Making it Work: Applying Project Management Where it Shouldn’t Be

(Better)

Karen W. Brindle
How does it feel?

Chaotic  Pointless  Exhausting  Stretched Thin

Rambling  Time wasting  Confusing  Messy

Hectic  Frenzied  Bewildering  Excluded

Draining  Grueling  Strenuous  Pointless
Project management lends the best toolset for managing “things.” (Period.)
Silk worm farmer in South Asia
The *Applied* Approach

(1) REFLECTION &
(2) INTENTIONALITY
Reflection: Look at yourself, your organization and your project like an anthropologist!
PM’s are...
Project Managers know capabilities
Hard Skills
Hard Skill Examples

- Requirements management
- Time management
- Quality management
- Scope management
- Risk management
- Documentation
- Analytics
- Procurement
- Planning
- Cost management
- Integration
- Performance management
Soft Skills
Project managers know requirements
Project managers know risk management

“These smug pilots have lost touch with regular passengers like us. Who thinks I should fly the plane?”

New Yorker, 1/8/17
Intentionality: A project manager is also a tailor
Project managers know scalability
Project managers know prioritization
Story time
Applied to HR and Homeland Security: Agricultural Research Services’ FV Program
Initiating
Planning
Use your hard skills! Risk Assessment
Executing
Use your soft skills! Communications and Stakeholder Engagement
Monitor and Control

Business Acumen Skill: Identifying Misalignment

- Strategy
- Warning: the moment assigned to your title, what idea and then place on your left check-in that the symptoms would lead to misuse.
- What would you notice as part of your business plan?
Closing
Applied to Communications: Agricultural Research Service’s Process Improvements
Applying Hard Skills: Documentation
Applied to Refugee Processing: Department of State’s In-country Refugee Processing
Applying Hard Skills: Knowledge Management
Applied to HR and Personnel Security: Agricultural Research Services’ Secure ID’s
Applying Soft Skills: Continuous Improvement
Applied to Customer Service: US Citizen and Immigration Service’s Customer Contact Center
Soft Skill Application: Stakeholder Engagement
How can you get started? Step 1: Label it.
Step 2: Know your capabilities
Step 3: Know the requirements
Step 4: Assess risk
Step 5: Tailor
Step 6: ...And Repeat
Path Forward

Change the culture of your organization to a well-managed culture, one project at a time!
Questions?

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Prototype

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6nnc09asVZsTkdpSE5BVnZxbEU/view