# **Embracing Reform**



OR WE COULD COME
UP WITH STRATEGIES
THAT MAKE SENSE.
THEN EMPLOYEES
WOULD EMBRACE
CHANGE.

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#### Rambling, Semi-coherent Thoughts On Reform

#### **Environmental Scan**

- Reason for change what are the primary drivers?
  - External
  - Internal
  - Both
- Expected outcomes
- Degree of Difficulty what's changing?
  - Business processes
  - Organizational design
  - Skills, etc.
- Stakeholders who needs to be engaged?
- How much time do you need?/How much time do you have?
- How much \$ is needed?

## **Change Effort Examples**

- NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership
- FBI
- SBA Disaster Assistance Program
- FAA
- USDI Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System
- CBP
- NASA Foreign National Access Management
- VA Veterans Benefits Administration
- VA Veterans Health Administration

### VHA

- Largest civilian agency
- ▶ 300,000 employees, 1700 locations
- 8 employee unions
- Infrastructure from the Civil War
- Delivered healthcare along post-WW II lines
- 537 very interested elected federal officials

## **Observations**

- Most driven by both internal and external. Strong external pressure essential for "fundamental and disruptive" change.
- Almost all had some success. Very few were more than 50% successful.
- The most successful ones
  - had the right people in leadership positions internal and external
  - conducted a thorough environmental scan
  - made the strongest case for change
  - (usually) followed a change management model
  - piloted the new model / phased implementation
  - had robust systems for monitoring progress
  - aligned rewards with support of change
  - communicated efforts constantly and consistently
  - were very lucky

## **Closing Thought**

"The road to success is always under construction."

Lily Tomlin