

# EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND HANDLING STRESS Helping Companies Work Smarter

Employee Assistance Programs
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Management Assistance Program

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# Goals For Today

- Understand emotional intelligence, and it's importance to the workplace.
- Understand life and work issues and their relationship to stress.
- Learn how stress affects us as individuals, as a team and as a customer service provider.
- Learn ways to cope with stress to improve our personal and work relationships.

# Emotional Intelligence

Emotional Intelligence is the ability to...

Recognize our own feelings and those of others, motivate ourselves, and manage emotions well in ourselves and in our interpersonal relationships.















# Why do people with high IQs not always succeed?



# Emotional Intelligence Research

- Peaks around age 17
- Intellectual, Analytical, Logical and Rational abilities
- Learn, retain, recall information
- Knowledge-based problem solving

#### El:

- Not directly related to IQ
- Not fixed at a certain age. ...40 50...
- Can increase through training and development
- EQ is a better predictor of job success than IQ

## Emotional Intelligence Research

- Up to 90% of the difference between outstanding and average leaders is linked to emotional intelligence.
- EQ is twice as important as IQ and technical expertise combined, and is four times as important in overall success.
- Research by the Center for Creative Leadership found the primary cause of derailment in executives involves deficits in emotional competence.

# Lifespan Development: Moving into Adulthood

What are the components of wisdom?

# Five Competencies of Emotional Intelligence at Work

**Self-Awareness-** Ability to recognize and understand your moods, emotions, and drives, as well as their effect on others.

**Self-Management-** Ability to control impulses and moods.

Empathy (Social Awareness)- Awareness of others' feelings.

Social Skill (Relationship Management) - Proficiency

#### The Two Sides of Emotional Intelligence

- Personal Competence How we manage ourselves
  - Self Awareness know your strengths and weaknesses
  - Self Management trustworthiness, responsibility, adaptability
  - Motivation drive, commitment, initiative, optimism, charisma.
- Social Competence How we handle relationships
  - Empathy awareness of other's feelings and concerns
  - Relationship Management— adeptness of inducing desirable responses, such as: communication, conflict management, cooperation and leadership.

# Social Competence: EMPATHY

Starts with self-awareness.

The ability to see things from the other's point of view.

You can recall some of the same feelings.

Sharing and identifying with emotional states.

#### EMPATHY QUESTIONS

"Can you say more about that?"

"Really? That's interesting. Can you be more specific?"

"I wasn't aware of that. Tell me more."

"I'm curious about that...let's discuss this in more depth."

"Let me see if I understand you correctly...
here is what I heard you say..."

"How do you feel about that? What are some of your concerns?"

# BARRIERS TO EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE Fear

**Avoid Conflict and Challenge** 

**Negative Internal Dialogue** 

**Unrealistic Expectations** 

**Blaming Others** 



The Greatest Memes in the World - FunnyMemes.com

# Emotional Intelligence

Being intelligent about emotions means that we can perceive and use emotions to create optimal relationships and produce desired outcomes.

### **Stress Measurement Test**

#### READ CAREFULLY

The following picture was used in a recent study to measure people's stress level.

The picture is of two dolphins leaping out of the water.

Both dolphins are IDENTICAL.

If your stress level is HIGH you will automatically notice (at minimum) two differences in the dolphins.



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# What are your greatest stressors?

- > Work
- > Home
- Relationships
- Family
- > Friendships
- Medical
- > Behaviors
- Financial





### Manifestations of Stress

#### > PHYSICAL

Headaches, fatigue, overall aches and pains

#### **EMOTIONAL**

Tearfulness, anger, depression and avoidance

#### COGNITIVE

Poor concentration, memory loss, diminished ability to remember simple things

#### **BEHAVIORS**

Quitting, social withdrawal, loss of interest and happiness

### What are Stress Building Beliefs?

- Perfectionism
- People-pleasing
- > Competence
- > Control



Fear of failure or disapproval?

### Managing Change: Four Phases

#### > Denial

- Minimizing
- Ignoring

#### > Resistance

- "Awfulizing"
- Procrastinating
- Sabotage



#### > Exploration

- Seeking information
- Considering options
- Make suggestions

#### > Commitment

- Excitement
- Actively engaged
- Becomes part of solution



#### **OPEN COMMUNICATION**

#### **HELPFUL TIPS:**



- Err on the side of over-communicating
- Clear up misunderstandings quickly
- Recognize and reinforce communication efforts
- > Take a moment to listen



#### BASIC COMMUNICATION PRINCIPLES

It's Not What You Say, It's How You Say it 55% Appearance 37% Voice 8% Content

Electronic communication:

Be aware of tone, words, punctuation









# Dealing with Stress, Preventing Burnout

- Recognize What are the stressors in your life and how are you dealing with them?
- Reverse Learn how to manage your stress and seek support
- Take Care Build your resistance to stress by taking care of your physical and emotional health



### **Habits That:**

Recharge You (What works)

Drain You
(What does NOT work)

- \_\_\_\_

- **>**



### What's Worked in the Past?

Describe an incident, or a time of change for you within the past three years.

- Describe your emotional and behavioral reactions to that change.
- What helped decrease the stress?



#### O.K. – What's Next

- Define the whole problem.
- What can you control?
- What are you good at, enjoy
- What's important?
- What are your options/goals?
- Make a commitment.
- Write a plan.
- Implement your plan, that is, begin!



### Stress Busters



- Keep a picture nearby of you laughing.
- Communicate effectively with co-workers and customers.
- Dismiss negativity.
- Deal with small issues before they become big issues.
- Do something nice for someone.
- End each day doing something fun or relaxing – not the news.

#### Most Important...

# LAUGH

It's one of the healthiest antidotes to stress.

When we laugh, even smile, blood flow to the brain is increased, and endorphin\* levels rise;

\*painkilling hormones that give us a sense of well-being.



### Behavioral Interventions

- Stop perceiving yourself as a "victim."
- Take action:
  - Ask for help.
  - Delegate.
  - Volunteer activity.
  - Help a needy family.
  - Go to school.
  - Get enough sleep.
  - Make healthy food choices.





### **Know That**

- You have the ability to be happy.
- You have the talent and intelligence to be successful.
- People care about you.
- No matter how bad it seems: "this too shall pass."





# Do you ever feel like doing this to someone?

