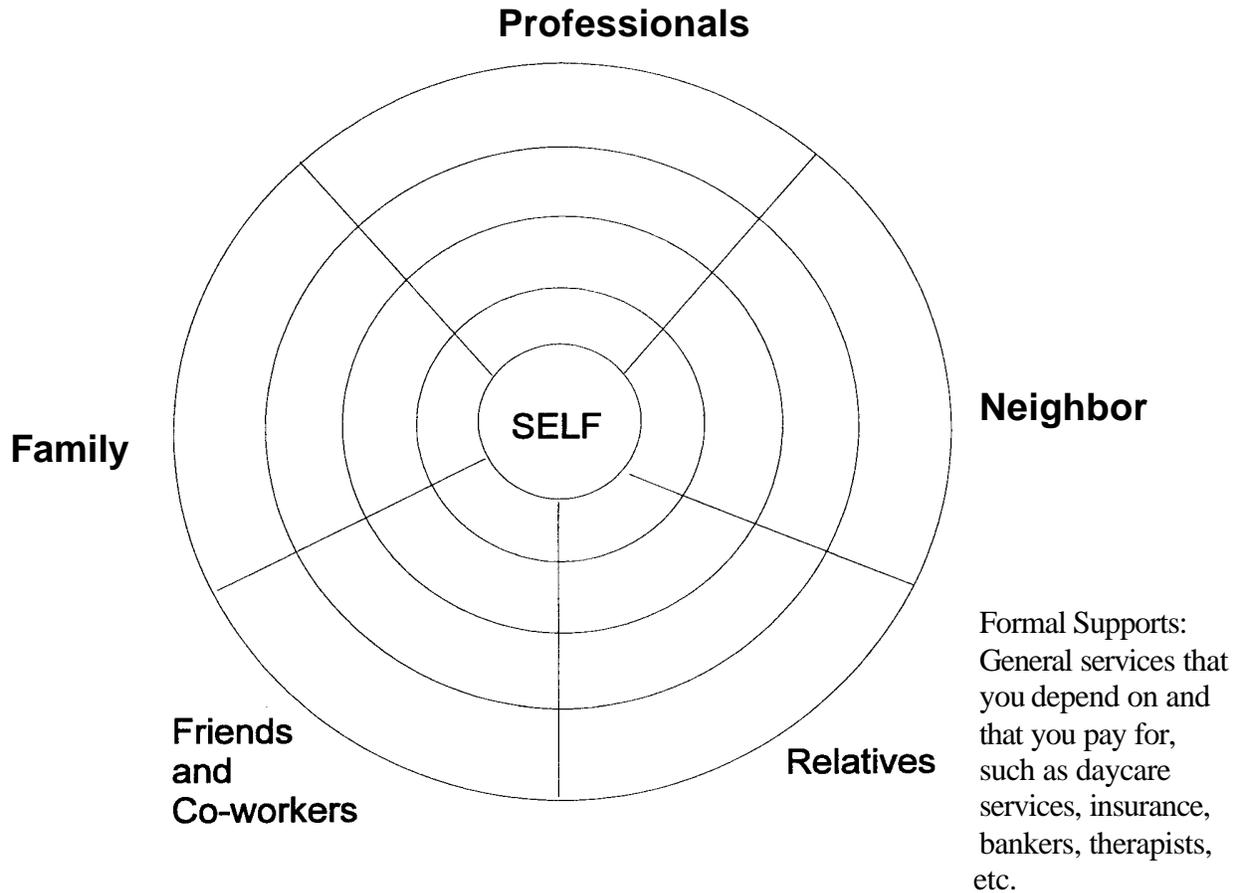
Circles are used to depict people and resources



Depict the family member with power using a larger size



Social Network Map:



Informal supports

People who offer you support to meet your day-to-day needs, such as family members, social groups, neighbors, best friends, religious group, etc.

Solution-focused questions

Questions that caseworkers can utilize to help individuals and families explore as they work to develop solutions to their problems.

- Who else is interested in helping your family change?
- What is the role of other family members in helping your family change?
- Who are the people that you turn to when you need help?