Achieving Quality and Success in a Changing World

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June 2023

"The Times They Are a Changin"

- The changes now being experienced in long-term services are dramatic (but we are not alone– law, health care, education, manufacturing, journalism, technology– you name it
- Good News– More individuals making it to old age, should mean busy times for aging services
- Bad news– More competition than ever before. Growth of numbers and funding means a shift in system structure

Why Do Organizations Fail?

- Organizations can fail because of bad products:
- White Star Lines (Titanic) Sharper Image, when their lead product the Ionic Breeze Air Purifier added ozone to the home air supply
- Or bad ideas The Harley Davidson perfume line, Cosmo, Yogurt, Thirsty Dog's flavored bottled water for pets
- But organizations also fail with quality products, because the world changes and they do not (Kodak, Blockbuster, Motorola cell phone, Blackberry)

Being a Quality Organization

- So to achieve quality the organization needs to:
- Deliver a high quality service and
- Pay attention to changes in the environmentinclude consumers, funders, technology, demographics,

Current Quality Approaches

- Quality approaches dominated by health and safety values
- Underlying assumption that service recipients are unable to assess or communicate about quality
- In our search for measureable outcomes we have relied heavily on structural elements
- The media, society in general and politics all reinforces these beliefs

Quality definitions

- Quality assurance Donabedian concepts of structure, process, outcomes to assess quality
- Quality improvement, total quality management Six Sigma- all based on the concept of continuous improvement-Deming, Crosby

Quality Roles and Responsibilities

- State regulations-what works, what does not?
- Board or corporate roles and responsibilitiesmaking the shift to quality
- Role of the management
- Role of individual provider
- Informational web sites- nursing home compare, accredidation, CMS star rating

Quality Lessons From TQM

1) Who Are Our Customers?

2) How Do We Hear Their Voices?

3) Information is Critical for Good Decisions

Quality Lessons From TQM

4) The Group is Smarter Than the Individual

5) Sub-Optimization is a Key Challenge for Service Organizations

Lessons from agencies implementing quality improvement

- There is commitment to hearing from consumers, but finding a cost-effective, feasible way to collect and analyze information is difficult.
- Integrating quality management across units is challenging.
- Most programs do not have well-established mechanisms for using data to improve services.
- Quality improvement committees are valuable, and using them effectively requires considerable effort.

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Strategic Questions for the Future of Social and Long-Term Services

- What will the services delivery system look like in 10 years? How about five?
- What will my organization look like?
- What will our partnerships look like? How will the organization change?
- How do we understand the changes of today and tomorrow to better serve older people?
- How do we maintain our commitment to quality in this ever changing world?