

Perspectives on Change Leadership

Sheila F. Maith, Maith Consulting

Strength Matters Conference

October 18, 2018

Introductions

Two NWA initiatives supporting transformational change

Achieving Excellence in
Community Development (AE)

Sustainable Homeownership
Program (SHP) now the
Sustainable Business Initiative
(SBI)

Question Zero: What exactly
are we trying to accomplish?

Always a good place to start!!



“Don’t be silly, the staff loves that we brought in a change management consultant.”

Change requires both

Leadership

Strategic

Learning

Innovation

Vision

Influence

Navigating uncertainty

Management

Tactical

Systems

Improvements

Control

Processes

Creating greater certainty

Recall one change initiative you were part of

- Professional or personal
- Organizational or individual
- Recent or historic
- Successful or unsuccessful

Take 20 seconds and write it down

Seven observations about the conditions leading to successful change

1. Start with the why
2. Clarity about the Future
3. Truly understanding the status quo
4. Realism about the process
5. Focus, focus, focus
6. It takes a team
7. Time and space for learning

1. Question Zero: Start with Why



2. Clarity about the future state



AN AE CHALLENGE “FROM/TO”

FROM “REACTIVE”

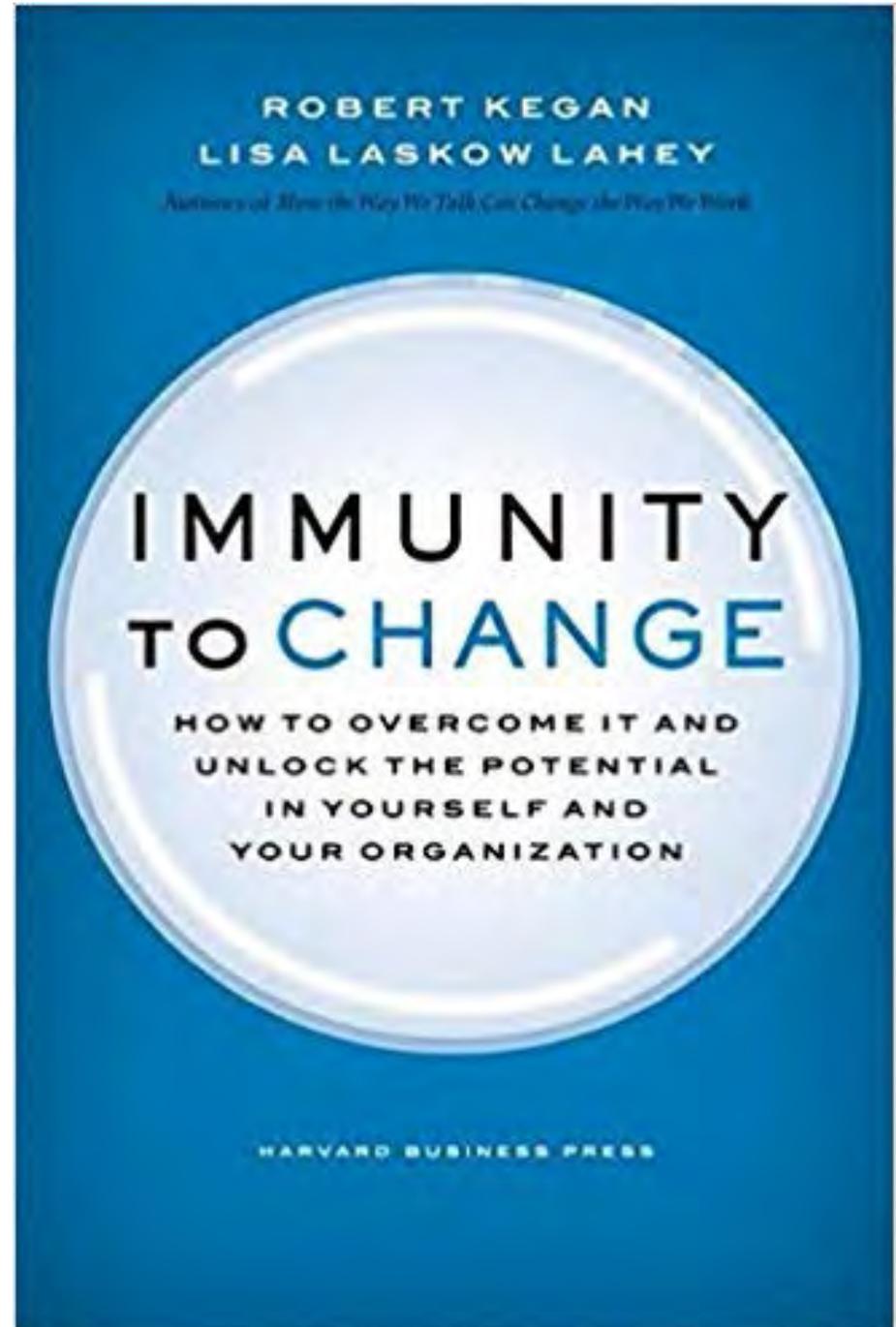
- ✓ Majority of Funding/Revenue is grant-based, reimbursable and “after the service”
- ✓ Much is out of our control and not dependent on our performance (Fed./State/Local budgets and politics, etc.)
- ✓ No “head-room” to focus on Research & Development
- ✓ “Do what we can with what we have” approach to programming & services
- ✓ “Take what we can get” approach to fundraising
- ✓ Not fun. Always “behind” and trying to fill gaps

TO “PROACTIVE”

- ✓ Majority of Funding/**Revenue is earned** (fee-for service, fundraising, investment, development, etc.)
- ✓ Our **performance dictates our impact** and revenue opportunities
- ✓ An emphasis on **building/testing** new services and revenue opportunities (through set-aside funds and technical training)
- ✓ Be out in front of issues in our community as a **“go-to” organization**
- ✓ A culture of fundraising & development; it never stops
- ✓ More **rewarding & exciting for staff, board and volunteers**

3. Understand the narrative that underlies the status quo

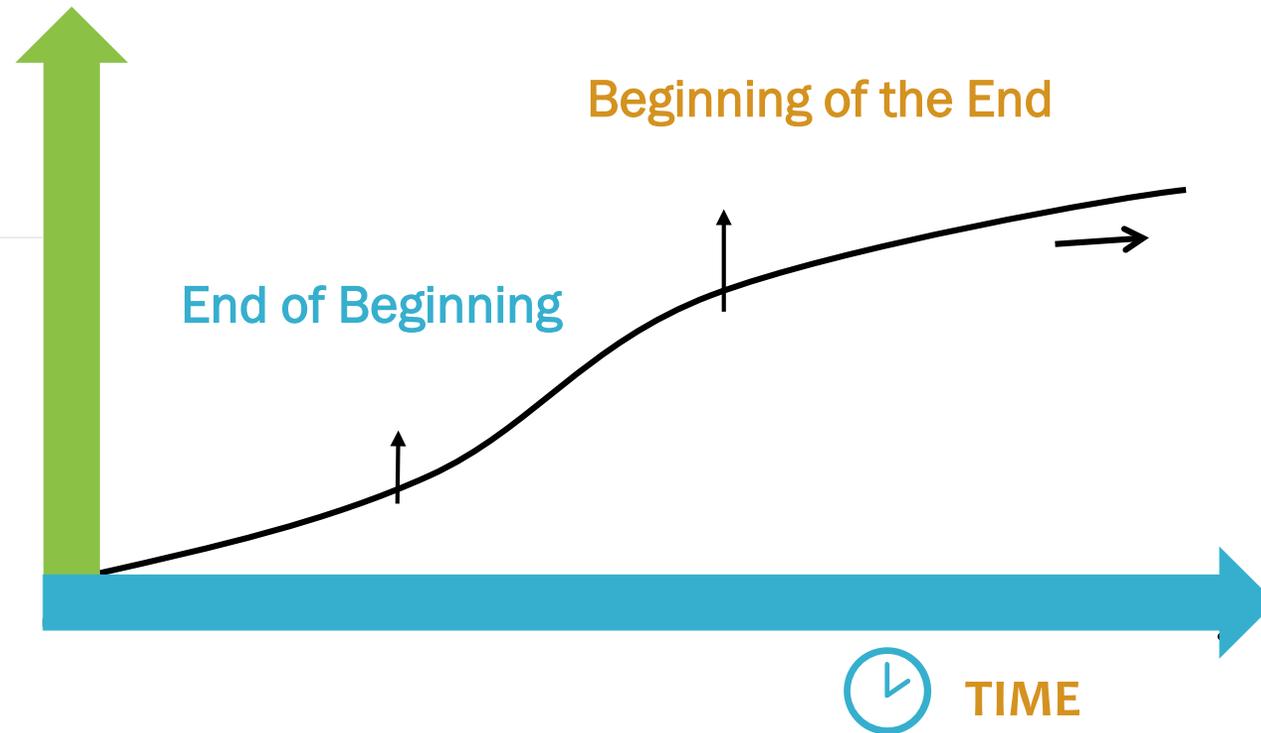
From their perspective, not yours!



4. Understand Change is Non-Linear

PEOPLE &
OUTCOMES

ACTUAL OUTCOMES AND
RESULTS, AS WELL AS
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
REQUIRED TO TAKE
RISKS FOR PERFORMANCE





10/7/2018

5. Focus and discipline



6. It takes a team



7. Make space and time for learning



“Welcome to Change Management 101.
We’ll start with some free falls.”

Resources on change leadership

- Lahey, Lisa and Kegan, Robert. **Immunity To Change**, Harvard Business Review, 2009.
- Kotter, John. **Accelerate**. Harvard Business Review, 2014.
- Bridges, William and Bridges, Susan. **Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change**. DeCapo Press, 2016
- Katzenbach, Jon and Smith, Douglas K. , **The Discipline of Teams**, John Wiley and Sons, 2001.
- Simon Sinek, **Start with Why**. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4ZoJKF_VuA

Questions, comments, observations

Thank you!