

# **Process Invigoration: A Strategy for Your Business**

***VPE CTO Community of Practice  
Jan. 21, 2010***

***Shelley Sweet***

**I<sub>4</sub> Process**

# Add Your Stickies to the Easel Chart

**1. Put a red dot on the continuum to show your experience with process improvement:**

---

Some reading	Some learning on the job here or elsewhere	Participated in process improvement project	Completed 2 or more process improvement projects and implemented	Taught process improvement
--------------	--------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------

**2. What process that you work on might benefit from process improvement? Write your name and the process on a yellow sticky and attach here.**

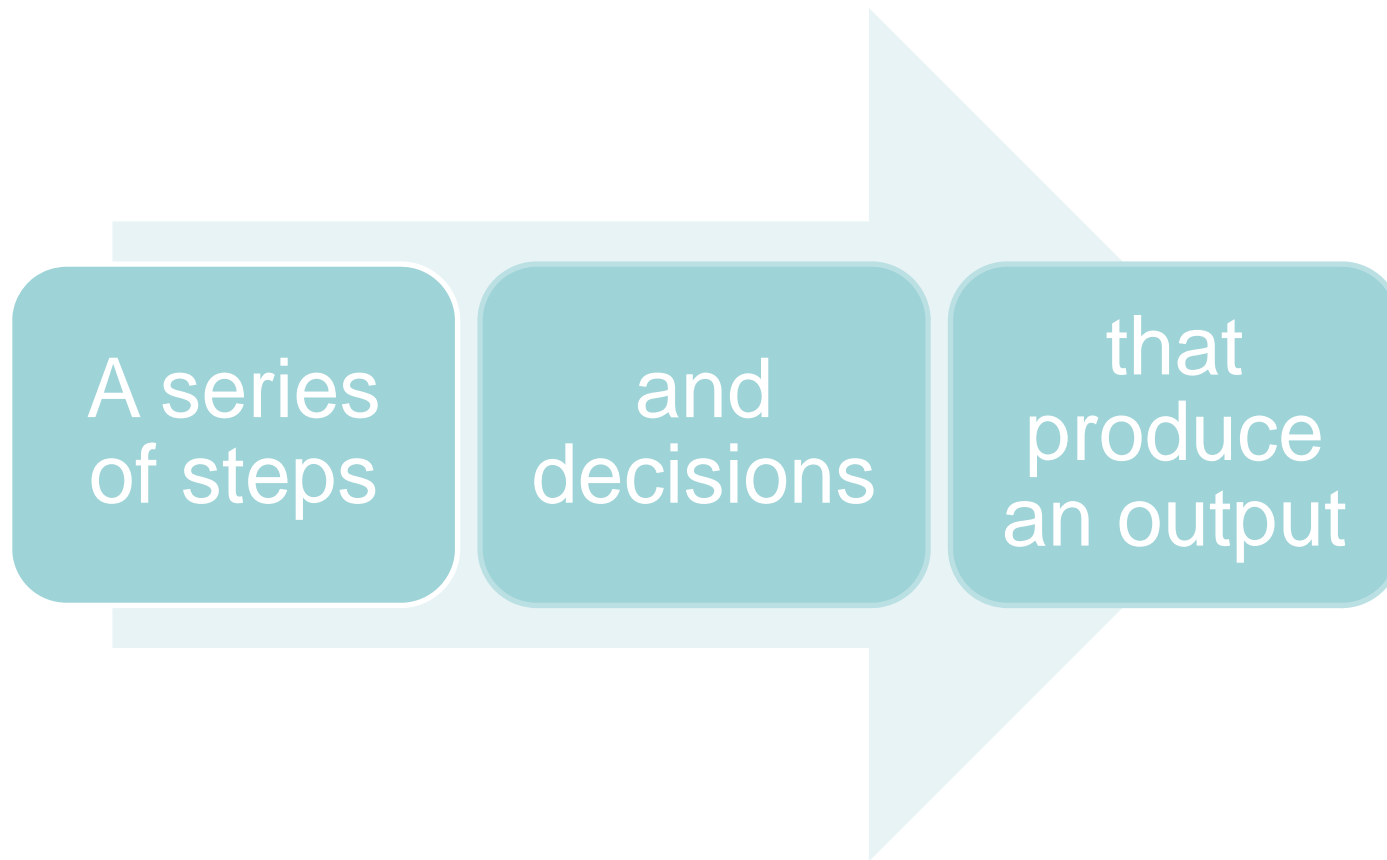
# Premise

- CTO's and VP of Engineering need to know when to use process improvement and then how to approach it in their organizations.

## Agenda

- When and why is process important
- Where to start evaluating process
- Doing process improvement and making it successful

# Process Definition



Processes are also a group of activities that create and deliver value to the client

# Process Improvement

- A structured methodology to model, analyze and redesign work processes to increase efficiency and effectiveness

# Process Improvement

Resolution: 1280x1024 px  
Free Photoshop PSD file download  
www.psdgraphics.com



## Is Not

- Quality control
- Audit
- ISO 9000
- Problem solving
- Project management
- Product Development methodology
- Software automation

# Process Improvement : A Key Strategy

- Process improvement is a key strategy for running your business

As a strategy it is different from thinking about

- Job families, and how to build skills and individuals in them
- Department focus and how you contribute to the company

It is thinking about workflow – in its sequence, often across functions.

# Agenda

- When and why is process important
- **Where to start evaluating process**
- Doing process improvement and making it successful



# What processes are you responsible for?

- Make a list of 5 key processes in your function.

They will fall into 3 areas:

- (1) They are the main focus of your function
- (2) You contribute to larger company processes
- (3) You contribute to processes owned by other areas

## 1. My Core Work Processes

- >Designing Products
- >Producing Products
- >Product Launch

## 2. Company Management Processes

- >Strategic Planning
- >Budgeting
- >Investor Relations

## Other Processes we are part of

- >Customer Service
- >Supply Chain Management

# Evaluate Your Processes - Importance

- Choose 3-4 criteria to evaluate the importance of your processes for the organization.
- For each of your processes, rate the importance L, M, H

Sample criteria to measure importance could be:

- Profit, Sales volume
- Market share
- Brand advantage
- Control significant risk
- Critical new product
- Support critical goal or initiative
- Develop capacity of workforce
- Provide reliable information and analytics
- Other?

# Evaluate Your Processes - Performance

- Choose 1-2 criteria to evaluate the current performance of each processes.
- For each of your processes, rate the performance L, M, H

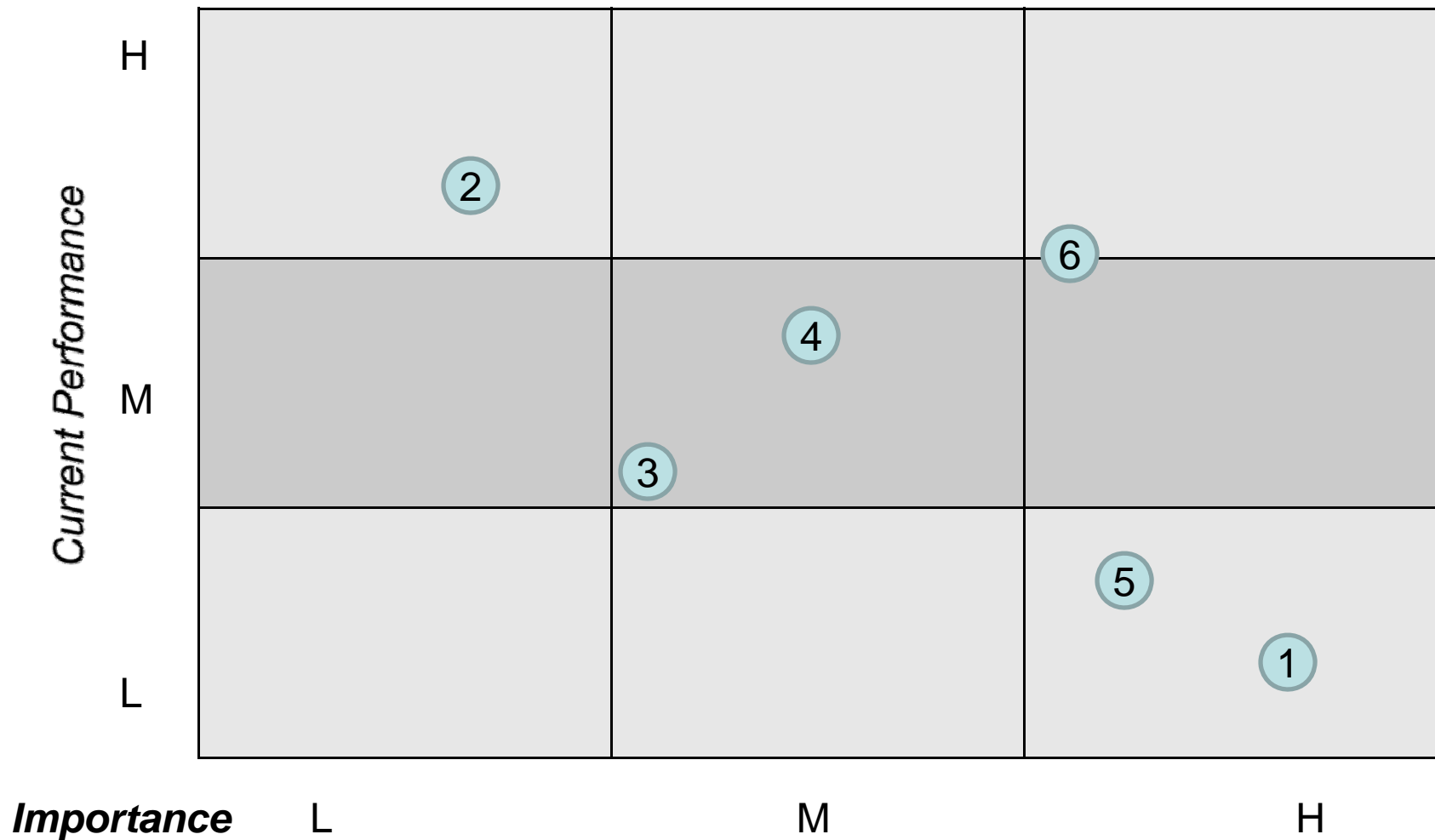
Sample criteria to measure performance could be:

- Time to complete
- Changes in specifications
- Acceptance of prototypes
- Meeting quality expectations
- Amount of variability
- Complexity
- # of touch points, hand offs
- Throughput
- Backlog of transactions/issues
- Other?

# Combine ratings on this 3 X 3 matrix

<i>Current Performance</i>	H			
	M			
	L			
<i>Importance</i>	L		M	H

# Discuss the 3 X 3 Matrix



# Consider

- Which processes should you be paying attention to?
  - To gain real efficiencies
  - To add value to the customer
- How would you move forward on processes that are outside your area of authority but key to your success or company success?
- Are there any process you could postpone or eliminate?

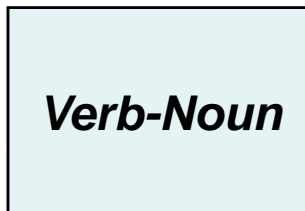
# Agenda

- When and why is process important
- Where to start evaluating process
- **Doing process improvement and making it successful**

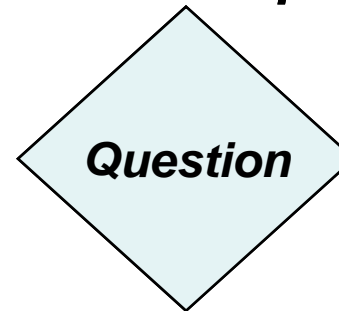
# Making the Process Visual

- Flowchart symbols for process map

*A box is an activity*



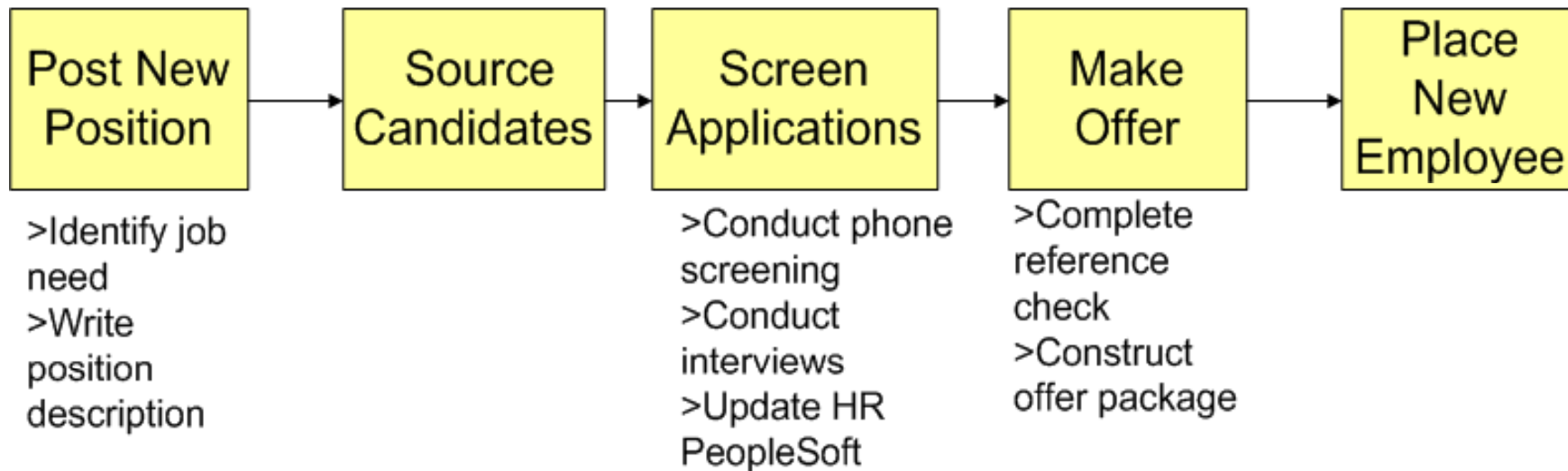
*A diamond is a review, inspection, or decision point*



*A connecting arrow shows the direction of the flow, and transport*



# Hiring As Is Process - High Level Map



Sponsor – HR Vice President

## **Team Members**

HR Director in one division – Project lead

Recruiter -Subject Matter Expert (SME)

Recruiter – SME, Data person

HR Administrator – SME

HR Generalist – SME

HR Systems admin – IT

Maverick

Facilitator

## **Improvement Targets**

-Standardization of this process across all 4 divisions

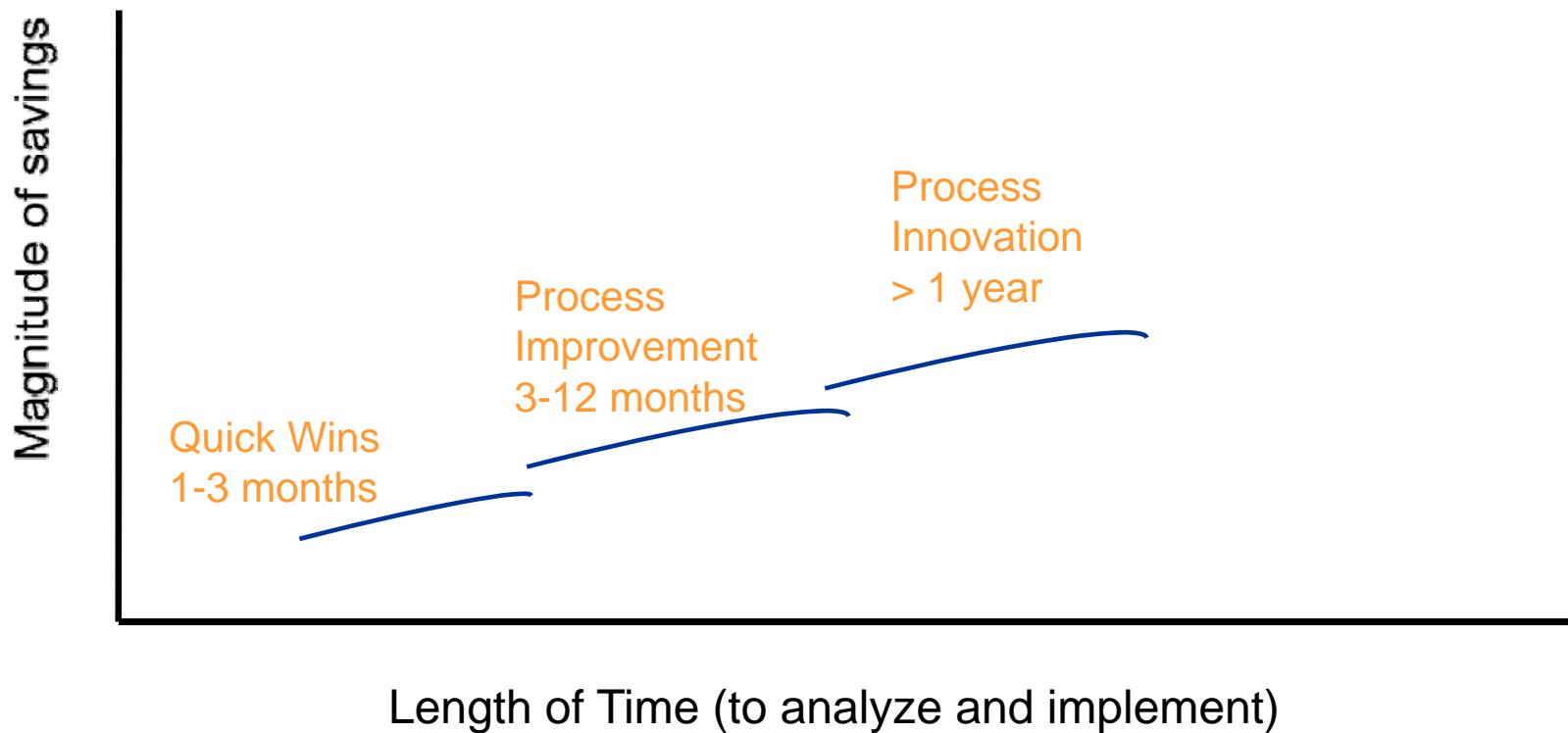
-Gain efficiencies in the process (50%less paper driven, 40% more timeliness)

# Create a High Level Map

Create a high level map of 6-10 steps for one of the process you identified for your area:

1. Start with the first step and last step
2. Add the steps in between. Add more details if desired; put them as bullets points under a major step.
3. Use 1-2 decision diamonds if you need them.
4. Lastly, write 2 improvement targets that you think your sponsor would want for this process.

# Process Results Continuum



# Process Results Continuum

Magnitude of savings

Quick Wins  
1-3 months

## When?

- This process is within your unit or sphere of influence
- You feel comfortable leading the effort yourself
- You only have time for this much effort right now
- You want to accomplish something before trying a bigger effort.

## Examples

- Work instructions
- Modeling standards
- Software “finds”
- Checklists
- Choosing 1 best method

Length of Time (to analyze and implement)

# Process Results Continuum

## When?

- This process is more complex
- The workflow involves stakeholders from yours and other units
- You need to reduce complexity
- You want to reduce variability and consolidates methods
- You need greater efficiencies (30-60%)

Process  
Improvement  
3-12 months

## Examples

- Standardize processes
- Consolidate databases
- New value added steps for customer
- Segmented processes
- New roles and expanded responsibilities

Length of Time (to analyze and implement)

# Process Results Continuum

Magnitude of savings

When?

- Major institutional imperative
- Want to change the game
- Change the way customers, suppliers, and employees interact
- Working with stakeholders outside the organization

Process Innovation  
> 1 year

Examples

- Enable customers, suppliers, and employees to see info real time for decisions
- Streamline DOE partnership
- Budgeting process that is process oriented instead of dept oriented
- Use business intelligence in new ways

Length of Time (to analyze and implement)

# Four Key Elements

## 4. Build Organizational Capability

1. Get  
Off to  
the Best  
Start



2. Fix a Process

3. Ensure the Solution Sticks

# Get Off to the Best Start

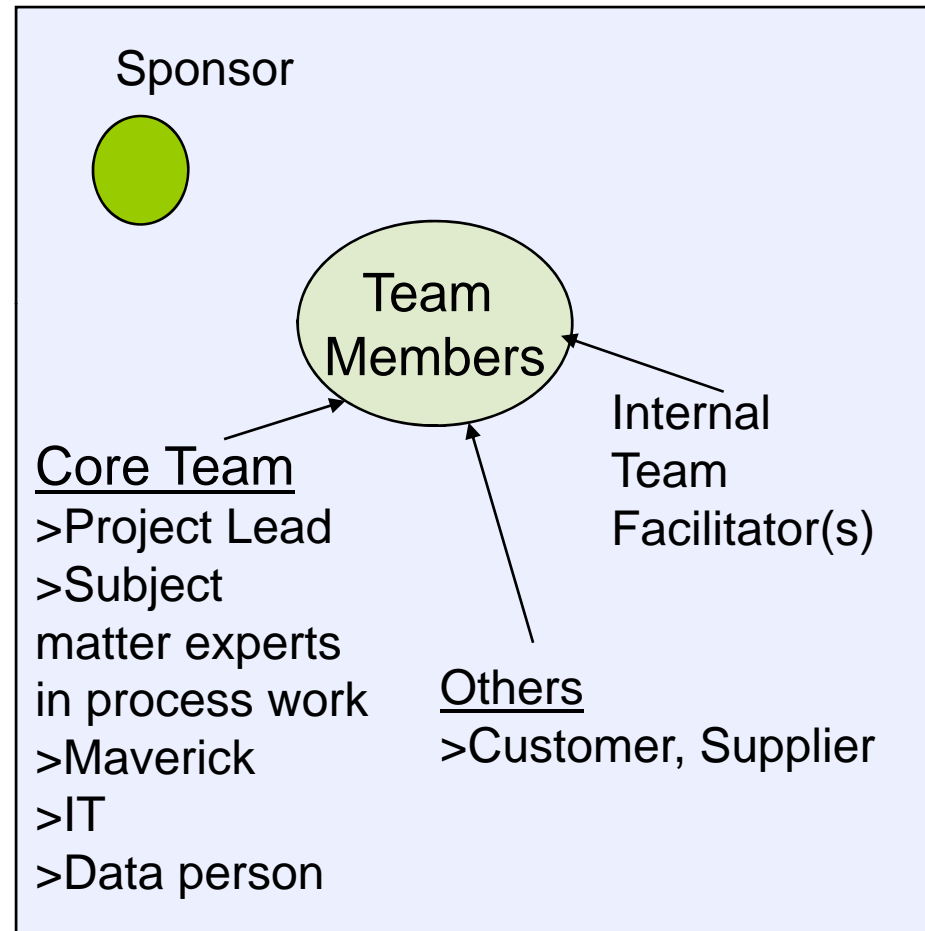
Get Off to  
the Best Start:





# Key Roles for Process Improvement

- Sponsor
- Core Team
- Customers
- Internal or external facilitator



# Fix a Process

Fix a Process

Quick Wins  
Use process improvement quick start

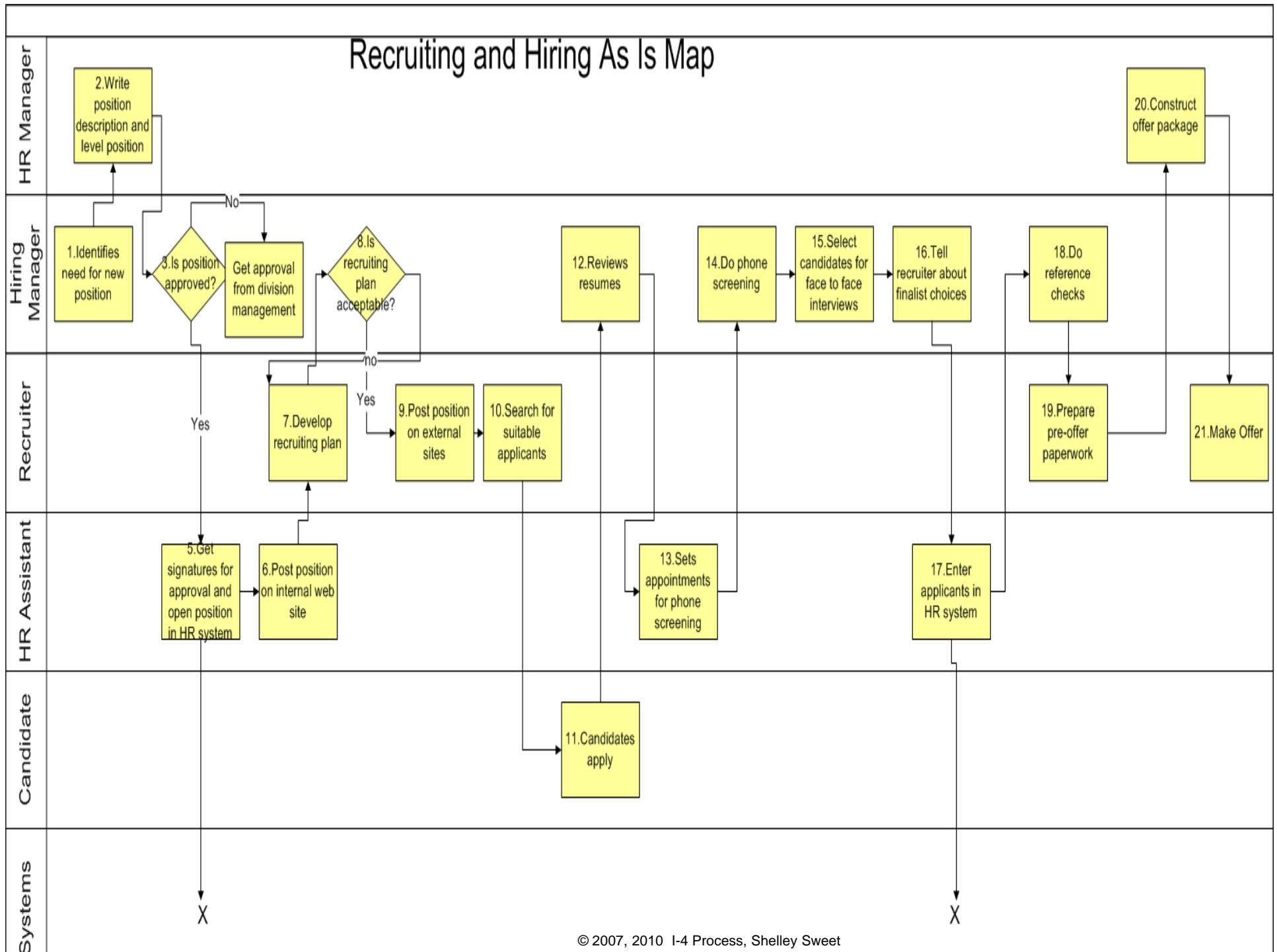
OR

Process Improvement:  
Use specific modules to standardize, improve efficiency and effectiveness

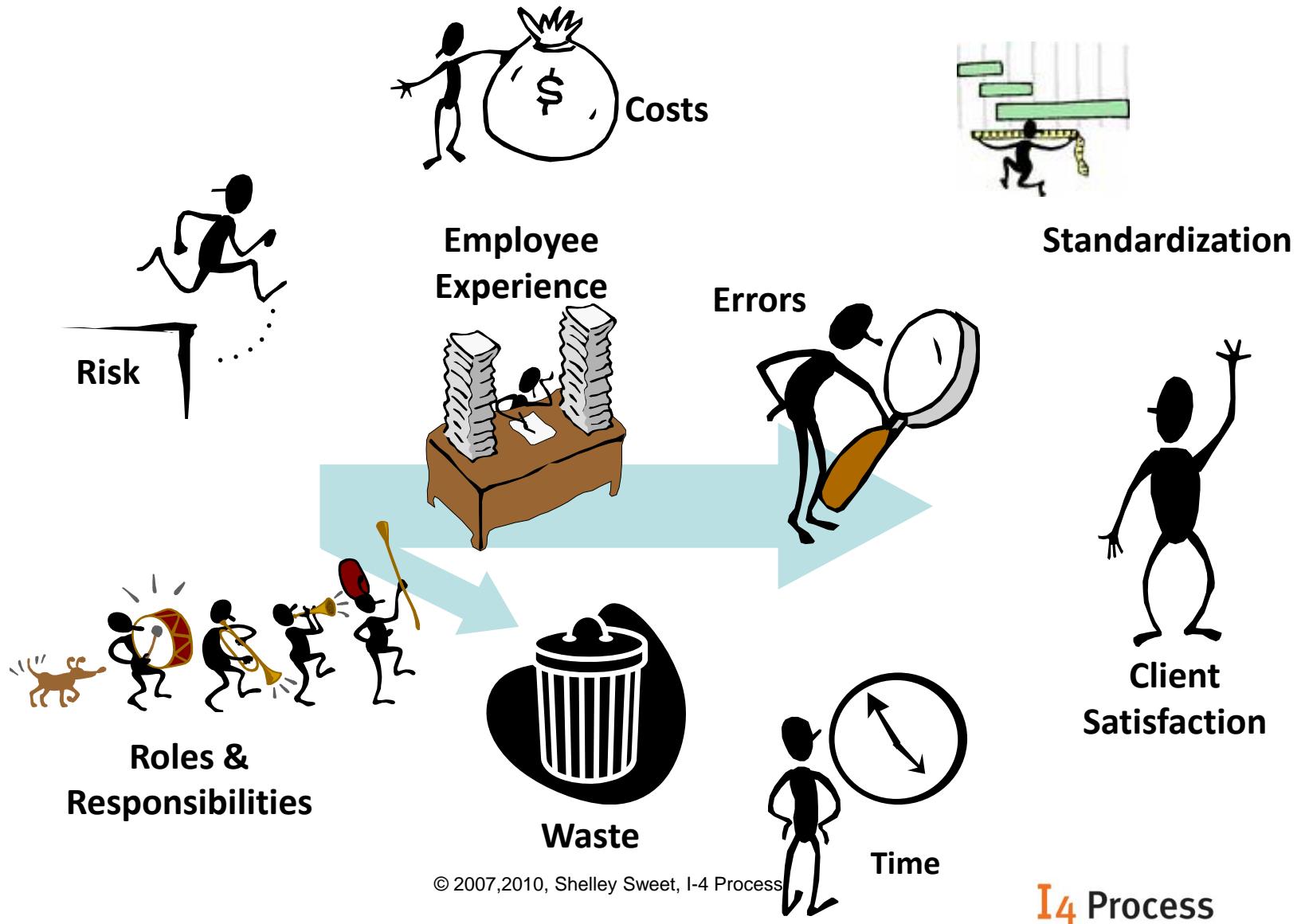
OR

Process Innovation:  
Use modules to document current state, analyze problems, find best practices, and redesign

# Recruiting and Hiring As Is Map

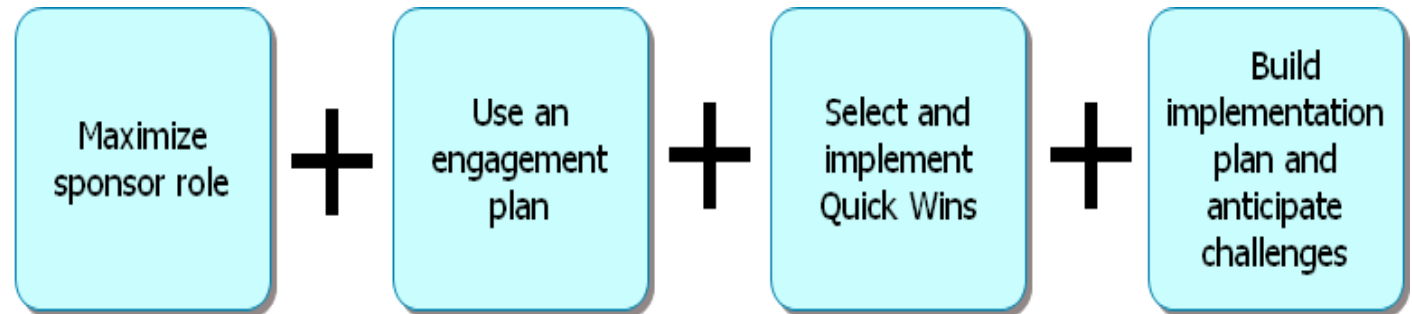


# Process Evaluation Modules



# Ensure the Solution Sticks

Ensure the Solution Sticks



# Build Organizational Capability

Build  
Organizational  
Capability

Sharing process  
success and  
learnings with  
sponsors and  
organization

Use visible  
metrics for  
continuous  
improvement  
action

Nurture an  
internal facilitator  
network

Build leader and  
employee  
capacity

# Question and Application

1. Look back at the processes you identified for your area. (core processes, company processes, ones you participate in)
2. Which ones would process improvement help?
3. What approach would you take for those?

Take a few minutes to consider these questions yourself. Then turn to a partner and discuss one or two.

# If you want

Me to send you a Jan. 2010 McKinsey article entitled “The Path to Successful New Products” just leave me your card.

Answer additional questions about your processes, just leave me your card.





Shelley Sweet is President of I<sub>4</sub> Process (*Ideas, Involvement, Implementation, Impact*) in Palo Alto, California. She facilitates process improvement using lean, six sigma, reengineering, and continuous improvement techniques. Her track record includes over 20 complex projects redesigning processes to eliminate wastes, minimize wait and cycle time, and create customer delight. Shelley teaches in the executive education programs at the University of Santa Clara, University of Tulsa, and Case Western.

[www.i4process.com](http://www.i4process.com)  
[shelleysweet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shelleysweet@sbcglobal.net)  
650-493-1300