The importance of attending to psychological wellbeing during this pandemic

## Professor Judy McKimm Swansea University Medical School, UK 14 May 2020

# What is wellbeing?

Well-being is the experience of health, happiness, and prosperity. It includes having good mental health, high life satisfaction, a sense of meaning or purpose, and ability to manage stress. More generally, well-being is just feeling well

Source: www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/click-here-happiness/201901/what-is-well-beingdefinition-types-and-well-being-skills

# **5 Major Types of Well-Being**

- **Emotional Well-Being**: The ability to practice stress-management techniques, be resilient, and generate the emotions that lead to good feelings
- **Physical Well-Being**: The ability to improve the functioning of your body through healthy eating and good exercise habits
- **Social Well-Being**: The ability to communicate, develop meaningful relationships with others, and maintain a support network that helps you overcome loneliness
- **Workplace Well-Being**: The ability to pursue your interests, values, and purpose in order to gain meaning, happiness, and enrichment professionally
- **Societal Well-Being**: The ability to actively participate in a thriving community, culture, and environment

Source: www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/click-here-happiness/201901/what-is-well-being-definitiontypes-and-well-being-skills

## Psychological responses to COVID-19



Source: adapted from <u>https://slideplayer.com/slide/13596697</u>



## Human response to change cycle



Source: www.wipfli.com/insights/articles/op-covid-managing-fear-and-uncertainty-in-a-crisis-like-covid-19

# Maslow's hierarchy of needs



# 6 human needs (Tony Robbins)



## The Two Needs of the Spirit

Need 5: Growth

Need 6: Contribution

Source: https://fourhatscoaching.com/the-six-human-needs/

# **Resilience?**

- In the face of change and crisis, the resource we need most is resilience
- The ability to maintain continuity of one's personal narrative and a coherent sense of self following traumatic events
- People vary as to their tolerance of adverse events affected by:
  - developmental stage
  - previous experiences
  - the way they construct the event and respond to it

Within individuals this tolerance will naturally fluctuate

# What is resilience?



# **Develop resilience: Long term**

- Take care of your mind and body (sleep, exercise, learn to manage stress)
- Build the strength to keep moving forward and to take risks despite setbacks or stresses
- Learn from your mistakes
- Find time for reflection and reflexivity for restoration – especially when under (or feel under) threat
- Choose your response. Your reaction is always up to you

#### NATIONAL BESTSELLER

## LEARNED OPTIMISM

### How to Change Your Mind and

ENHANCED



READ BY THE AUTHOR

Your Life

MARTIN E. P. SELIGMAN, PH.D.

POSITIVE EMOTIONS Feeling good



# EXPLANATORY STYLE

#### PERMANENT THIS WILL LAST FOREVER

ESSIMISTIC THINKING STYLE

PERVASIVE THIS IS GOING TO UNDERMINE EVERYTHING

## PERSONAL

## IT'S ME. IT'S MY FAULT

#### UNCONTROLLABLE

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT

TEMPORARY THIS WILL PASS

OPTIMISTIC THINKING STYLE

LOCAL RELATES TO JUST THIS ONE SITUATION

NOT PERSONAL This is not (entirely) my fault

## CONTROLLABLE

THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN DO

# Nurturing Grit and a growth mindset



The Power of Passion and Perseverance

'Impressively fresh and original ... scrubs away preconceptions about how far our potential can take us.' Susan Cain

#### Angela Duckworth

"Failure is an opportunity to grow" GROWTH MINDSET

"I can learn to do anything I want"

"Challenges help me to grow"

"My effort and attitude determine my abilities"

"Feedback is constructive"

"I am inspired by the success of others"

"I like to try new things"

Carol Dweck https://www.mindsetworks.com/science

# **Emotional intelligence**

"Yes, I knew that listening was crucial to being a good leader....



"But I never knew that I was the one who had to do the listening." THE NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER DANIEL GOLEMAN Emotional Intelligence Why it can matter more than IQ

ALOONALUAY



# **Facilitating self-regulation**



## Self-Regulation: An Integrative Perspective

'Truly brilliant ... Read it immediately' Adam Grant, author of **Originals** 



A marvel of insight and practicality' Charles Duhigg, author of *The Power of Habit* 

DANIEL COYLE

# He builds the book around **3 key** skills:

## Skill 1—Build Safety

explores how signals of connection generate bonds of belonging and identity

## Skill 2—Share Vulnerability

explains how habits of mutual risk drive trusting cooperation

## Skill 3—Establish Purpose

tells how narratives create shared goals and values

A two way operation of leadership and followership – the 4 R's

Respect for others Recognition of their input Responsiveness to them Responsibility

## Four altruistic leadership behaviours

- Empowerment enabling direct reports to develop and excel
- Intellectual humility admitting mistakes, learning from criticism and different points of view, acknowledging and seeking contributions of others to overcome limitations
- Courage putting personal interests aside to achieve what needs to be done. Acting on convictions and principles even when it requires personal risk-taking
- Accountability demonstrating confidence in people by holding them responsible for performance they control

## Micro-affirmations & Micro-aggressions

- Small behavioural cues that signal whether you're valued
  - Whether I want to include you, talk to you
- Ask what signals you're sending?
  - Body language, interaction style, casual comments, feedback
- What signals does your environment send?
  - Pictures, artefacts, photos etc.
- What signals are you sending externally?
  - Images on website, marketing materials, who is chosen to represent the organisation

## **Ways to Foster Positive Thinking**



**Recall positive life events** 



**Practice mindfulness** 



Perform acts of kindness



**Express gratitude** 



Illustration by JR Bee, Verywell

Source <u>www.verywellmind.com/improve-</u> psychological-well-being-4177330

# In summary

- Acknowledge the psychological impact of change on others and yourself
  - Listen, observe and assess
- Be deliberately calm, confident and realistic: role model a positive mind set
- Always take action we will never be perfect
- Build a safe culture: challenge micro-aggressions
- Practice with intent and heart: be kind, be compassionate
- Communicate, communicate, communicate