MILESTONE

Providing Stepping Stones
Along the Path to Success

THE MATHIS GROUP, INC.

A WOMAN-OWNED
SMALL BUSINESS

PROJECT
IMPROVEMENTS
THROUGH
RETROSPECTIVES

Continuous Improvement focuses teams to get better in the processes, delivery, communication, and synergy of their project. It requires team members who examine how to do it better, faster, cheaper, and with greater value to the customer. This can be done by creating, changing, or dumping processes if they are not working. One way to determine if a process is working is by doing retrospectives.

In traditional projects, you will have a Lesson Learned session at the conclusion of it. You'll make note of what worked well and what should be changed for the future. For some projects, however, waiting until it's finished is too late. In Agile projects, the team members will implement continuous improvement processes as they go in order to reap the benefits of making small changes along the way. Having a Retrospective (similar to a Lessons Learned session) at the end of each project iteration allows the project team to continually adapt and improve the processes being used.

If you read through a Lessons Learned report of a previous project prior to starting your project, it's often easy to ignore the suggestions made. You may feel that the issues encountered by another team will never happen to your project, and you fail to take them seriously. However, when you run into issues on YOUR project, you want to fix them ASAP to avoid future impacts. Since retrospectives happen at the end of every iteration, team members can make small adjustments or changes before starting the next iteration. This will help the following iteration run more smoothly.

Let's look at some improvements that come from doing retrospectives throughout a project.

Improved productivity
By applying lessons learned and reducing rework, the team can get more productive work done. Learning what didn't work in a previous iteration will keep the team from making the same mistakes in the current one.

Improved capability
Retrospectives provide a venue for spreading scarce knowledge. As the number of people who have the scarce knowledge increases, so does the number of people who can perform tasks associated with the knowledge. Everyone benefits from the knowledge of how to do a task better.

Improved quality
We can improve quality on our projects by finding the circumstances that led to defects and removing the causes.

Improved capacity
Retrospectives focus on finding process efficiency improvements, which can improve the team's capacity to do work.

Continually trying to improve how we complete projects is a cost-effective way to increase the likelihood of project success that can last long into the future.

Adapted from PMI-ACP Exam Prep by Mike Griffiths

Join Dr. Mathis on Friday, February 11 for our free *Continuous Improvement and its Impact in Project Management* webinar. If you cannot attend, a replay link will be sent out after the webinar. To register, go to **www.themathisgroup.com/webinars**.

PDUs - 13

PMI's Talent Triangle Breakdown
Technical - 12.50
Leadership - 0.50

face-to-face

virtual
instructor-led

self-paced
online

Course Description: Agile Project Management officially began in 2001 and has become a popular project management approach. This two-day course will examine the focus of energizing, empowering, and enabling project teams to provide customer value in a strong Agile framework. Participants will examine the value and process to actively involve the customer in delivering features and functionality throughout the duration of the project. This course will explore actions which reinforce the ability to respond to a changing project environment while focusing on delivering high customer value in every project.

Course Objectives:

Objective 1: Define Agile Project Management and the Agile manifesto
Compare why traditional projects struggle and fail
Discuss criteria on when to use the Agile methodology
Discuss when and how to use the hybrid approach to utilize traditional Project Management and
Agile Project Management
Identify the success factors of Agile Project Management
Identify the principles of Agile Project Management
Compare predictive planning and adaptive planning
Discuss the rights and roles of the Agile business case

Objective 2: Define user stories, story mapping, Kanban boards, and burn down charts
Examine the usage of product vision box and product backlog
Discuss the characteristics of a time box

Objective 3: Review how to use daily stand up meetings successfully
Examine the role and core skills of the project manager in Agile Project Management
Examine the role of the culture to support the project team in Agile Project Management
Examine the engaging role of the customer in Agile Project Management
Discuss customer value in Agile Project Management

Objective 4: Examine strategies of Agile Project Management
Examine Agile modeling
Discuss the characteristics of the cone of uncertainty
Describe value stream in Agile Project Management

Objective 5: Discuss the positives of co-location, information radiators and team space
Analyze the planning processes of initiating, iteration, control, and closeout
Analyze estimating in Agile Project Management such as size, iteration, and releases
Analyze scheduling in Agile Project Management
Analyze tracking and communication in Agile Project Management
Analyze risk and changes in Agile Project Management
Examine types of contracts that work best with the Agile framework

THE MATHIS GROUP, INC.

A WOMAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS (WOSB)

Providing quality, customized training and consulting services that inspire, educate, and equip organizations to be better tomorrow than they are today.

DR. KEITH MATHIS, PMP, PMI-ACP, CSM
WANDA MATHIS, M.ED. PMI-ACP

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING
OVER 60 PROJECT MANAGEMENT COURSES REGISTERED WITH PMI

PRESENTATIONS THE EDUCATE, MOTIVATE, AND INSPIRE

Since 1993, The Mathis Group has been helping organizations change worker productivity and behavior.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT
MARKETING
MOTIVATION
ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR
LEADERSHIP
CUSTOMER SERVICE

COMPANY MANDATE

The Mathis Group provides training and consulting that will impact the organization and individual while maintaining an outstanding reputation for success and integrity.

VALUES STATEMENT

Every person has worth and should be treated with respect.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Curriculum Design
- Project Management
- Organizational Behavior and Development
- Management
- Marketing
- Strategic Planning
- Executive Coaching
- Performance
- Team Building
- Emotional Intelligence
- Leadership
- Customer Service
- Creating Customer Value
- Supervisory Leadership
- Coaching and Counseling

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