

Vignette twelve

One that stands out is a client that one of the staff was working with and she had reached a point where we believed she was able to go on on her own and exit the service. Now, being Chinese and a new immigrant, being told 'you can do it on your own' was an overwhelming thought. We had a meeting because the staff asked me to become part of the process and the client was telling me a metaphor about how she looked at herself like a kite and she's out flying up there and enjoying her life but somebody down here is holding the string and she sees that as the CSW doing it. The whole service is part of that. And then she asked me a question, she said "Once I exit, my picture is that CSW is going to let go of the string – what will happen to me?" Beautiful metaphor – in her mind she was feeling very anxious about it and then I said – that's a good metaphor but we look at it in the same way, we see a kite flying, somebody is holding the string and we just thought that you were once the kite that needed somebody to hold the string – we saw your journey from up there to down here, we see you now on the ground and we thought you could hold somebody else's string. So, she saw the same picture and that picture made a big impact on her. Then there was a shift and she saw herself as now at the stage where she could help somebody else, and she was very pleased.