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KIDS AT THE CORE

Assisting Local Families from Multiple Home Environments

White Paper Outline

Need

**Phase One
Research**

**Phase One
Conclusion**

**Phase Two
Research**

**Phase Two
Conclusion**

Doable, County-wide, Sustainable

Local Statistics

160

Annual number of divorces in Kosciusko County that involve children

12

Percentage of Kosciusko County children living in a single-parent home

0

Number of in-person divorced parenting classes available in Kosciusko County

4

Number of *hours* said to complete court mandated online parenting courses

> 25

Number of *minutes* actually needed to complete the course

Divorce Court in Kosciusko County

In-Person Subjective Session at
Bowen Center to Determine
Online or In-Person Training

- Majority assigned to online
4-hour course
- In-Person only offered in
Whitley County, unsure of
capacity for K-County residents



Judges' Observations of Current Stipulations and our Experience



Easily Manipulated



Lack of Options in K-County



Desire for Tiered Program

Court Differentiation and Options

Paternity

Parents have no legal binding to one another

No Fee Mandate

Courts cannot mandate resources that require fees
Free option:
uptoparents.org

Dissolution of Marriage

Two parents legally bound by current marriage certificate

Step #1

Parenting Planning Worksheet completed within 15 days of filing for Dissolution

Step #2

Online, four-hour course:
onlineparentingprogram.org,
Certificate of Completion

Step #3

Court options that both parties attend in-person parenting courses offered through the Bowen Center



Our Recommendations for Court Mandates:

- Eliminate Subjective Assessment
- Addition of Completion UptoParents Worksheet within 15 Days of Filing for Dissolution
- Tiered Step Process
 - Creating a Post-Decree Order
 - 8 Hour In-Person Classes at Bowen Center



Phase Two: Addressing Children's Needs with a 3rd Party

- What happens when parents do not commit to addressing child's struggles with divorce?
 - Need for trusted 3rd Party
- School Representation

School Counselors

Warsaw Community School

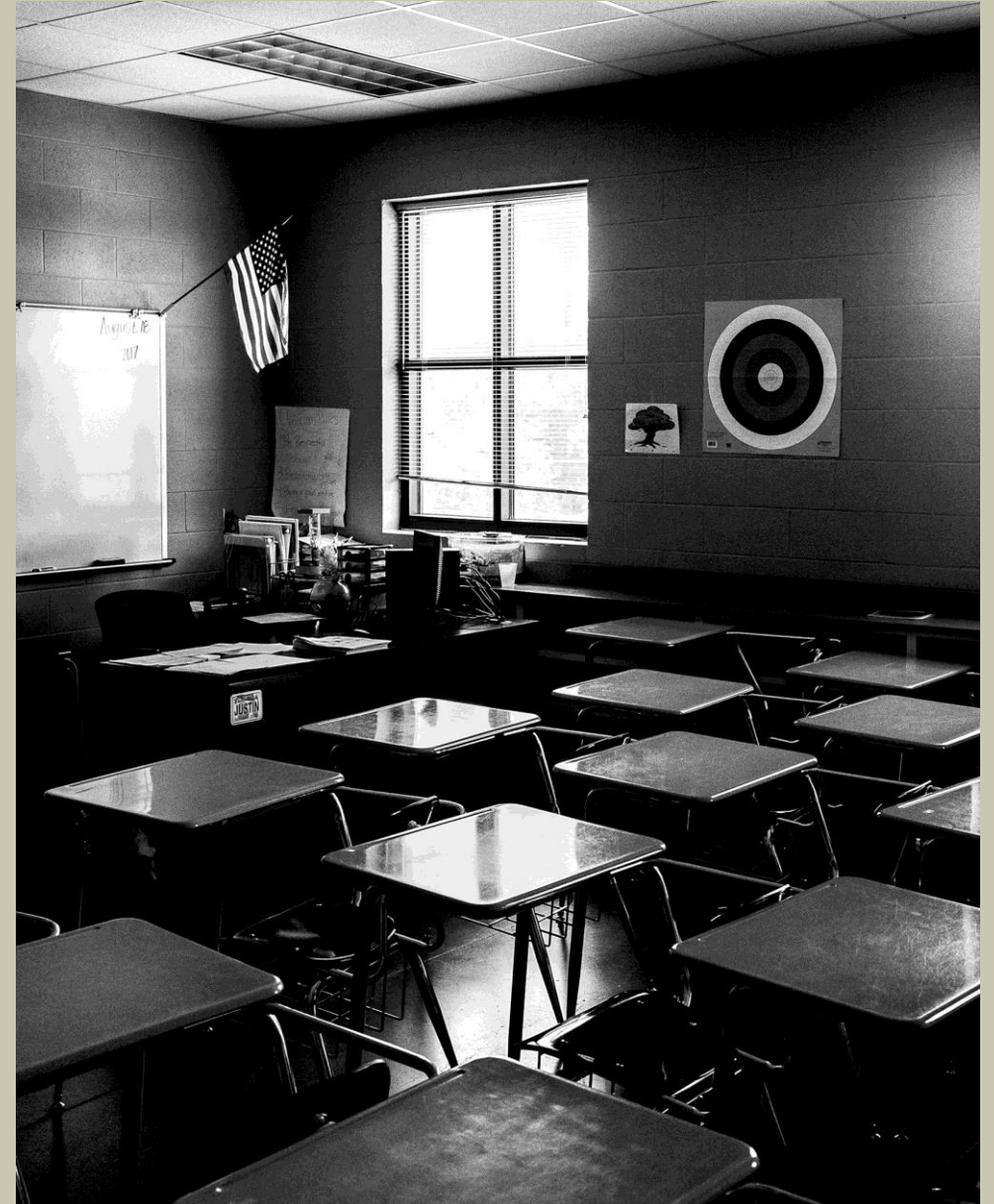
- ◆ School Counselors
- Mental Health Therapists
- Behavioral Health Liaisons

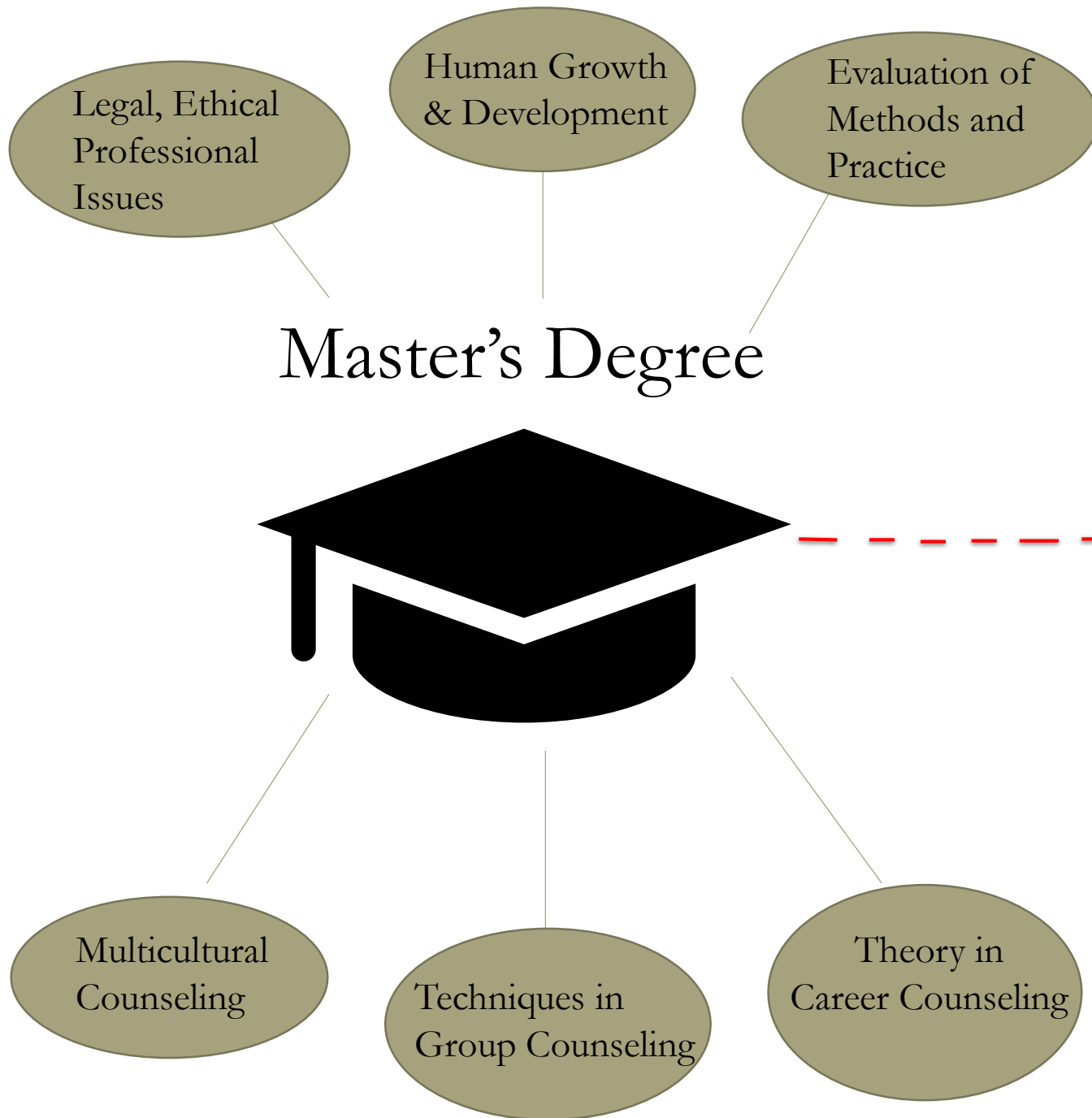
Wawasee Community School

- Elementary School Counselors
- Middle School Counselors

Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation

- Elementary School Counselors
- Middle School Counselor






Techniques for Children of Multiple Home Environments

Lack of Prior Training

- In speaking with representatives of all three school corporations, a consistent issue continued throughout each conversation
- Majority of educators and counselors help/ mentor children coping with divorce or separation but feel ill-equipped to offer a professional perspective or strategies



Phase Two Conclusion:
Professional Group Training
Session for School
Representatives

Course of Action



Bowen Center feels properly equipped to offer specified curriculum

Each educator expressed interest and willingness to attend

Monday May 16th, 9:00- 1:00:
Generous donation of time, location and resources from Bowen Center

Both parties have suggested revisiting the topics and class with updated research and techniques in future years, however, a cost would be necessary moving forward

Use of Jean Northern Award:

Reservation of Bowen Center Training Facility 2023

Additional funding provided by corresponding
school corporation's Professional Development
Budget





Questions?



THANK YOU!