
**CATASTROPHIC IMPAIRMENT —
A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE**

Catastrophic + Rehabilitation = Huge
Change

Enormous cost in energy, resource & effort

ACHIEVING SUCCESS

- ✘ Drive, determination and Olympic Effort
- ✘ Many people working with Kalika and on her behalf
 - Family (immediate and extended)
 - Medical team
 - Rehabilitation team
 - Legal team
 - Community

6 ½ YEARS TO DATE

- × Most challenging years of our entire lives
- × Largest draw on our combined knowledge, experience, training, intellect, intuition, emotions, values, beliefs, strength and energy
- × Every thing we had was called upon
- × Trust in each other and in our skills and knowledge
- × Find information, answers and people
- × We did not do this on our own

FAMILY

- ✘ When TBI happens to a family member it affects the entire family
- ✘ It is overwhelming
- ✘ Not only dealing with the injured person but what each person is going through
 - + Shock, loss, grieving, resentment, anger, adjustment, fear, etc.
- ✘ Try to maintain as normal a life as possible
- ✘ You do your best

HOSPITAL & REHABILITATION

- ✘ 8 weeks in Hamilton General – Trauma & step down
- ✘ Air ambulance to New Brunswick
- ✘ 5 Months in Moncton Hospital
- ✘ 7 Months in Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation
- ✘ April 14, 2006 = Home discharge
- ✘ 5 years of additional rehabilitation to today

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- ✘ Business relationship vs Marriage
 - ✘ Time as a couple becomes a factor – non existent
 - ✘ Always something needing attention
 - ✘ Exhaustion: physically and emotionally
 - ✘ Important events take a back seat

 - ✘ Family suffers emotionally, physically, socially and economically

THE ULTIMATE DECISION

- ✘ Place Kalika in an institution or care for her ourselves

- ✘ Our Decision:

AT HOME – CARED FOR BY US!



MOVE:

Our Dorchester home: 2 story, bedrooms and washroom facilities upstairs. Unsuitable as Kalika was living and toileting in the Living room on the main floor

Relaters and Case Manager could not find an available accessible home Our son found one - although not accessible it was workable. Rented November of 2005 – Purchased in July 2008 when house was put up for sale.

From Dorchester



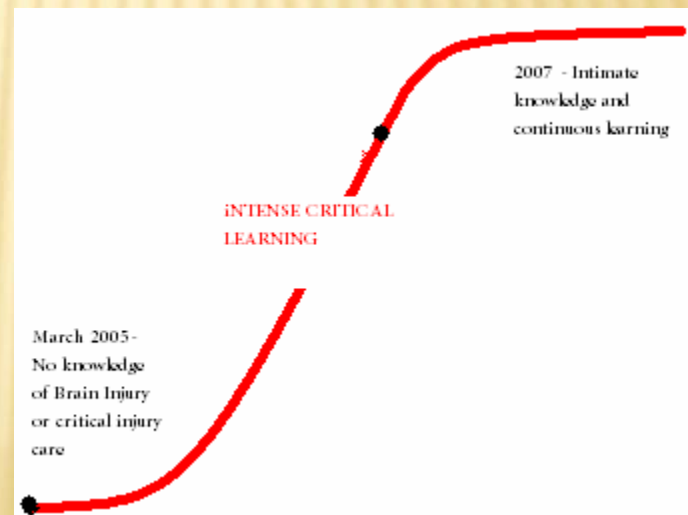
We were not ready to move again or build.



To Sackville

THE REALITY

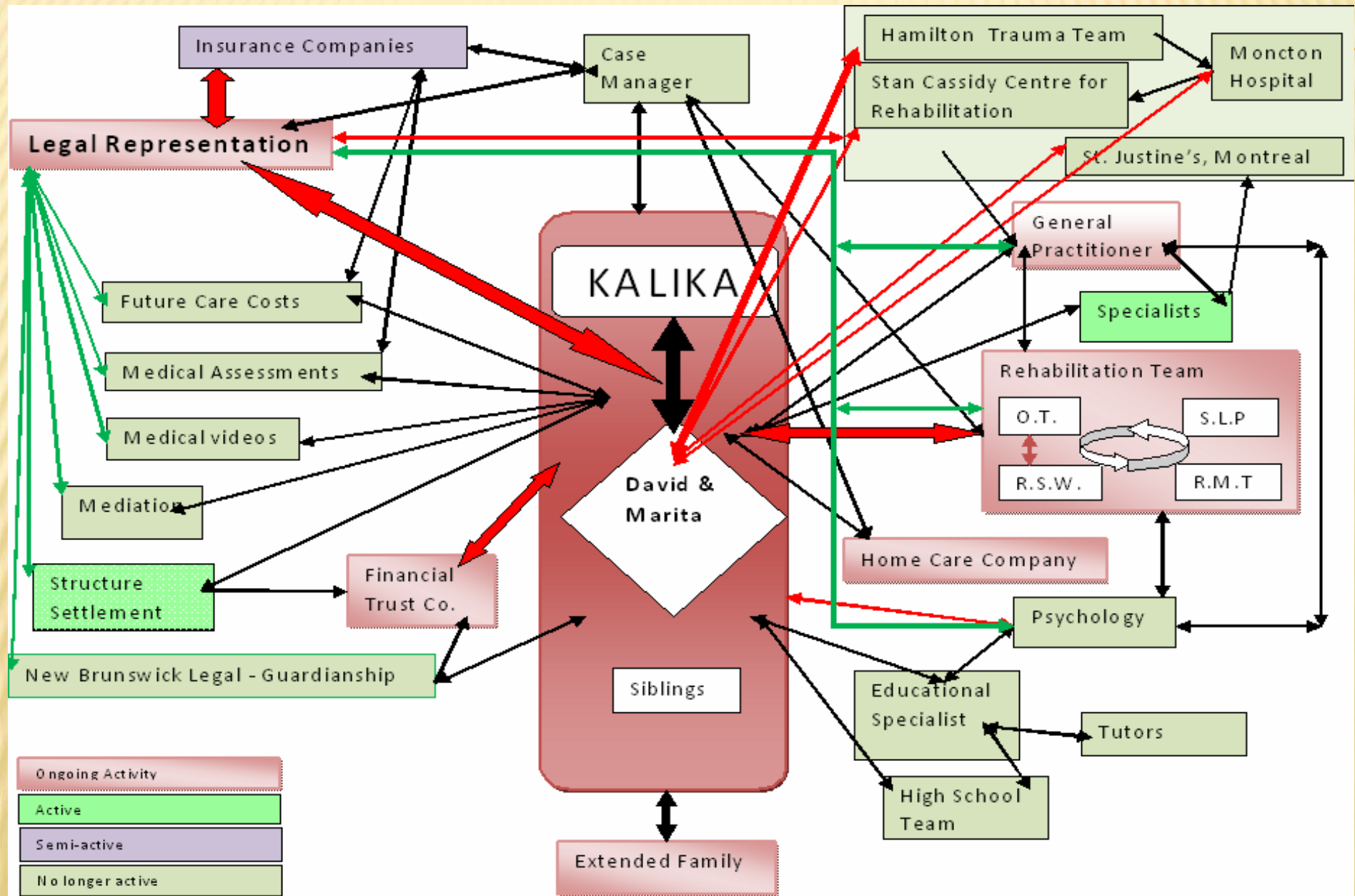
- ✘ We were thrown into this situation
- ✘ We knew nothing about brain injury and caring for a severely injured person
- ✘ We had to learn a lot in a hurry
 - brain injury – what is it?
 - how, who, what, where to care
 - terminologies
 - differences between doctors
 - service verses therapy providers
 - medical, legal, insurance
 - maneuvering our way through
- ✘ Our learning curve



LEARNING, REVIEW & DECISIONS

Medical	Legal	Other
TBI – what is it?	Litigation	Insurances – Accident & Medical
Medical System and negotiating within it	Discovery, Negotiation, Affidavits, Consultation	Accessible Housing. Find a house to live in temporarily/permanently
Collect & Understand test results and reports	Physiatrist & Long term care Assessments	Move
Coordinating Doctors, operations, therapy & REST	Home requirements & assessments	Structured Settlement
Case management & team building. Public & Private	Day In the Life Video	Short & Long Term Disability
Rehabilitation – what, who, when, where & Cost	Mediation	Insurance & CPP Disability Applications
Finding Home Care Providers & RSW , hiring, wages, contracts	Guardianship	Employees, private contractors, renovations, best price/value/service
Forms, Reports, applications, appointments	Forms, reports, claims, telephone calls, letters, appointments	Supplies, equipment, vehicle
Assessments – what is there, what is missing		School, tutors, teachers, programs, equipment, accommodation

A PICTURE OF CHAOS



Home Office , Record Keeping and Staying Organized

WORK CENTRE

Laptop
File cabinet
Printer/fax
Internet
Cell phones

**Note Books
/ Journals**



Day timers

**Medical File
& Reports**



**Wall
calenda
r**



CHAOS STRATEGIES

- ✘ Hired a Rehabilitation Consultant
- ✘ Reduce time away
 - asked for home interviews and meetings
 - held conference calls
 - Divided tasks by dividing into two
- ✘ Hired people to help with household chores and home care

MEDICAL MILEAGE DRIVEN

2005	May-December	28,465 km
2006	January – April 2008	110,000 km
2008	April – December	29,813 km
2009	January – December	9,607 km
2010	January - December	14,970 km
Total		192,855 km

- This equates **3215** hours of driving by David, Marita and recently an RSW (2009-10)
- It does not include the mileage driven by Kalika's OT, Speech Pathologist, Physio-therapist, Massage Therapist, Psychologist or Case Manager to treat Kalika at home or attend Team Meetings.

RECOVERY

- ✘ NO or “We don’t have the resources” were not options
- ✘ Creative and open minded people
- ✘ Work within and outside limited existing structures to find SOLUTIONS
- ✘ Challenge system if needed & work with own team
- ✘ Observe, listen, learn, think = do

PUSHING THE PLATEAU THEORY

- ✘ We found physical and cognitive challenges and stimulation = recovery advancement
- ✘ Alternated physical and cognitive activity
- ✘ Challenging and difficult activities pushed Kalika's limitations = results
- ✘ Pre-accident activities integrated into rehab program – “you still can do these things!”
- ✘ Hired young people as care persons & companions
- ✘ Find new things to do
- ✘ Hard work and fun
- ✘ Laugh!

TODAY

