# Engaging Teams Through Turbulent Times

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- Principal and Lead Consultant at Arkle Consulting Group, specializing in change management, strategic planning, leadership & team effectiveness
- 20 years of experience as Management Consultant, Facilitator and Executive Coach for clients across sectors and geographies
- Board member of the Association of Nonprofit Specialists & trustee of Elysian Charter School
- MBA in Strategic Management & Finance; a Masters in Linguistics & Pedagogics

## Session objectives

- To help you better understand how to manage change, as well as attend to the balance between the operational and human sides of change
- To ensure that you leave with at least one practical idea on how to use this knowledge to more effectively navigate change both personally and professionally

### What is your attitude toward change?

Avoid at all cost 
Would rather not 
Bring it on

"Our attitude toward life determines life's attitude towards us."

John N. Mitchell



# 5 key learnings about Change

- 1. Everyone reacts to change differently
  - Our reactions vary with the type of change
  - We must be aware of our own personal reactions to change in order to effectively navigate others through change
- Every change has both: potential gains and losses that are experienced personally and organizationally
- 3. Change is more difficult, when the future is uncertain or unclear
- 4. Complex change MUST be managed
- 5. There is a *human side* of change that can make a difference between successful and unsuccessful change

## An important distinction:

#### CHANGE

Structures
Systems
Processes
External shifts



### TRANSITION

Attitudes
Beliefs
Behaviors
Psychological re-orientation

# Top question about change

How will this change affect **Me**?

"50% of lost productivity during a transition (to change) is caused by employees wasting time while waiting for answers to the "ME" question."

Source: Price Prichett & Ron Pound

# The human side of change

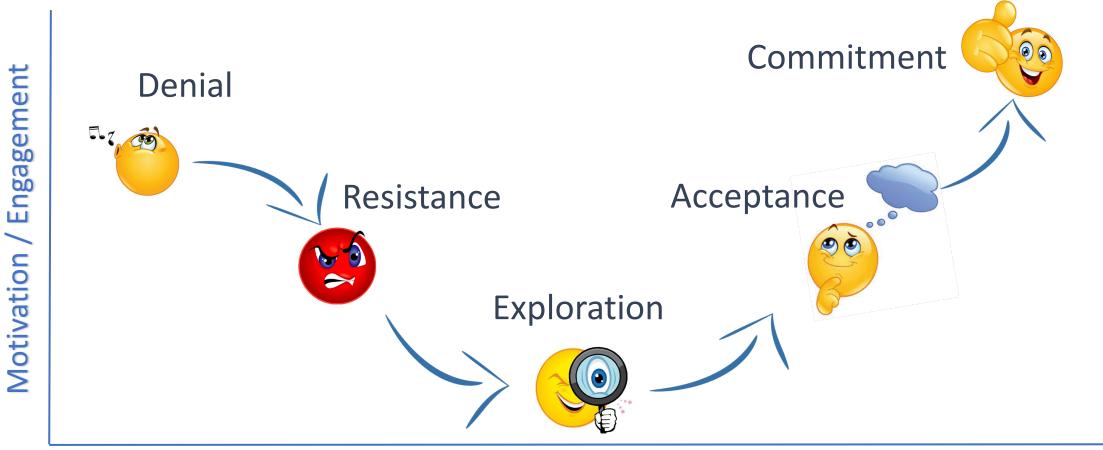
For the Change Agent the Change is	For the Change Target the Change is
A conscious, planned decision	Out of their control
Seems gradual	Seems sudden
Solves a problem	Creates problems
Seems logical	Seems arbitrary
Provides new opportunities	Disrupts routines
	25th
Intentional	Imposed 52
	11-51-

"The role of the manager is to *change the change* so that it ceases to be seen as an end to what is desirable and becomes, instead, a sacrifice that is necessary to protect what is *really* desirable."



William Bridges, "Surviving Corporate Transitions"

# Transitioning: The human side of change



# Strategies for moving along the curve



When we are here:	We need:
Denial - Resistance	<ul> <li>Information, Information</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>To know that change WILL happen</li> </ul>
	Time to let things sink in
Exploration	<ul> <li>More specifics of the change – when/how</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>To ask questions</li> </ul>
	Encouragement and support
Acceptance	Training
	Clarity of priorities
	To provide feedback
	<ul> <li>To see progress / results / quick wins</li> </ul>
Commitment	<ul> <li>To be recognized for accomplishments</li> </ul>
	To understand long-term goals

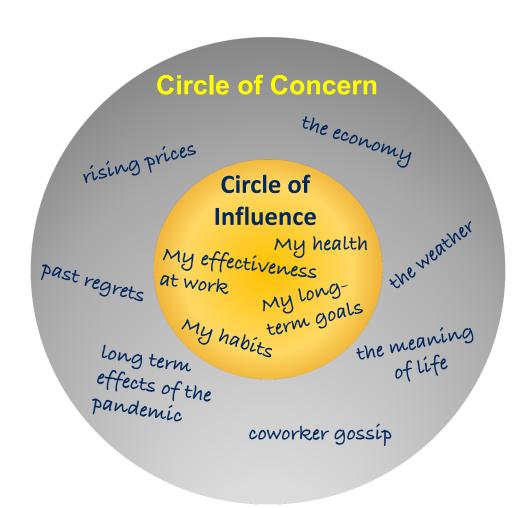
# How to manage Change and Transition

The goal is to get ourselves ready, willing and able to implement and sustain new ways of working

Understand **reasons** Proactively ensure Know my **role** in for change and making this change that you have the tools to do the evolving vision for successful the new norm work Be clear about Understand why it expectations is important to me (WIIFM), the organization, and the clients

### Prioritize pragmatic action

- Focus on what you can control
  - ...directly through your own behavior
  - …indirectly through the behaviors of others
  - Choose to see the opportunity, instead of getting stuck concentrating on the challenge.
     Ask: "What could be good about this?"
  - Identify ways to leverage influence by collaborating with others



# Prioritize pragmatic action (cont'd)

- Focus on what you can control
- Embrace short-term approach
  - Don't stand still awaiting the answers / the "final" strategy. Move your team forward.
  - What projects can your team execute in 30, 60, 90 days that will benefit the organization regardless of which direction the strategy takes?
- Prioritize

# It's a Two-Way Street

#### **Change Agent**

#### (Management)

- Do your homework
- Communicate (even without complete information)
- Encourage input
- Listen, observe, show that you care
- Enforce accountability
- Walk the talk

### **Change Target**

### (Staff)

- Do your homework
- Listen; Give benefit of a doubt
- Share ideas
- Listen, observe, show that you care
- Embrace responsibility
- Provide feedback



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Thank you for your participation!

