Quality of Life and Connection: What We Need to be Effective Leaders

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Today's Intention

- What is Happiness and Well-Being
- The Importance of Well-Being
- Aligning Daily Activities with Values and Priorities
- Managing Expectations and Creating Connection Networks
- Six Reality Check Questions
- Creating a Sound Department
- Questions and Discussion

What is Happiness and Well-Being?

- A strong presence of positive and pleasant emotions, both in the present moment as well as toward the past and the future.
- A feeling of connection to those around us, as well as to our activities, pursuits, and vocations
- An underlying feeling of satisfaction with our life
- A deep sense of meaning and purpose that anchors us even when our more fleeting positive emotions are not present

From: Real Happiness: Proven Paths for Contentment, Peace, & Well-Being by Jonah Paquette

What Happens when we are Satisfied, Happy, and Well?

- Improved physical health (become sick less often; have better immune system functioning; and experience fewer chronic health problems such as heart disease)
- Increased life-expectancy
- Improved emotional health (more creativity, openness, and meaningful life experiences; and less depression and low mood)
- Better able to respond to stress and adversity (more proactive problem-solving)
- More resilient in the face of trauma
- Stronger, longer-lasting, more satisfying relationships
- Increased job performance

Building a Well and Satisfied Department begins with You!

Become the-best-version-of-yourself

- Embrace virtue as the ultimate organizing principle
- Master self-control
- The best way to live differs from person to person and at different stages and ages of our lives.
- Be a "batteries included" person in all areas of your life

From: Off Balance: Getting Beyond the Work-Life Balance Myth to Personal and Professional Satisfaction

In Groups of 2, take a few minutes to share with each other:

What challenges do you face in designing a life that aligns your daily activities with your values and priorities so that you can live a more meaningful and satisfying life? How do you prioritize?

Managing Expectations: Moving from Shame to Connection

Shame Web

- What you should be
- How you should be
- Who you should be
 - Layers of competing and conflicting social/community expectations:
 - Appearance
 - Class
 - Education
 - Family
- Feeling worthless, rejected, or unworthy

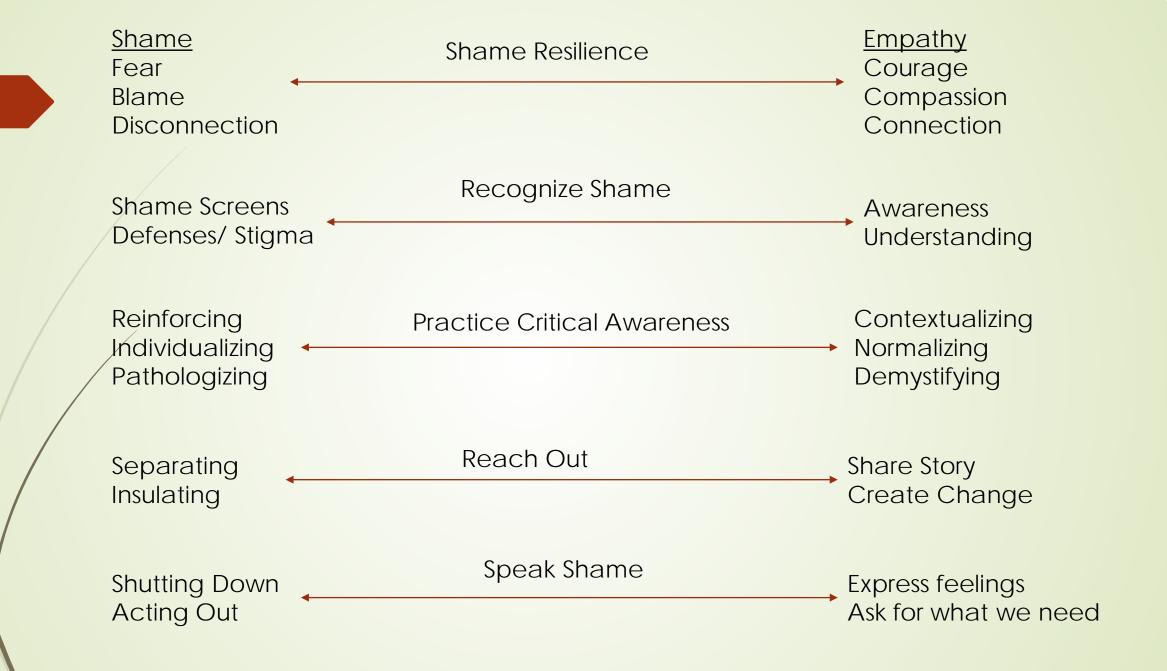
Connection Network

- Belonging
- Affirmation
- Connection
- Build Connection by:
 - Contextualize (big picture)
 - Normalize (not the only one)
 - Demystify (share with others)
 - Feeling valued and respected

From: I Thought It Was Just Me (but it isn't) by Brene Brown

Managing Expectations and Fear of Judgment: Shame Resilience Theory





Six Reality Check Questions to Manage Expectations

- 1. How realistic are my expectations?
- 2. Can I be all these things all the time?
- 3. Do the expectations conflict with each other?
- 4. Am I describing who I want to be or who others want me to be?
- 5. If someone perceives me as having these unwanted identities, what will happen?
- 6. Can I control how others perceive me? How do I try?

Principles to Incorporate into Your Department

- Cultivating Gratitude
- Kindness and Compassion
- Living in the Present Moment
- Fostering Self-Compassion
- Boosting Optimism
- Strengthening Relationships
- Practicing Forgiveness

lt's a team effort

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University Values and Goals

Department Goals

Manage Conflict

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Positive Interactions

Culture of Appreciation

Collegial Relationships

The Sound Department

Adapted from John M. Gottman and Julie Schwartz Gottman

Questions to Ask as a Member of Your Department

- What do you appreciate about your department?
- What is the energy like in your department?
- How can you help your department become the-best-version-of-itself?
- What do you need to be a healthy, well, and productive individual in your department?





Thank You! Questions?

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References

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- Kelly, M. (2011). Off Balance: Getting beyond the work-life balance myth to personal and professional satisfaction. New York, NY: Hudson Street Press.
- Paquette, J. (2015). Real Happiness: Proven paths for contentment, peace, & well-being. Eau Claire, WI: PESI Publishing & Media.

Try this in you Department: Building Your Wellness Cairn

- What is a Cairn?
- Take a few minutes to consider the following:
 - What do I appreciate about my department?
 - What virtues and/or principles do you consider as your strengths?
 - How could these virtues and/or principles contribute to helping my department be the best-version-of-itself?
 - What are 1-2 values that are important to me?
 - What do I need from my department to support these values?
- As each person places their stone on the cairn
 - Say one thing you appreciate about your department
 - One thing you have to offer to your department
 - One thing you need from your department

