



ORIENTATION TO CARE

Spurwink is guided by the CARE model, which means:

First and foremost, all of our decisions are based on what is best for the people we serve.

Everyone in our agency is provided with CARE training. CARE then guides our thinking and responses with our clients, families, and each other.

CARE principles are incorporated into all of our treatment and program activities.

CARE highlights the importance of us planning with youth, adults, and families for a better future.

Everybody does well if they can. By working together we can create solutions. If we all use CARE, there will be less likelihood of confusion or frustration among team members.

CARE was designed by Martha Holden at Cornell University. CARE is a research based model we use at Spurwink to help us do the best work possible with kids, adults and families. CARE is based on the following six principles:

RELATIONSHIP BASED

A good relationship is the most important part of the treatment process. We want to create a strong positive relationship with kids, adults and families. We want people to feel safe, heard and respected. We want to create the best possible conditions for people to grow and succeed.

DEVELOPMENTALLY FOCUSED

Every child and family is unique and special. We individualize our services to every child and family's specific needs—to their specific developmental level.

FAMILY INVOLVED

Families are important and know their children best. We value family input and recognize that the best treatment happens when we are all working together. We want families to be a part of our team and participate as much as possible in all aspects of programming.

COMPETENCY CENTERED

We want youth, adults, and families to experience success. We want to help people develop whatever skills are necessary to live healthy, engaged lives in their communities.

TRAUMA INFORMED

We know that family members living apart from one another can be a very traumatic experience. We also know that many children and families have experienced other trauma in their lives as well. We want to make sure youth, adults, and families feel as safe and comfortable as possible so that Spurwink can be a place of healing.

ECOLOGICALLY ORIENTED

Our surroundings can help us grow and change. We work to make our environments both emotionally and physically safe, supportive, friendly and caring for youth, adults, and families.

CARE HELPS US THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT HOW WE MOTIVATE AND TEACH PEOPLE NEW BEHAVIORS

Many parents and educators have used rewards and consequences as ways to teach people to increase positive behaviors and decrease negative ones. While these kinds of systems are useful for some people, some of the time, CARE offers us new and different ways to respond. Sometimes our responses may include rewards and consequences, but are likely to be based first on building healthy relationships that encourage the person to take risks in a supportive environment. We also know research shows that “internal motivation” works best. Internal motivation is when the person recognizes the good feelings that come from meeting treatment goals and making safe, healthy, choices. Our aim is to help children, adults, and their families make lasting change born of learning new skills and healing old hurts. CARE gives us the tools to help people meet those goals.

WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH SOMETHING?

Please tell us if you disagree with something. Your feedback is important to us. We want to know if anyone on the team disagrees with something, so we can all come together and work it out. We think this is the best way for people to be successful.