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# From Teams to Organizations and Inter-organizations Measures of Systems Thinking and Social Competencies from Production and Healthcare

Dr. Wiljeana Glover, MIT LAI LAI Knowledge Exchange Event April 10, 2012



- I. Topic 1: People in Improvement Teams
- II. Topic 2: People in Organizational Enterprises (Work Teams)
- **III.** Topic 3: People in Multi-Org Enterprises

# Background and Motivation: Kaizen Event Definition, Characteristics, and Use

A Kaizen event is a focused and structured improvement project, using a dedicated crossfunctional team to improve a targeted work area, with specific goals, in an accelerated timeframe.

(Farris et al., 2009)





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# Social Capabilities and Improvement Teams (Glover et al., 2010)



#### Management Support (MS) Our team:

- Had enough contact with management to get our work done
- Had enough help from others in our organization to get our work done

#### Internal Processes (IP) Our team:

- Communicated openly.
- Valued each member's unique contributions.
- Respected each others' opinions/feelings.

# Finding: Social support and capabilities may be more important to success than task design or other technical factors.

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Systems Thinking \* Social Capabilities

# **Research Methods: Data Collection Process**



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# **Research Methods:**

## Sampled Orgs., Data Collection and Analysis

Description	า	No. of	
		events	
A: Seconda	ary wood product manufacturer	19	
B: Electronic motor manufacturer		4	
C: Secondary wood product manufacturer		4	
E: Specialty equipment manufacturer		13	
F: Steel component manufacturer		7	
G: Aerospace engineering and manufacturer		7	
Q: IT component manufacturer		5	
R: Aerospace engineering and manufacturer		6	
Total		65	
<ul> <li>Survey fatigue</li> <li>Survey item distributional properties</li> <li>Data Collection and Preparation</li> </ul>	Construct Validity and Aggregate Variables • Factor Analysis • CATPCA • Reliability and collinearity	egression Analysis	ediation Analysis uge testing and OLS

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# Results and Discussion: Work Area Attitude and Commitment



# Background and Motivation: People in Organizations

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## Southwest Airlines...



- Has had only one fatality in 35 years of operation an overrun on a snowy runway at Midway on Dec 8, 2005
- Until the purchase of AirTran, flew only Boeing 737s
  - Simplifies training, maintenance, logistics
- Has never had a layoff of employees to reduce costs, including after 9/11
- Is the most highly unionized major U.S. airline
- Has a point-to-point, not hub-and-spoke, route structure
- Consistently offers some of the lowest fares available
- Is a favorite of both investors and employees

## What makes Southwest so successful?

# Relational Coordination as an Organizational Competency (Gittell)



Using the Power of Relationships to Achieve High Performance

GITTELL

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"In this book I argue that Southwest's most powerful organizational competency... is its ability to build and sustain high performance relationships ... characterized by **shared goals, shared knowledge, and mutual respect**. Although these relationships appear simple, appearances are deceptive." (Emphasis added)

Thinking \* Social Capabilities

Relationships *shape* the communication through which coordination occurs Shared goals Shared knowledge Mutual respect



Problem-solving communication

over 9

# Example from Healthcare: Psychological Health and the Military

- **Enduring Combat Operations**
- 1.9 M Troops since Oct. 2001
- Prolonged combat exposure, increased deployment rates
- Technologies enabling higher combat survival rate
- Mental Health Disorders
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Challenges
- Access to and quality of care
- Challenges with culture and stigma
- Consideration of families

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# **Example from Healthcare: Psych. Health and the Military**

### **Attempts to Solve Challenges**

- Over \$2 Billion Invested
- Over 450 psychological health related programs
- Known program interdependencies
- Recent integration efforts
- Goal to Improve Enterprise Performance
- Efficiency → Dec. Per Capita Cost, Fewer Redundant Programs
- Quality → Inc. Population Health, Access to Care



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# Systems Thinking and Social Capabilities in Enterprises (Glover, Naveh, Carroll)

#### **External Perspective**

Item: [Our Organization] understands how our work fits into the bigger picture of the services provided to the servicemember



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## **Thanks and Contact Information**

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