ALTERNATIVE MEDIATION STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCED LEVEL PRACTITIONER

A Systems-Based Approach

Mary Jo DeSio, M.S.

THE PRIMACY of the WHOLE



OVERVIEW of SYSTEMS THINKING

Holistic view of the world around us

Interaction of the parts to the whole

Interconnectedness



Relationship of parts to the whole

SYSTEMS DYNAMICS

- Purposeful
- Relationshipsbetween variables

- Attract and repel
- Diversity

Not either/or but and/more

Tensions and releases

Movement towards equilibrium

SYSTEM TYPES

- Mechanical
 - Clocks Nuclear Power Plants Windmills



- Biological
 - Disease Solar System Human Bodies



- Social
 - Schools Prisons Cohorts Families



ELEVEN LAWS of the FIFTH DIMENSION

(Peter Senge)



SENGE'S ELEVEN LAWS



1. Today's problems come from yesterday's "solutions"



2. The harder you push, the harder the system pushes back





3. Behavior grows better before it gets worse

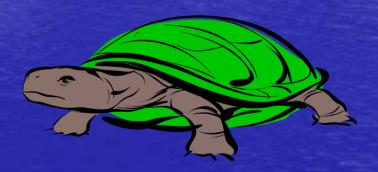


4. The easy way out usually leads back in

5. The cure can be worse than the disease



6. Faster is slower



7. Cause and effect are not closely related in time and space



8. Small changes can produce big results—but the areas of highest leverage are often the least obvious

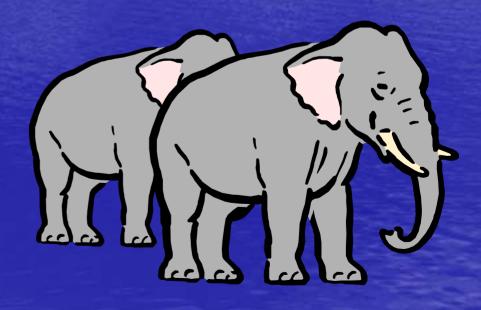


9. You can have your cake and eat it too—but not at once





10. Dividing an elephant in half does not produce two small elephants



11. There is no blame



MEDIATION TIPS from a SYSTEMS THINKING PERSPECTIVE

- Focus on interdependencies within a system.
- No single right answer to any question.
- Potential actions: high &/or low leverage.

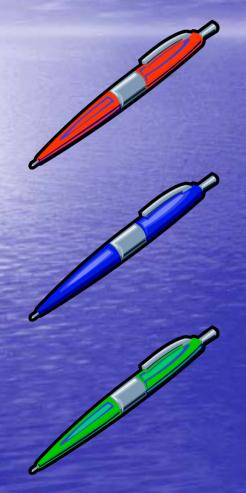
MORE TIPS

 Every action taken will produce desired results and unintended consequences somewhere else in the system.

Parties learn to recognize ramifications and trade-offs of actions chosen.

SYSTEMS MAPPING

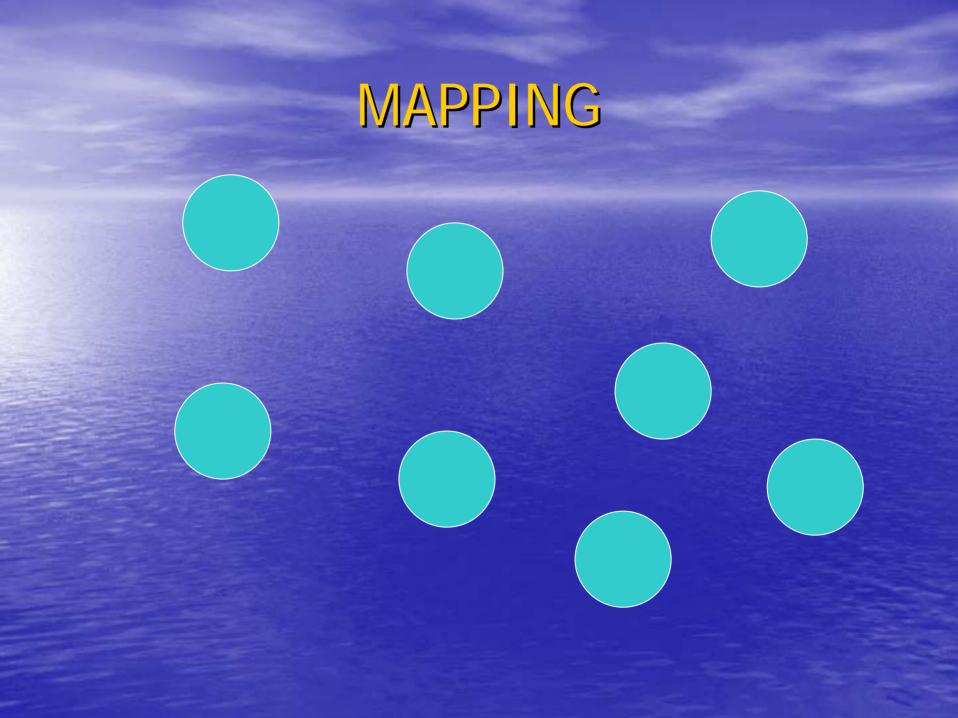
(Wheatley and Kellner-Rogers, Ross and Roberts)



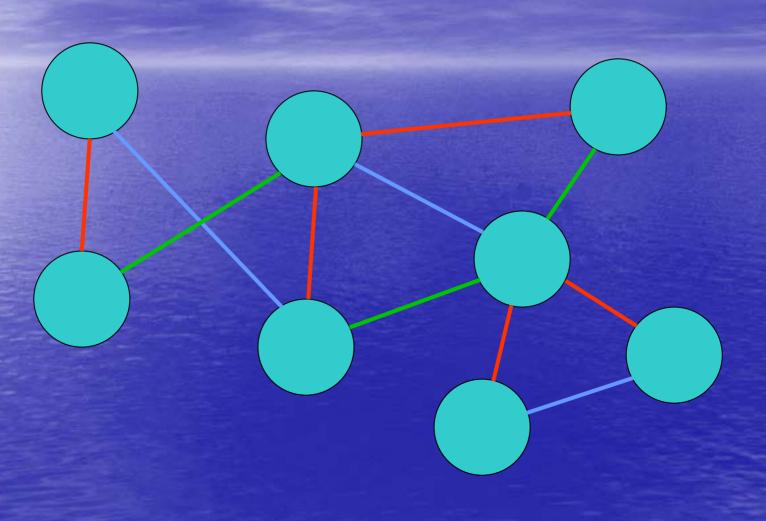
 Formal connections between and among elements

 Informal connections between and among elements

 Unconnected elements that should be connected



MAPPING



SINGLE & DOUBLE LOOP PROBLEM SOLVING

(Chris Argyris)



SINGLE LOOP PROBLEM SOLVING

 Rushing to finding solutions quickly using limited information

Lacking time to research and find substantive cause(s)

Results in temporary solutions

PROBLEM SOLVING

Action What did we do?

Single-Loop Learning

Perceived Problem

How can we act differently
to avoid same problem?

Solution
What was the result
of our action?

DOUBLE LOOP PROBLEM SOLVING

- Use to create multiple perspectives.
- Leads to complex problem solving.
- Identify patterns or themes.
- Use of "Inquiry Box", the "Five Whys", data collection, reflection and analysis.

DOUBLE LOOP PROBLEM SOLVING

New Theory of Action

How can we learn from this?

Action
What did we do?

Single Loop

Perceived Problem, Mismatch, Gap **New Mental Model**

Are these our beliefs?

Learning

What are we trying To accomplish?

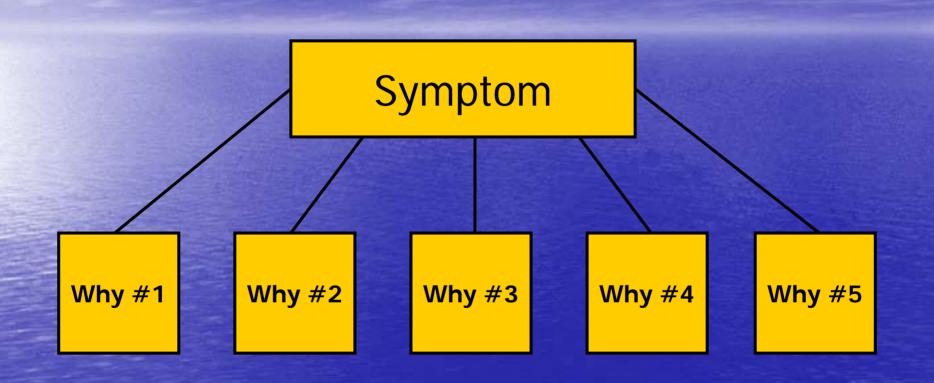
Reflection and Analysis

How can we approach the Problem differently?

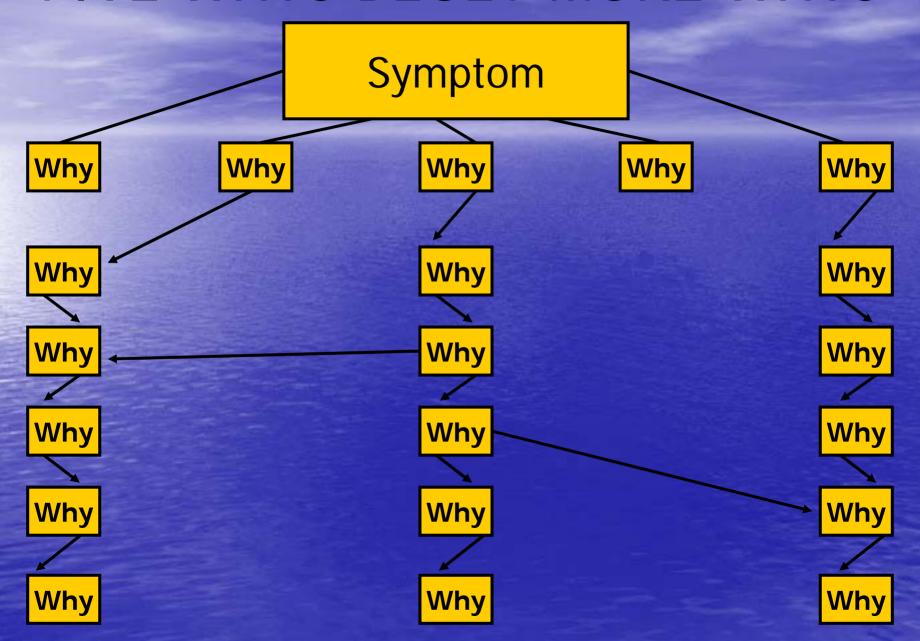
Inquiry/Data Collection Problem Finding

What were our assumptions? What is the underlying problem?

THE FIVE WHY'S



FIVE WHYS BEGET MORE WHYS



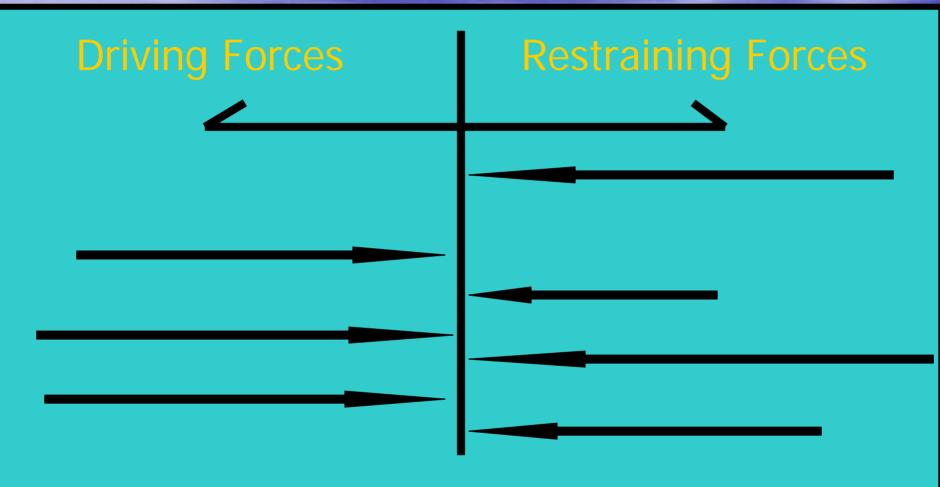
FORCE FIELD THEORY

(Kurt Lewin)



- Driving forces
- Restraining forces
- Gatekeepers & channels that are the agents of change

DRIVING & RESTRAINING FORCES



10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strength

USING FORCE FIELD ANALYSIS

- The situation as it is now
- Possible action steps

The situation as I want it to be

 Your top priority obstacle

What will keep the situation from changing

Resources needed

ADJUSTED WINNER SYSTEM 100 Point System

(K.C. Cole, Brams and Taylor)

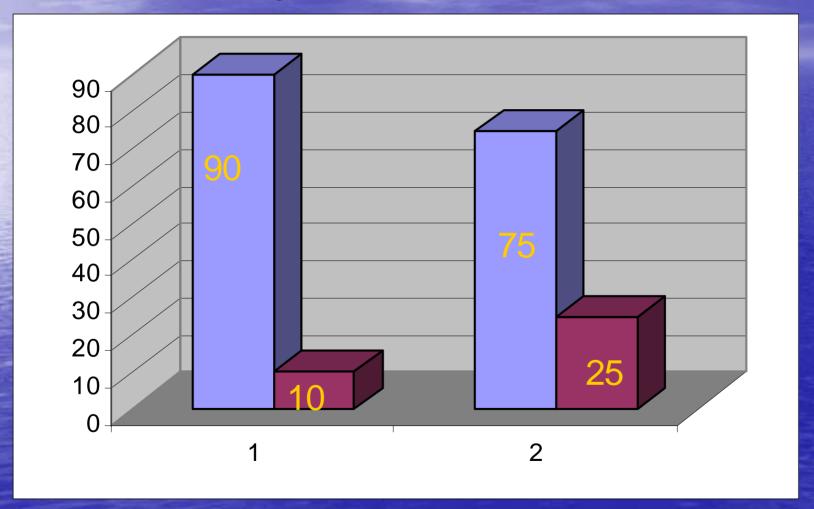
What is fairness?

What is a fair settlement

Envy-free resolution



Adjusted Winners



JACK SPRAT COULD EAT NO LEAN, HIS WIFE COULD EAT NO FAT, BETWIXT THE TWO, THEY LICKED THE PLATTER CLEAN.

"THE ORANGE AND THE SISTERS" SUMMARY

 Explore the issues, assumptions, feelings and potential next steps.

Clarify the situation to get all perspectives out in the open.

 Identify substantial issues breaking them down to parts and their relationships. For all issues, generate options that have the potential to satisfy the underlying needs of the parties.

Develop agreements that are fair, envy free and satisfying to the parties.

Commit to resolution and a plan for implementation.

THE END

