Case Study: Ecomap and Cultural Ecogram Application in Strengthening the Cultural Sensitivity in Health Care Services for an African American Grandparent with Diabetes Type 2.

Laura G. Daughtery, MSW, Ph.D., Michaela L. Zajicek-Farber, MSW, Ph.D., Eun Koh, MSW, Ph.D.
National Catholic School of Social Service (NCSSS)
Consortium for Catholic Social Teaching (CCST)
Center for the Advancement of Child, Youth, and Families (CACYF)

STUDY BACKGROUND

- Research has shown that integrating culture within the therapeutic context is paramount to clinical best practices (Lum, 2011) and for optimal client health outcomes (Kumi et al., 2009).
- When cultural diversity is overlooked or ignored in the therapeutic process, misconceptions and misunderstandings may arise, often resulting in client poor treatment engagement and outcomes (Huey & Pan, 2006).
- The current model for promoting cultural competence in therapeutic processes emphasizes the importance of developing a shared understanding of the client's culturally and contextually embedded definition of his or her presenting problems in developing and delivery meaningful client therapeutic services (Sue, 2006, 2015).
- The shared worldview emphasizes the discovery and sharing of similar languages or thought processes, and learning and understanding the client's perceptions of the world or conceptualizations of problems (Torrey, 1986; Lopez, 1997).
- It is only when the client's problems are conceptualized and explicitly acknowledged according to his or her worldview that clients become open to change and more likely to successfully engage in their treatment (Fischer, Jerome, & Atkinson, 1998).

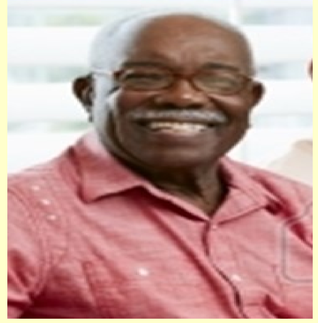
RESEARCH GAP

- How best to advance the shared worldview in health care education and treatment of grand parenting adults struggling with type 2 diabetes is complex and not fully understood.
- In this context, health care professionals need to integrate knowledge from multiple sources on:
  1. Grandaprenting of grandparents raising grandchildren,
  2. Healthcare of grandparents with diabetes type two,
  3. Ecology and the living environment of the family in the community,
  4. Societal health disparities in resources for health care services, and
  5. Useful tools that facilitate client-centered and culturally sensitive interaction and communication in delivering health care services.

STUDY FOCUS AND GOAL

- The current research is a presentation on the application of two tools:
  - Ecomap (Hartman, 1995), and
  - Cultural ecogram (Yasui & Henri, 2014)

  that can assist health care professionals in assessment and the integration of knowledge into care plans in a sensitive and culturally responsive manner.
- Both tools have been developed in the context of clinical delivery of social services (Yasui, 2015), have some known research that points to the benefits of their use in health and mental health care (Lloyd & Rossman, 2005), but have not yet been applied to promoting the cultural sensitivity in health care management of diabetes type 2 with grand parenting adults.
- This application was designed for use with African American grandparent, but can be adapted for use with other types of grandparent caregivers.

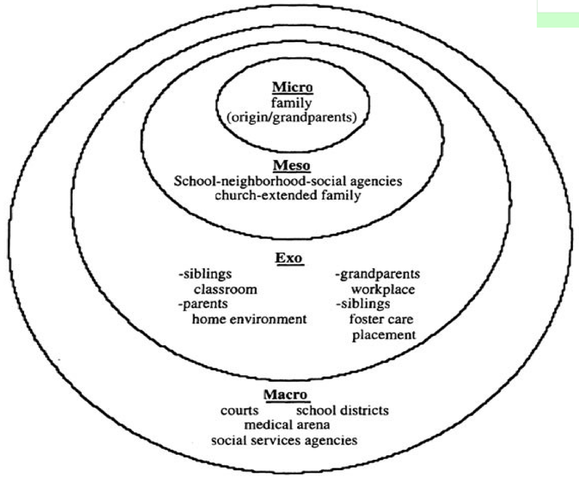


CLIENT

58 year old African American grandfather who lives in distressed neighborhood with family and young grandchildren for whom he has regular caretaking responsibilities. His health issues include management of Diabetes Type 2.

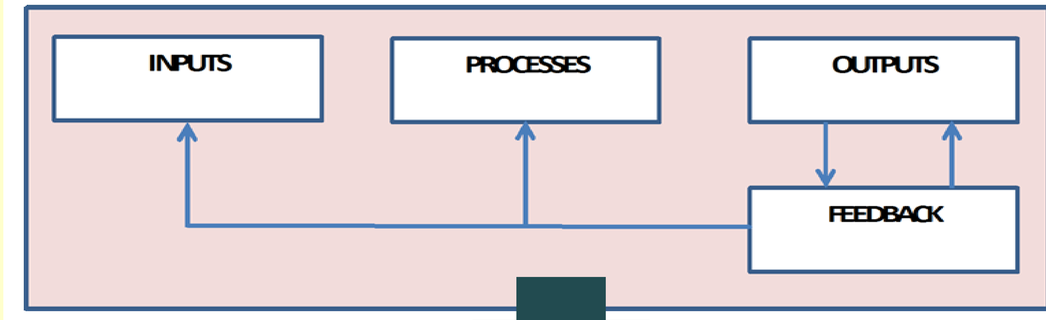
ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS THEORY

Client needs are embedded in multiple environmental systems.



SOCIAL WORK TREATMENT APPROACH

Use Ecomap and Cultural Ecogram to help the grandfather adhere to healthy diet, that is culturally sensitive and support his family role as father, grandfather and caregiver.



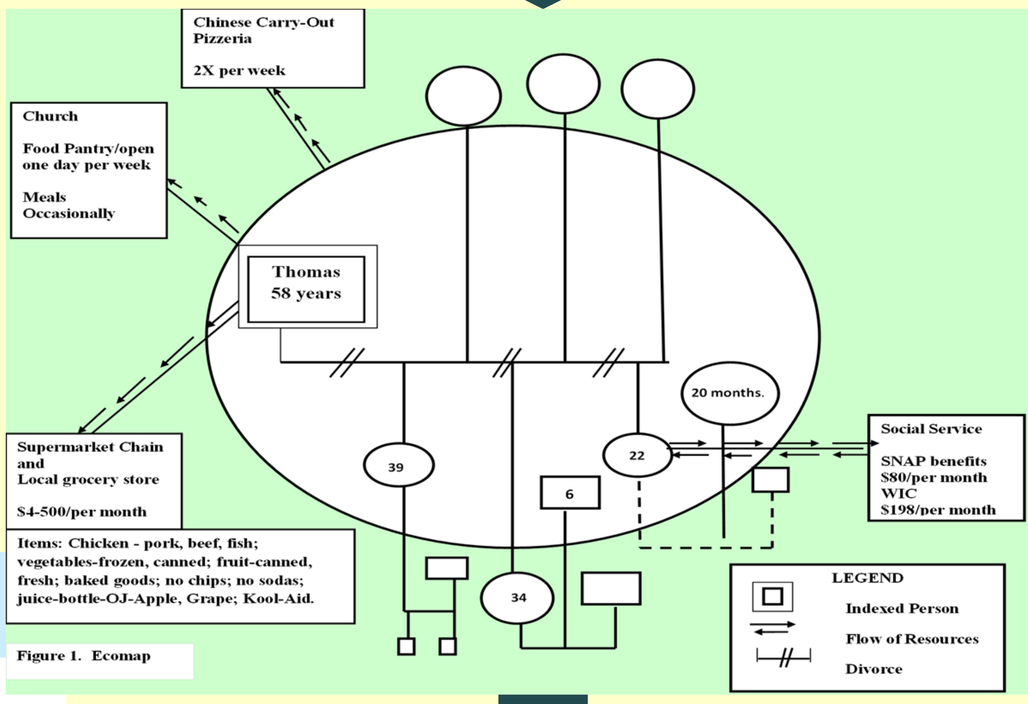
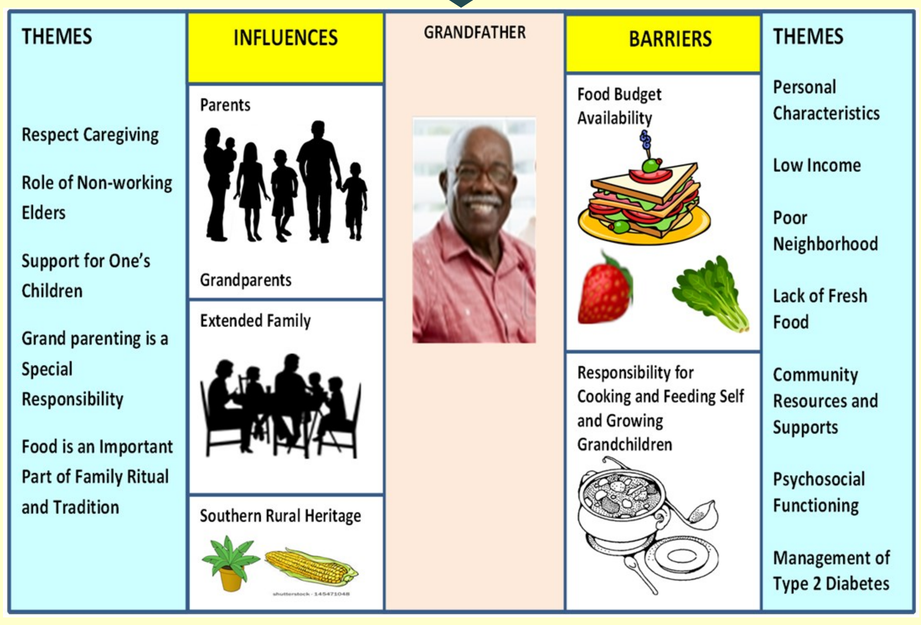



Figure 1. Ecomap