

Perspectives of healthcare professionals on the collaboration with informal caregivers

Erica Blokker MSc

Rieke Hengelaar MSc

Fenna van Nes PhD

Margo van Hartingsveldt PhD



Masterthesis Erica

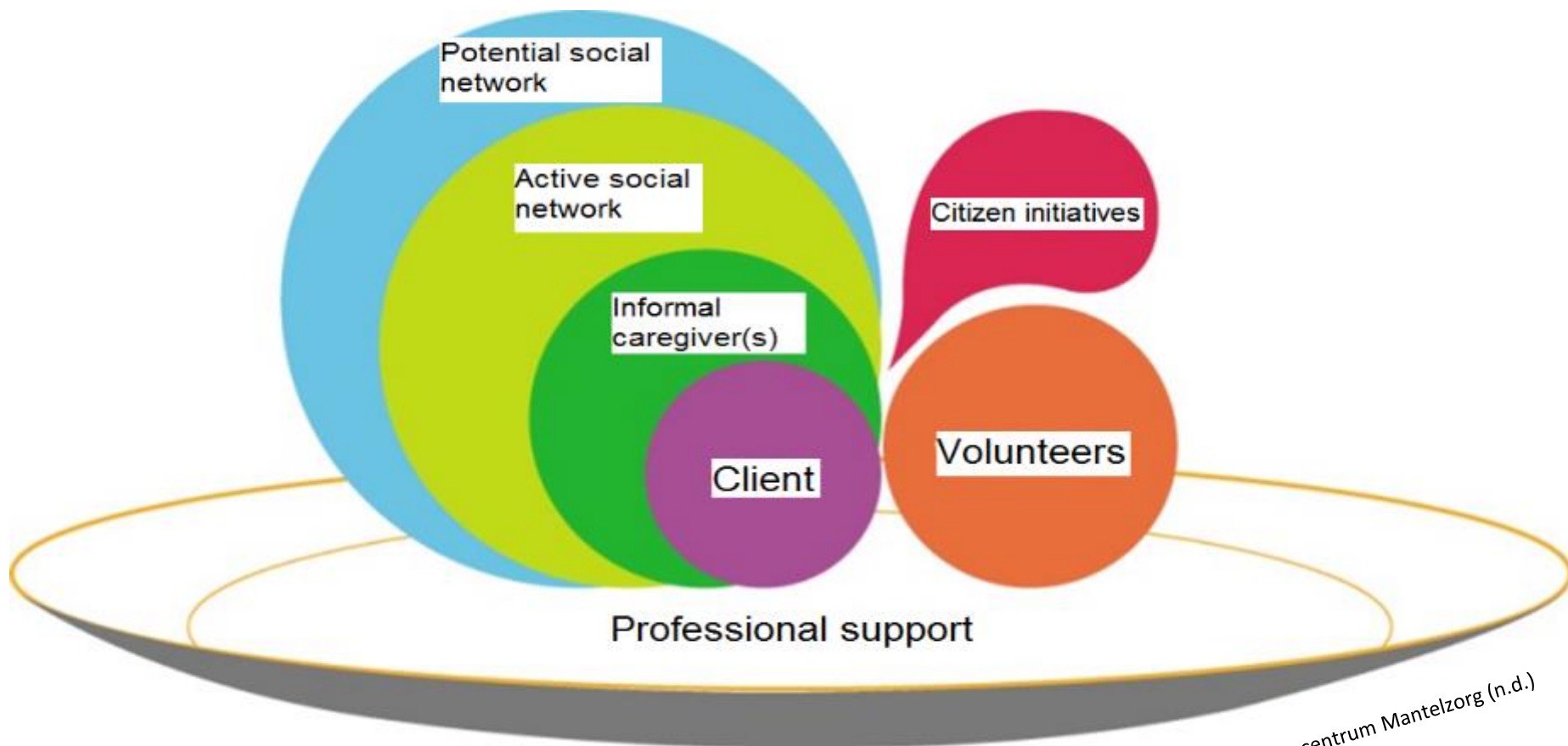
Supervisor : Fenna van Nes, PhD OT

Co-supervisor : Hans Jonsson, Associate professor PhD OT

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Background¹⁻¹³



Expertisecentrum Mantelzorg (n.d.)



Aim

“to examine how professionals experience collaboration with informal caregivers and to further understand their perspective to strengthen care triad in the future”.....

Followed by the research question:

“How do occupational therapists perceive involving family caregivers who take care of a relative with acquired brain injury in the occupational therapy process?”

Methods



1) Systematic review with thematic synthesis of 22 qualitative articles (Hengelaar et al. 2017)

- Working in collaboration with informal caregivers requires a different way of functioning for professionals.
- Proposes that dialogue should be initiated between informal caregivers and professionals to eliminate discrepancies in expectations and experiences in collaboration.
- Highlights the need for collaboration with informal caregivers to be included in the curricula of allied health, nursing and social work education.
- There is a gap in the literature regarding knowledge about the role of diversity within collaboration.

2) Constructivist grounded theory approach

- Participants
 - Ten occupational therapists
- Data
 - Six individual semi-structured interviews
 - Topics for focus group
 - One focus group
- Constant comparative analysis



Findings systematic review

- Professionals are expert versus partner
- Communication in the care triad
- Hierarchy in care triad
- Caregivers are essential
- Mismatch between services and needs
- Professionals feel restricted in collaborating with the caregiver
- Diversity in the care triad

(Hengelaar et al. 2017)

Findings Grounded Theory approach



- Together being in the right place at the right time: a coincidence
- Learning to judge competency: struggling to delegate responsibilities
- Belonging to a dynamic context; feeling apprehensive and challenged

Together being in the right place at the right time: a coincidence



- ***“...Sometimes you never see the family because they always come to visit in the evening. And I notice that when they are present during therapy sessions, wanting to be there and being able to be present and eager to see for themselves. ...that it adds to their awareness of what the partner is going through...and helps them to understand what their involvement could entail to support the partner...”***

Learning to judge competency: struggling to delegate responsibilities



“...at such moments it is clear to me what the daughter’s role and mine can or should be: I can’t do that, I don’t want to do that, that is not my task, that’s for the daughter to take care of. But only so far as the daughter is able to cope (with it) and I can expect it to be one of her responsibilities. The daughter has her own work and a family of her own to consider...”

Being part of a dynamic context: feeling apprehensive and challenged



“And these days...most of the time (90%) we do not understand what to do...calling and trying to find the right route to take...experience shows that the FCG has a lot of trouble working it out or is not able to cope at all...”



Implications and conclusion

compared with findings systematic review

- ‘To meet’ and engagement of family caregivers
- Extend knowledge and attitude on systematically involvement of family caregivers
- Revision of educational policy and curriculum
- Develop competence for health-professionals



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