Challenging Conversations: Concepts and Tools for Successfully Addressing Tough Conversations That We Dread and Try to Avoid

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Should I say something or just keep my concerns to myself? Is it worth the risk to bring up this important, yet uncomfortable topic?

We all experience conversations that are difficult; conversations which we would prefer to avoid. However, there are concepts to help better understand why some conversations seem so difficult. There are strategies, techniques and skills you can learn to more successfully engage in challenging conversations.

This workshop will focus on enhancing your understanding of how to approach tough conversations, improving your skills and confidence in addressing difficult situations, and developing strategies for better conversation outcomes. Participants will leave with an enhanced understanding, improved skills and confidence, and strategies to successfully address tough issues in the county workplace.

Presenter: Kim Boyce, Private Consultant

Speaking in Public, Running Meetings, & Convincing Others - Methods That Work!

Friday, June 23, 2017

The ability to speak effectively is an asset in any public or professional setting. Learn effective construction and delivery techniques to ensure your message is delivered as intended. Apply the “STAR” formula for delivering successful presentations. Develop five star speaking skills as you learn how to:

- Start with a solid structure;
- Target your topic;
- Appeal with authority; and,
- Realize your rapport.

These strategies will help you to: Connect and direct your audience. Fine tune your delivery and illuminate the room during your next speaking engagement. Manage your audience with tact.

Presenter: Jody Janati, University Instructor in Communication Studies & National Consultant

Mental Health & Wellness Strategies to Use in Your County

Thursday, August 31, 2017

Basic first aid — how to bandage a wound or wrap a twisted ankle, etc. — is something that most every parent learns early in a child’s life, and is passed on through generations. First Responders, EMTs and paramedics undergo years of training to handle the sudden onset of serious injuries and illnesses. But what about “mental health first aid” — recognizing signs and risk factors for depression, anxiety, addiction and other disorders of the mind?

In this workshop, Jode Freyholtz-London will provide an introduction to a new national Mental Health First Aid Program and walk participants through strategies that make a difference. She will also touch on the importance of a wellness plan for county employees who provide consistent support to others in crisis.

Presenter: Jode Freyholtz-London, Executive Director, Wellness in the Woods

Succession Planning & Leadership Development in County Government: Are You Ready?

Monday, September 18, 2017

With Baby Boomers beginning their exodus into retirement, increasing annual turnover, and demographic shifts in workforce composition many organizations are asking: Are we ready? Do we have the right talent ready to fill the gaps? How are we going to address our workforce challenges?

In this workshop, participants will:

- Explore succession planning and leadership development best practices;
- Learn what processes, approaches and tools are most effective for identifying high potentials, managing talent pools and developing leaders at all levels;
- Assess and consider how engagement, generational differences and a supportive learning culture affects retention and development; and
- Determine next steps in the development of an integrated talent management strategy.

Presenter: Jan Williams, Hennepin County Strategic Initiatives Project Manager

Leading Continuous Improvement in Your County

Monday, October 30, 2017

This class is specifically designed for county government employees who wish to hone their skills in basic process improvement tools. Maybe you attended AMC’s LEAN 101 class in the past but now you are ready to apply the concepts in your workplace. This is a perfect class for you to practice lean tools.

The class starts with a 30-minute segment on lean basics and the remainder focuses on how to select a county process for improvement; how to build a swim lane map using effective brainstorm methods; seeking consensus through affinity mapping; and using fishbone or impact effort grids.

Presenter: Toni Smith, AMC Trainer & Private Consultant

Creating Healthy Lines of Communication for Your Team – From County Boards to Front-line Staff

Friday, November 17, 2017

Most professionals are faced with difficult interactions where their integrity can be compromised. Explore how to effectively communicate, especially when functioning in the role of a group facilitator or leader. Step-by-step methods for dealing with intense conversations and correcting broken relationships will also be discussed.

Learn 101 things to "say and do" during difficult interactions. Maintain your personal integrity through effective communication strategies that really work. Be calm and collected, set healthy boundaries and find your “Conversation Peace.”

Presenter: Jody Janati, University Instructor in Communication Studies & National Consultant