concluded that therapeutic change requires a dynamic interaction between families and social workers that optimally facilitates the family's change potential. Although brief, intensive, in-home interventions have been flourishing for over forty years now, the intervention was not found to be effective (for at least part of its target group) in preventing out-of-home placement. However, promising results were found with respect to improvement in family functioning. Furthermore, even if the intervention does not succeed in family preservation, there is a need for family crisis intervention from a child protection perspective. Analysis of the situation and safety assessment are necessary and urgent when a family crisis occurs and may be an intervention goal itself. Because of the desirability of family preservation above out-of-home placement if the family is or can become safe enough for the child, there seems to be no alternative for such an intervention model. Nevertheless, this conclusion does not automatically imply continuation of all aspects of the current model. The intervention duration may need to be reconsidered. Furthermore, out-of-home placement cannot be considered a failure of intervention in cases in which the family preservation ideal needs to be overruled by child safety protection (i.e. abuse and neglect), and temporary (respite) out-of-home care may be facilitating for eventual family preservation at times. The shift from intensive family preservation to family crisis intervention, adopting the crisis perspective used in FCIP, may therefore be a promising redefinition of a program model that then shifts from a prevention of placement focus to a promotion of crisis change, safety change and improvement of family functioning focus.

References


