Stepping Forward

When we think of leaders, we often think of people in positional authority but often that is only part of the picture. Anyone can be a leader no matter their role. You can shape what questions get answered and you can shape how a group thinks, as one person.

This is not a time to sit on the sidelines. Even if you aren't in a position of organization authority the current environment might leave space for you to step up from a place of situational authority.

For example: You might use this as an opportunity to step forward with a positive approach to offer to your sphere of influence. What is the leadership opportunity in front of you? How can you be responsive and lead from a place of compassion and humanity? How might you support others so that THEY can step forward as leaders?

The best adaptive leaders lead by asking for other perspectives and listening, rather than delivering directives. The leadership job right now is to know what the important questions are, and to lead the GROUP to better answers. Keep asking questions! Ask the people around you and the populations you serve about their most pressing concerns. Ask for their ideas about solutions! Engaging community members and stakeholder is going to be key in how MCH moves forward.

Transformative leaders are best known for their passion, their ability to generate excitement and a following for the cause they are advancing. Transformative leaders are also steadfast as well—they deliver. Think about your favorite teacher growing up. Most likely that person exhibited a combination of passion for the subject and for the craft of teaching itself but they also knew how to design lessons and activities in ways that got you from point A to point B in terms of mastery of both concepts and skills.

Transformation is more than just hype…. It's the follow through that counts as well. So, in our current situation, how can you respond to change and adapt to achieve the results you want?

Download the worksheet to think about your role in this new context and what supports you might need.

Next, I will talk about how to think big and assume an adaptive mindset.