Lean Education Modules: Teaching Lean to Frontline Nurses

Focus: In healthcare, Lean has been used at the system, procedural, and department level to ensure safe practice and capture workflow efficiencies. The purpose of the project was to develop healthcare relevant teaching tools. Several presentations incorporating scenarios, examples and exercises were created to address the gap in translating Lean concepts to front-line nurses.

Module 1: Introduction to Lean
Goals:
• To assess the current knowledge baseline of Lean
• To familiarize employees with the history of Lean and the definition of Lean
• To explain the idea of "waste" in Lean
Outcomes:
• Individuals attending the module will be able to verbalize Lean thinking
• Individuals will be able to explain the concept of waste in Lean thinking

Exercise to identify the 8 "wastes" of Lean

Module 2: Introduction to A3 Thinking
Goals:
• To continue to build on Lean thinking
• To familiarize employees with A3 thinking by "pulling" from their current base of knowledge
• To explain how A3 thinking is a cornerstone to Lean thinking
Outcomes:
• Individuals will be able to explain the components of an A3 sheet
• Individuals will be able to complete an A3 sheet

Completed A3 sheet using SBAR language

Module 3: Introduction to Value Stream Mapping and Spaghetti diagrams
Goals:
• To continue to build on Lean thinking
• To give context to current state/future statements in A3 thinking
• To explain how spaghetti diagrams are used in Value Stream Mapping
Outcomes:
• Individuals will be able to explain how a spaghetti diagram is used in process improvement
• Individuals will be able to produce current state and future state maps on an A3 chart