It was really intimate, very different than when strangers are present.

What happens in the Eigen Kracht-conferentie?

1. Social workers are allowed to provide information and answer questions in stage 1 of the session. In the case of compulsory assistance, the professionals involved will explain at the session the criteria they have set for the plans. After this information-giving stage, all of the social workers and the Eigen Kracht Coordinator leave the room.

2. In stage 2 of the conference, the person(s) being helped are present along with their family, friends and acquaintances. They discuss the situation together in private, and determine what needs to happen in order to deal with it. The Eigen Kracht-conference almost always results in a plan. The plan contains agreements that everyone present has accepted.

3. The last stage of the conference begins once the plan is ready. The Eigen Kracht Coordinator re-enters the room and asks if all of the agreements are clear for everyone. The coordinator does not interfere with the content of the plan! Next, the social worker involved is allowed to enter the room in order to receive the plan from the participants or, in the case of compulsory assistance, to review the plan before accepting it. The plan made by the parties is now the guide for the subsequent assistance.

After the conference

The Eigen Kracht Coordinator ensures that everyone present receives the plan. This plan also specifies those people who will meet later to discuss how the plan is proceeding. Participants can easily maintain contact with each other via ‘e-Kracht’, a secure website that was made especially for the Eigen Kracht-conference (www.e-kracht.nl). After the Eigen Kracht-conference, the coordinator is no longer in the picture: his or her job is done. The control over the plan and the solutions thus lie where they belong: with the people themselves.

Schedule an Eigen Kracht-conferentie

An Eigen Kracht-conference is possible in any situation where a plan is needed and where the parties involved are unable to formulate it themselves. A conference or an informal informative interview can be scheduled by the person(s) requiring assistance, the people who are close to them, or by the social worker involved.

For more information and to view films, go to: www.eigen-kracht.nl

Eigen Kracht Centrale personnel work throughout the Netherlands.
Place a free telephone call to: 0800 - 33 77 835 (0800 - EERST EK)
or send an e-mail to info@eigen-kracht.nl

Eigen Kracht Centrale is on Facebook, Hyves and Twitter

Eigen Kracht Centrale is striving for a society where the participation and mutual self-reliance of people are paramount, where citizens remain in charge of their own lives, especially when dealing with organizations and government bodies. Eigen Kracht Centrale also helps organizations and professionals in making the transition to implementing the Eigen Kracht vision into their own work

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I think my niece needs help. We have to do something!

So many people supported me, I can now look positively to the future.

“”It was really intimate, very different than when strangers are present.””

Forming plans together… Making decisions together… …about the future!

Eigen Kracht-conferentie for individuals and families
The Eigen Kracht-conference

Most people make plans by themselves when they are experiencing problems. Sometimes, that approach is just not enough (anymore). In these times, the Eigen Kracht-conference process (also known as Family Group Conference) is one way to manage your problems together with your family, friends, and other involved parties to manage your problems. A plan in which everyone can participate and which serves as a guide for your future.

The Independent Eigen Kracht Coordinator

The Eigen Kracht Coordinator plays an important role in bringing the participants and the numerous information together. The coordinator is not a social worker; they support them during the Eigen Kracht-conference and helps them prepare for it. The coordinator also asks which experts should provide more information so the participants can make good, informed decisions. If there are social workers already involved, they are usually invited to participate as well. The Eigen Kracht Coordinator asks all of the participants what they need in order to feel comfortable during the conference. Children - sometimes adults also - need to have someone who supports them during the Eigen Kracht-conference and helps them express what they want to say. In consultation with the Eigen Kracht Coordinator, the children choose who they want present at the conference to help them. The preparations for the conference last an average of six to eight weeks, but can take place in a week in emergency situations. The participants determine the pace.

Building a bridge between organizations and families

How to stay the course is not obvious when you are in need of help. The way that the professional world is organized frequently does not match the reality of people’s social environments, the way that they really live. The Eigen Kracht-conference serves as a bridge between professional organizations and families. The knowledge, experience and opportunities that the professional world has to offer are shared with individual people. The involvement, knowledge, and proximity of the individual people, aided by the information shared by organizations, helps the decision making process. That is how everyone can contribute to the new plan.

Help from professionals

Social workers provide information at the beginning of the conference session. For example, information about the support available at the conference and any potential concerns or positive expectations the participants may have. This can also be information about the assistance, or a sickness, a disorder or a procedure. With compulsory assistance, the professional(s) involved - such as a family supervision worker or a probationary officer - can place some conditions on the plan. These conditions are shared with the participants at the start of the session.

When and where?

The participants in the Eigen Kracht-conference agree on a time together. The conference frequently takes place during an evening or on the weekend because that is usually the most convenient for participants. A conference lasts an average of five hours but no end time is designated beforehand. The Eigen Kracht Coordinator and the participants all ensure that there is food and drink available. The conference is held in a neutral location where those present can talk as long as is necessary.

Building a bridge between organizations and families

Professional world
- Structured
- Bureaucratic
- Formal
- Procedures
- Meeting

Eigen Kracht-conference
1. Information
2. Private time
3. Presentation (safe plan)

Life world
- Dynamic
- Loose
- Informal
- Open dialogue
- Gathering

Preparations

The Eigen Kracht Coordinator personally invites the participants to the conference and helps them prepare for it. The coordinator also asks which experts should provide more information so the participants can make good, informed decisions. If there are social workers already involved, they are usually invited to participate as well. The Eigen Kracht Coordinator asks all of the participants what they need in order to feel comfortable during the conference. Children - sometimes adults also - need to have someone who supports them during the Eigen Kracht-conference and helps them express what they want to say. In consultation with the Eigen Kracht Coordinator, the children choose who they want present at the conference to help them. The preparations for the conference last an average of six to eight weeks, but can take place in a week in emergency situations. The participants determine the pace.