

## Don't just send a message, engage Our Community Practice Best Practices

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## Today's Topics

- About Mayo Clinic Health System
- Our employees' field of experience
- What we know about communication
- Our proactive and responsive internal communication approach
  - Opportunity to engage employees
- Patient and community engagement



# Mayo Clinic Health System

A few tidbits about us







#### Our Neck of the Woods



- Rural community practices
- 8 physical locations
  - 3 medical centers
  - 5 clinic only
- Approx. 1,400 staff
- Single senior leadership team
- Cultures vary



# Our Employees

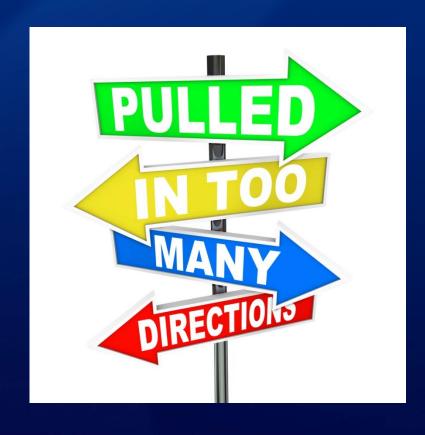
Understanding field of experience

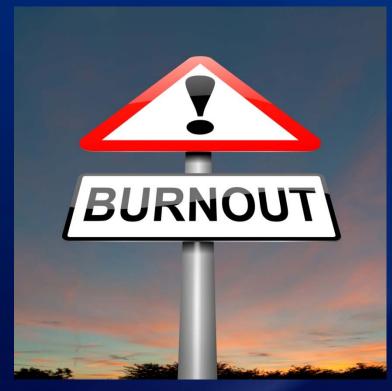




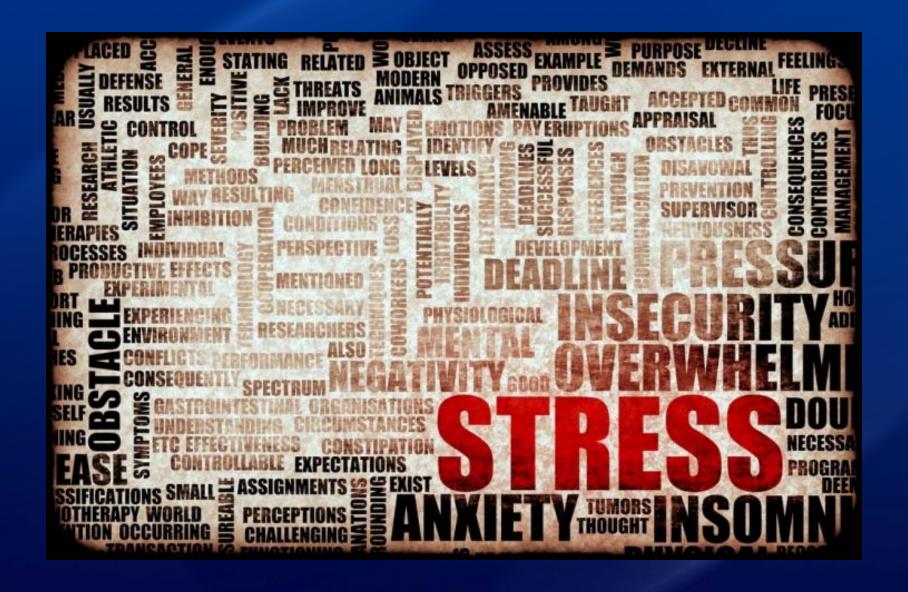


# **Change Fatigue**



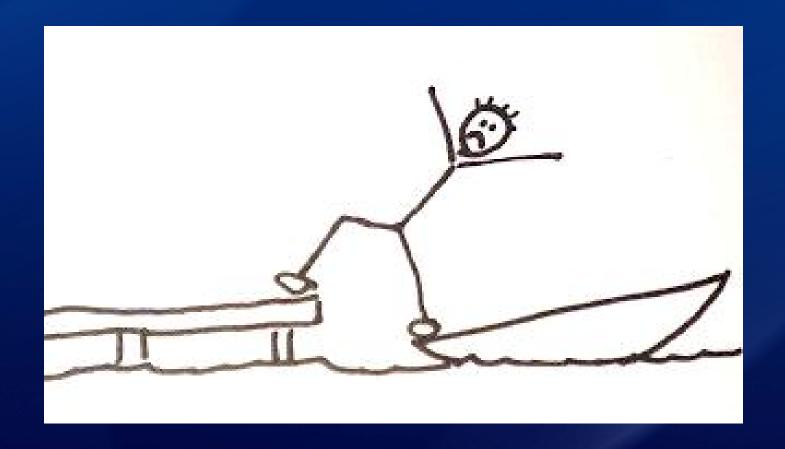








#### That's because we're a bit like this...





## Internal communication

It can enhance or hinder employee engagement



# First, let's look at what we know

Plus some general communication theory



#### Information Overload

- We share a lot of information!
  - How much email alone do you receive?
  - How long would it take one employee to take in all of your internal communication?

It's a matter of time.





## **News Delivery Survey (2015)**

- Wish List
  - More time (too busy for reading news) (15)
  - Easier and simpler ways to get and prioritize news
    (8)
- Stop Doing
  - Sending so much news (it's hard to keep up, I feel like I don't know what's going on) (12)



## Do they understand?

 IF employees pay attention to internal communication, how do we know they "got it"??





## Feedback Loop

- Communication = Two Way Process
- Employees may not decode the message as intended, and often the feedback loop is missing



# How do we keep employees informed and engaged?

Works for us, far from perfect



## Our Approach

- Proactive and responsive internal communication
  - Leverage lots of tools in the tool box
  - Use communication as an opportunity to engage employees
- Must consider culture
  - Rural communities
- Leadership commitment



#### Lots of tools in the tool box

- Daily Huddle
- Department meetings
- Supervisor/manager meetings
- Email:
  - Leadership Inboxes
  - Cascade

- Employee Forums
- Leadership Corner
- Senior Leader Rounding
- Listening Sessions
- Publications
- Digital signage

Most of our tools let us share information, check for understanding, ask for feedback



# Daily Huddle



## Daily Huddle

- Supervisors/managers huddle at the same time every morning (10-15 minutes)
- Administrator facilitates huddle; Public Affairs responsible for content
- Huddle focus:
  - Recognition of staff/successes
  - Educational focus for the week prompt for team discussion
  - DYK reinforcement of important news/events
  - Ops report for the day
- Supervisors/managers required (held accountable) to go back to department to facilitate department huddle



## Department Meetings

- Seems like a no brainer, but not all departments had regular meetings!
- Staff prefer getting information from their managers
- Monthly department meetings now required
- Agenda template begins with recognitions/what's going well
- Two-way communication
- Public Affairs equips supervisor/managers with "communication tool box" when strategic information needs to be communicated



## Department Meetings

- What might be in the "communication tool box"?
  - Talking points
  - Related articles
  - Presentation
  - Videos
  - Discussion guides
  - Posters



## Supervisor/Manager Meetings

- Supervisors/managers meet with senior leadership F2F monthly
  - Phone option always available
- Recognition/what's going well kicks off every meeting
- Supervisors/managers directed to share specific information during Daily Huddle or Department Meeting
- Two-way communication, asked for feedback
- "Action Log" for any follow up that needs to occur



#### **Email**

 If I had a dollar for every all staff email request... ©

Sending message



- Use "all staff email" sparingly with review/approval from Public Affairs
- Cascade to various audiences
- Leadership inboxes



# Leadership Inboxes





# **Employee Forums**



## **Employee Forums**

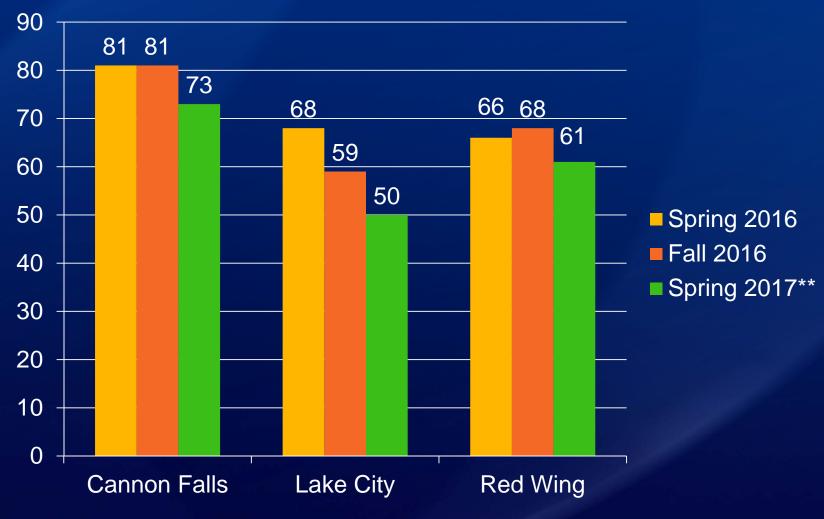
- Twice a year, 20 sessions, every location
- CEO, Administrator, Nurse Administrator
- Updates and address employee raised issues
- Two-way communication with Q&A



- Interactive "clicker" questions
- Attendance mandatory, tracked
- Feedback form



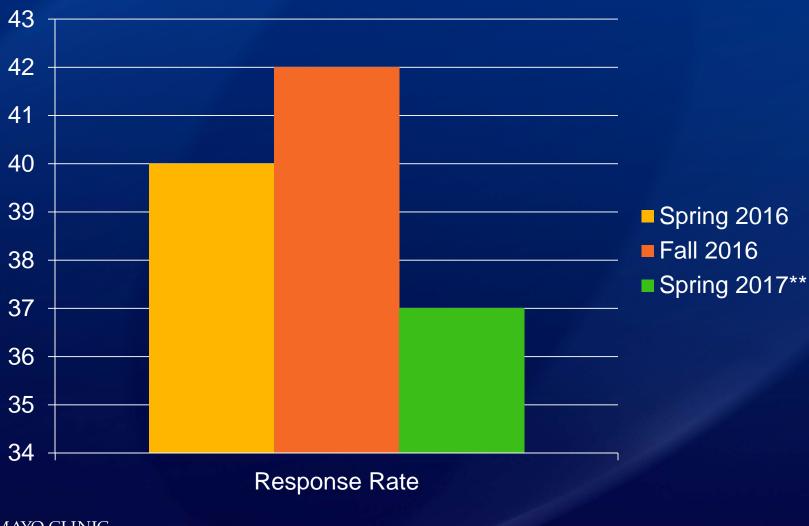
## **Employee Forums Attendance**





\*\*Data still coming in

# **Employee Forums Evaluation**





\*\* Data still coming in

# **Leadership Corner**





## Senior Leader Rounding

- Regular visits to departments
- Objectives:
  - Recognize staff, manage up
  - ID what's going well, what needs improvement
  - ID if staff has tools to do their jobs
  - Build trust and open communication
- Rounding pre-work form completed by department manager







## **Listening Sessions**

- Responsive approach during challenging situations
- Scheduled as needed, feedback from supervisors and managers
- Culture big factor in developing this tactic



## **Publications**



## **Publications**





## Digital Signage

- Employee channel
- Visually "teases" articles in News Center
- Other messages, announcements
  - Health/wellness
- Weather



# **Employee Satisfaction**



# When you're in a small town....

Internal overlaps with external, make it work in your favor



## Patient Engagement

- Many of our employees are also our patients
  - They influence family, friends, neighbors
- Lots of change in health care delivery
  - Natural reaction to change: doubt, anger, resistance
  - Patients don't care about our models
  - Employees can fuel the fire or help patients along
- Engaged employees can help with "change management"
  - Two-way communication to address specific concerns, offer reassurance



## **Community Engagement**

- One of the major employers in town
- Most of our employees live and play in town too....
  - Imagine the connections through family and friends!
- Employees can be our champions or bring us down



#### When bad news breaks....





## **Community Engagement**

- Employees can help facilitate two-way communication
- ID and get to know your key influencers
  - Consider existing relationships through employees
- Local or state elected officials can be a "channel" – keep them briefed
- Patient Advisory Council
- Be a good community partner and citizen
  - Engaged employees more likely to volunteer in the community





## **Questions & Discussion**

