Rapid Process Improvement (Kaizen) Events



What is a Rapid Process Improvement Event?

- Sometimes called a "Kaizen" (Continuous Improvement) Event
- Focused and short duration event that achieves rapid and dramatic improvements
- Short 2-5 days
- Focused Attendees don't perform regular duties
- Results Oriented Not successful if there isn't a measureable change/improvement
 - \circ $\:$ Seek perfection but don't wait for perfection
- Participants come away empowered to affect change, and with a fuller understanding of the process, who is affected and how

What is the Sequence We Use?

- Event Kickoff
 - o Introductions & Icebreakers
 - Event Overview What is the mission and how are we expected to accomplish it?
- Current State Analysis
 - \circ $\;$ Understand where we are to help us get where we want to go
 - o Build a common understanding of the process
 - Who is involved? Who is affected? What are the requirements?
 - Identify waste/non-value adding activities
 - Perform Root Cause Analysis (RCA) to determine why waste or failures were occurring
- Future State Design
 - Brainstorm innovative and creative potential solutions
 - Select high benefit/easy to implement solutions first and then design implementation



- Improvement Testing
 - Does this work? What are the kinks?
 - Identify testing process as early as possible in the event to figure out coordination and enable rapid feedback
- Improvement Implementation
 - "What preparation does the workforce need so the improvement is fully effective the next business day?"
 - Is training required?
- Event Wrap-up
 - Event report we use A3 format
 - o Sustainability plan, 30-day list, and parking lot issues
 - o Team Presentation to Leadership