

FrontLine Employee

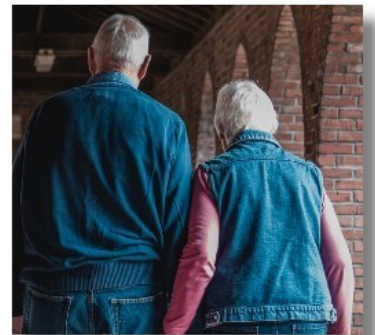
Wellness, Productivity, and You!

Getting the Most Out of Online Counseling



Online counseling and coaching have gained popularity worldwide, but a few challenges exist compared to in-person sessions. These few tips will maximize the benefits of your experience: 1) Be sure to select a quiet and private space for your sessions so your confidentiality is ensured. You're likely to be more open about issues of concern. 2) Choose the video option so you can see your therapist. This facilitates better bonding necessary for the counseling process. 3) Remember to communicate openly. It's easier to hide feelings, thoughts, and reactions online, so try to be fully present—show the real you as you engage with the professional. This includes your tone of voice and emotional state. 4) After a session, journal issues you want to address next time while they are fresh in your mind.

Renewing Intimacy for Long-Term Couples



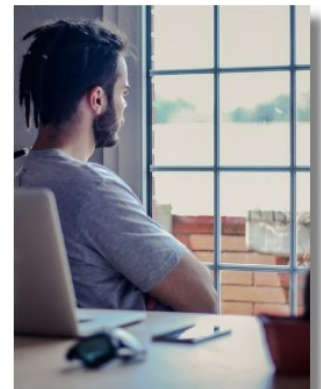
The spark of intimacy may need a gentle rekindling if you have weathered years in a relationship. Consider dedicating quality “intentional” time—purposeful and deliberate actions taken with the specific goal of bringing you closer together. The idea is to not wait until you “feel” like sharing time together, but engage in activity to rekindle the type of relationship you want. It follows the adage “bring the body and the mind will follow.” Note: Intentional activities involve conscious choices, communication, engagement, and a focus on building closeness.

Seek EFAP Assistance for Tardiness



Employees being late to work are one of the most frustrating experiences for employers, but also for the tardy worker who pounds the steering wheel, angry at arriving to work late again. Get the fix by talking with the EFAP if you struggle with this. Although most employees can point to what they believe is the reason for their chronic lateness, often the problem is more complex. Your EFAP will help you find the solution to tardiness so you can experience the relief and satisfaction of getting to work on time.

End Your Day with a Transition Ritual



If you have struggled with work-life balance, try creating a “transition ritual”—a symbolic approach to ending your day that prompts a mental shift from your professional responsibilities to your personal life and responsibilities at home. For example, at each day's end, routinely turn off lights, straighten your desk, close the laptop, write tomorrow's to-do list, and/or take a short walk. You may soon experience a faster and healthier mental separation between work and leisure so you gain the full benefits of your time off.

“Do It Now” Revisited



Procrastination would be a thing of the past if “do it now” were as easy as it sounds. To overcome procrastination, use baby steps. For example, need to finish a report? Step one might be to turn on your computer. Even better, walk into your office with step two being to turn it on. 2) Look at the clock and promise one minute of dedication to the task. The idea is that one minute will turn into two, and before long you are done. 3) Promise a reward. (“If I finish this task, I am taking myself to a movie!”) This is called a “pull strategy.” 4) Get an accountability partner—ask a person to check in with you to see if you have completed the task. This is a powerful tactic, but avoid choosing those with whom you have strong emotional ties such as a spouse, another family member, or a close friend. Ironically, your relationship can reduce the urgency needed to complete the task if you don’t fear their disappointment or reaction to your failure to follow through. The do-it-now mentality is a stepping stone to something even more powerful—a proactive mindset—which can significantly boost productivity and your ability to take immediate action. Experiment with strategies that work for you. Make it your goal to adopt a proactive mindset that instills an ability to take immediate action.

Stress Tips from the Field: Take It One Day at a Time

“Taking life one day at a time” is a common saying, meaning to deal with each day’s problems as they come instead of worrying about the future. But it means much more, like pausing and engaging with what is happening right now, thereby appreciating the present moment. This reduces anxiety, produces a calming effect, and puts the brakes on catastrophizing. Instantly, you cease magnifying potential negative outcomes of a stressor, crisis, or concern that you face. You discover that you can control your responses to these things and not be swept up by them. Consider using the “one day at a time” stress management strategy more often. It doesn’t mean neglecting goals or plans or necessary interventions. It simply encourages balanced living right now and maintaining a perspective about concerns.



Supporting a Loved One Who Has Cancer

Upon learning that a loved one has received a cancer diagnosis, you may find it challenging to determine the most supportive and comforting words to express or the best way to offer your support. 1) Be positive and encouraging. Don’t allow fear of unintentionally causing distress to keep you from this role. 2) “Being there”—meaning listening—is your most crucial role. 3) Discard the notion that you must produce a “right” answer or “solution” to what the person is experiencing. 4) Don’t back away or be avoidant, but make visits and contacts purposeful. 5) Don’t say, “If you need me for anything, just ask.” Instead, offer what you can do to lessen a burden. Use the EFAP for help in navigating your emotions about the diagnosis and you’ll feel more empowered to be supportive during this critical time.



Learn more:
<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/caregivers/how-to-be-a-friend-to-someone-with-cancer.html>

Getting Your Idea Considered

Rather than having your idea only heard, *get it considered*. This goal involves a few steps, but they offer the possibility of more success. 1) Don’t share your ideas yet but gather information about the problem you are trying to solve. 2) Learn the how, when, why, who, what, where, and causes of the problem. 3) Write down your idea for solving the problem; it may now be more precise, which is even better. 4) Sum up the benefits of your solution and its downsides, risk, interruptions, or stressors. Can’t think of any? Try harder. (Change creates stress, so your chances of success increase dramatically if you appear balanced in your proposal.) 5) Add a suggested plan for implementing your solution.



EFAP News

City of Saskatoon Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP) Office

Website—www.cityofsaskatoonefap.org



The EFAP new office is located in the CIBC building Suite 717, 201 21 St. E.

Upcoming Meetings

EFAP Peer Advisor mtg - Next meeting is February 14, 2024, 1:00 pm. COS Transit Dept, 57 Valley Road training room. Joanne will be facilitating a discussion on Conflict Resolution in the Workplace.

Maria will be away from the office from January 3rd to March 1st. Joanne Cadrin will be covering for her leave. Joanne can be reached by calling the EFAP office 306-975-3327 or cell 306-227-7741.

EFAP Admin Committee mtg - Next meeting is March 12th, 2024, 3:00 p.m. EFAP office on the 7th floor Toronto Board Room.

EFAP Board of Director's mtg - Next meeting is March 20th, 2024, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. EFAP office on the 5th floor, Rm # 508 Langham Room, 201 21 St. E. (The door next to the CIBC bank on the corner of 21st and 2nd Ave.)

Changes to the EFAP Coverage of Retiree's

The EFAP Board of Directors have made a change to the eligibility of EFAP services for City of Saskatoon Retirees. Effective January 1, 2024 all retirees will be covered for one year after the date of retirement. Going forward, any Employee who retires in 2024 and beyond, will have one year from the date of their retirement to access counselling services. To bridge the change of the policy, any Employee who retired before 2023 will have coverage until the end of 2024.

Tool kit of activities to share with your family, friends and colleagues:

<https://letstalk.bell.ca/tools-and-resources/bell-lets-talk-day-toolkit/>

Fun Fact February:

Psychology Month

<http://www.cpa.ca/psychologymonth>

CTE Awareness Month

<https://www.concussionfoundation.ca/>