MEASURES SUCCESS | REACT LESS | LEAD BETTER | | IMPROVE MORE | MARK GRABAN FOREWORD BY DONALD J. WHEELER

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Summary of Key Points

KEY POINT #1: We don't manage the metric; we manage the system that leads to the results and we lead the people who help us improve the system.

KEY POINT #2: Two data points are not a trend.

KEY POINT #3: "No data have meaning apart from their context."

KEY POINT #4: A chart will always tell us more than a list of numbers.

KEY POINT #5: The job of management is not just to look backward, but also to look forward and predict, if possible, what is likely to occur.

KEY POINT #6: There is variation in every metric or data set. Process behavior charts filter out noise so we can identify signals.

KEY POINT #7: Don't waste time explaining noise in a metric. There is no simple, single "root cause" for noise.

KEY POINT #8: More timely data is better for improvement. Daily is better than weekly, which is better than monthly, as long as we don't overreact to every data point.

KEY POINT #9: If there was an intervention in the system, make it clear in your chart or your discussion of the chart when that change was started or implemented.

KEY POINT #10: When showing the "before" scenario, show enough data points to illustrate the previous level of variation, not just a single data point.