

# Next steps, compliments and greetings from the Netherlands

Closing conference Children and Youth at risk,

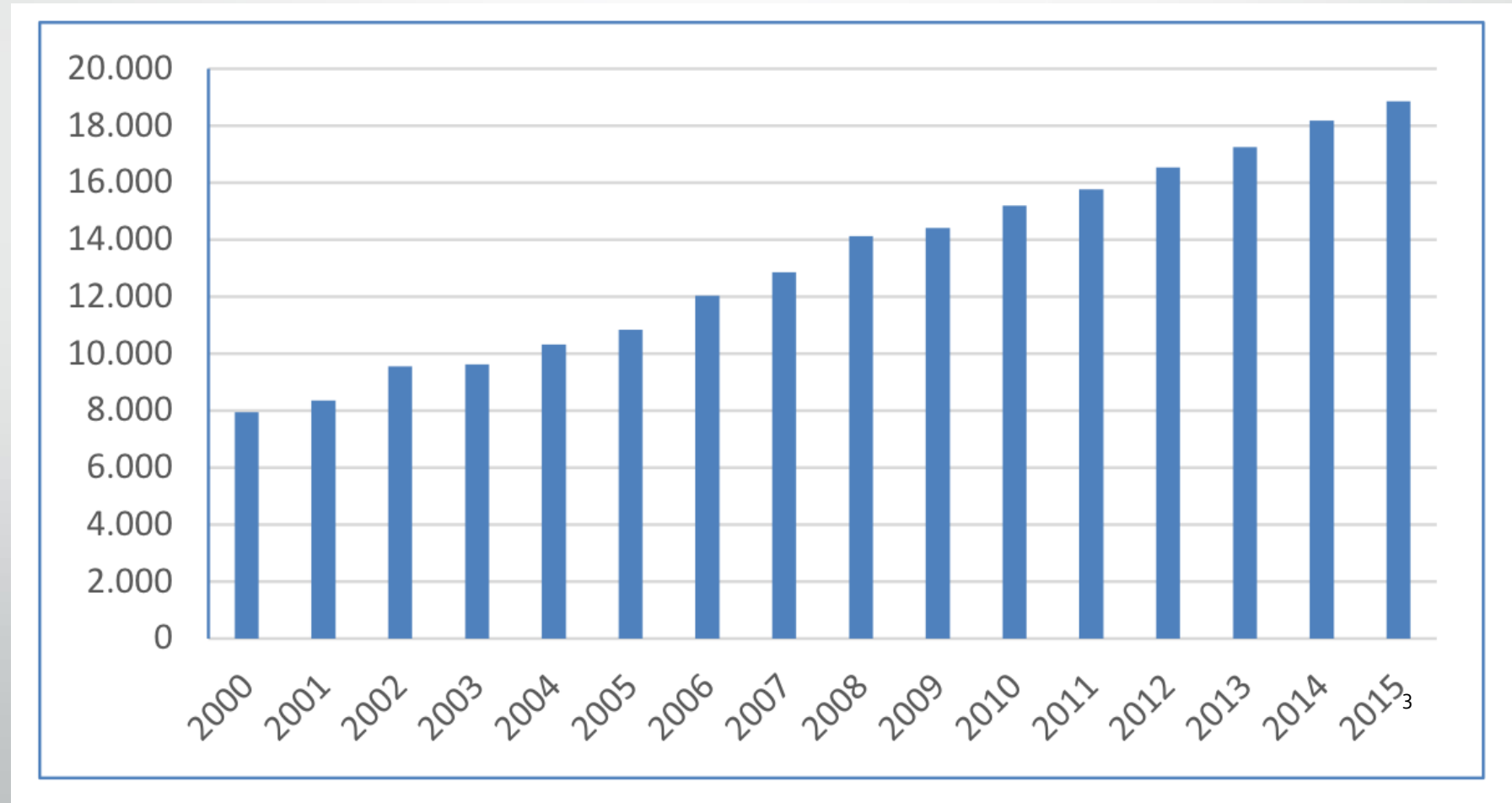
Prague 1 June 2017

# Did we meet before?

- Friendship Brielle – Havlickuv Brod
- 2 conferences
- 2 study visits



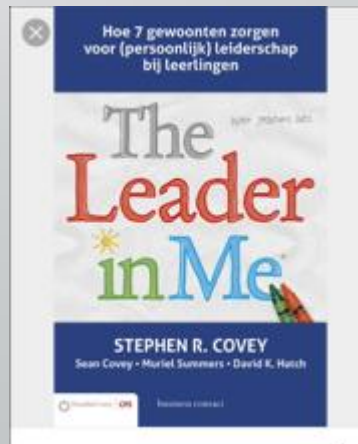
# Number of foster children



# a new orientation: from welfare state to participation society

- **Old/passive:** the client as customer
- **New/activating:** how are you gonna solve your own problem?

(Stephen Covey: personal leadership).

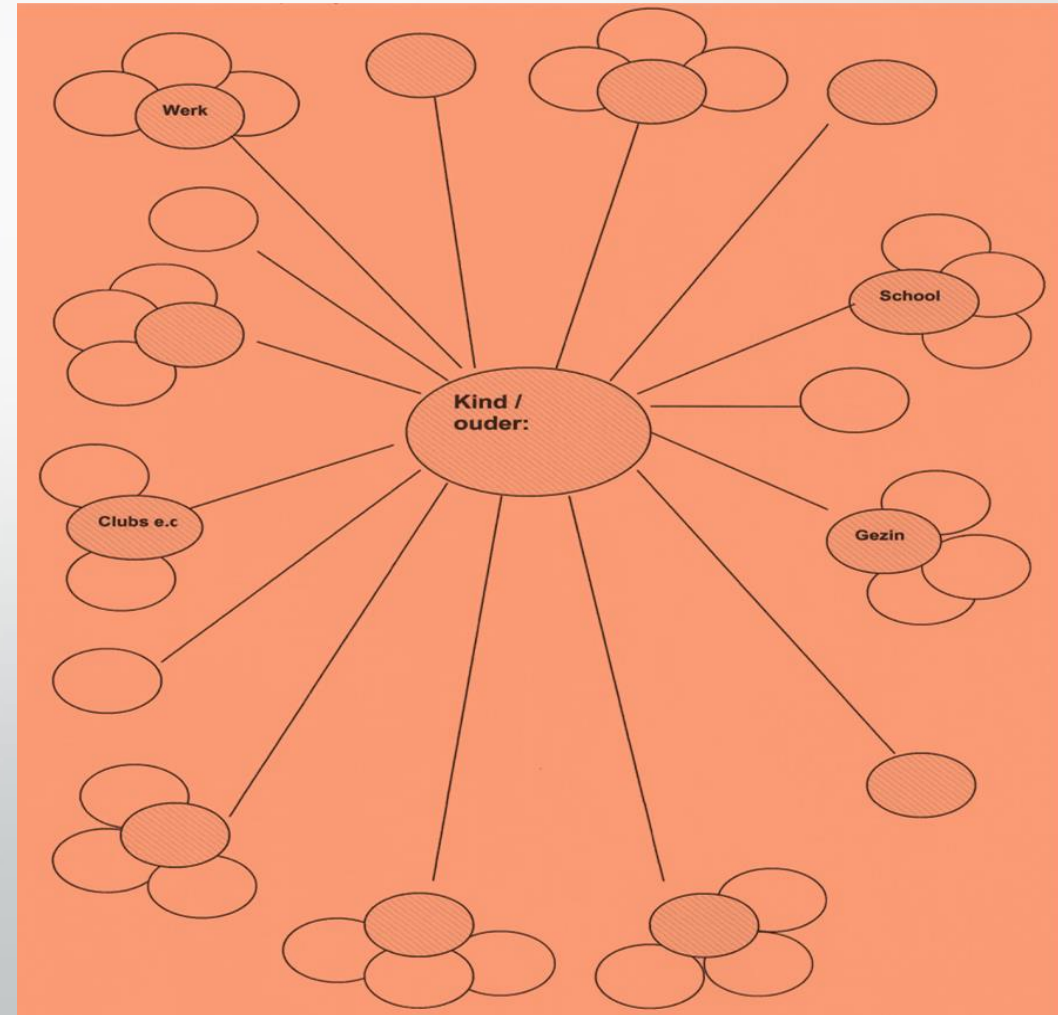


# The kitchen table conversation



# The polka dot schedule

family  
friends  
neighbours  
church  
sportsclub.





# New role of the social worker

Network : describe  
repair  
activate

Family group conference

Kinship care (is no second choice)

“Good enough” parents.

## working with a safety plan; a new attitude towards domestic violence

- father is obliged to look for help
- father will register how he feels: green/orange/red
- situation orange/red: the children will go to grandmother, just round the corner
- neighbours know about the problems. They will call the police

At the end: not mother and the children will leave the house, but father.



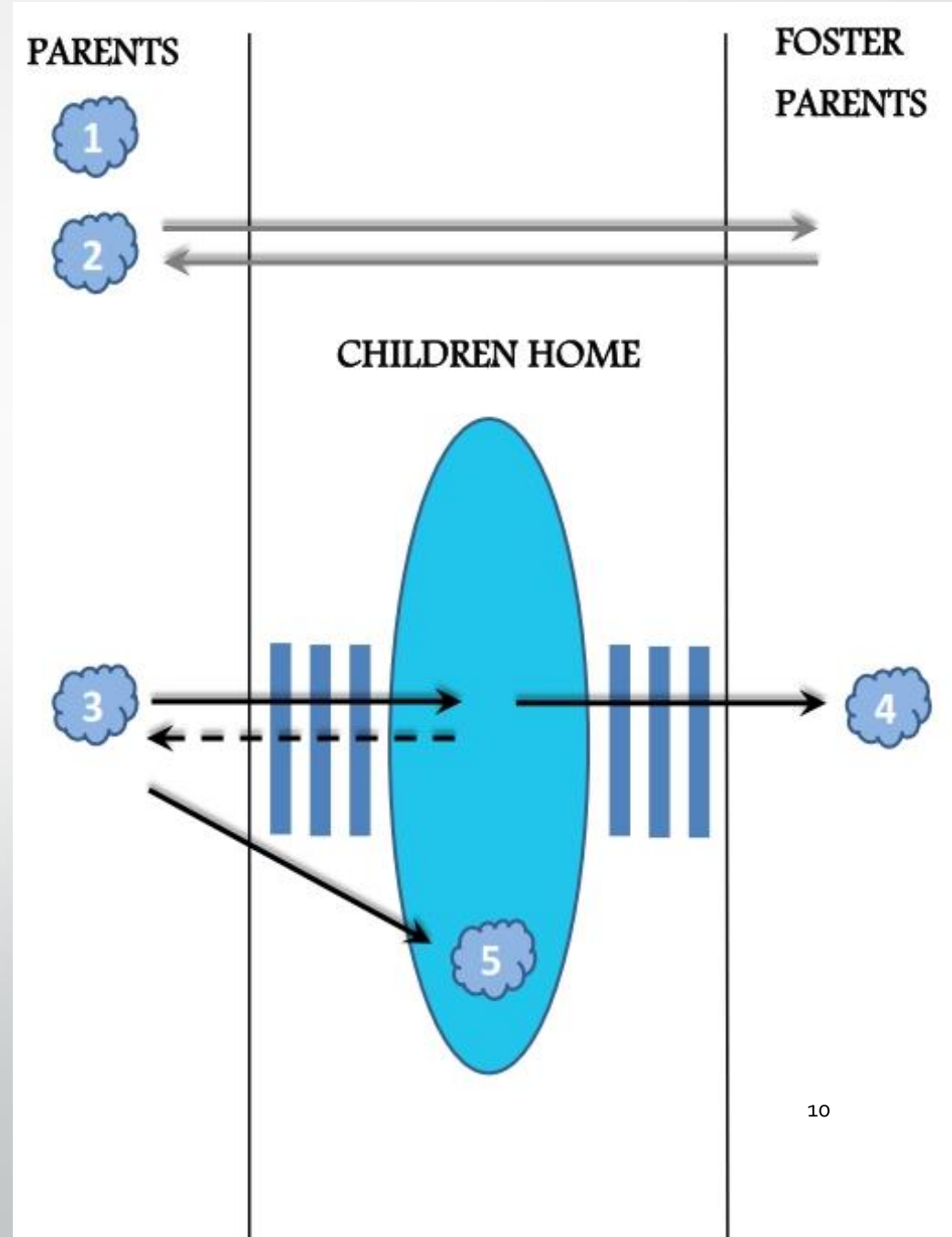


# DI

de-institutionalization

Is not closing childrens homes and promote foster care,  
goal is to prevent outplacements and strengthen families

# Our schedule





# How to find more foster families

An unusual proposal: let's look at the world of (inter)country adoption

# Adoption in the Netherlands

In country adoption: 50 in 2016\*

International adoption: 1779 in 1980  
216 in 2016\*\*

\* Tolerance towards single mothers, anti conception and legal abortion

\*\*Scandals, Olympic Games South Korea.

# adoption

Adoption, half adoption, **open adoption**, pre-adoption foster care, incomplete adoption, foster parents with parental authority, ..... confusing!

**They say:**

**Adoption is having a child**

**Foster care is helping a child**



# Rehoming in the USA: red carpet show second hand adoption






# To compare

- all foster children have behavioral problems and family contacts are a problematic adoption is about normal children without these complications
- That's why families who adopt have to do it alle alone while foster families are coached by a social worker.



- 
- Foster families get an allowance/salary,  
people who want to adopt (from abroad) have to pay a lot of  
money


# Misunderstandings

That terrible social worker **or** help and control

That ungrateful child **or** trauma

Those unreliable parents **or** life long loyalty





# What do your neighbours know about foster care and adoption??

Now families who want to adopt have to wait very long (only special needs children are available), while foster care agencies urgently need new families

My mission is to bring these two worlds together: start with joint information meetings. Both is about “**someone else’s child**”

SO

Compliments for all that you reached

Foster care and residential care are no enemies, not all children can live in a family

don't take over all responsibilities: "parents how will you solve your problems"

Bring the world of foster care and adoption together

Go on with the Christmas trees

And watch **LION**



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