

# Core workout with core competencies

### Jennifer Curtis, Director | Baker Tilly TMHRA 2025 Annual Conference

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### **Today's agenda**

- Competency
  fundamentals
- Competency activities
- Group discussion and wrap-up



### **Learning objectives**

- Understand the competency modeling framework and benefits of using competencies
- Gain practical experience to facilitate core competency development in your organization
- Identify the challenges and nuances of structuring position-level competencies

### Questions

### • Whose organization has core competencies?

- Do you feel they are applied effectively (for selection, performance management, learning and development)?
- Are you interested in refreshing them to be more useful or reflect current needs?
- If you don't yet have core competencies:
  - Are you interested in introducing them to your organization?
- What are your challenges with establishing or using core competencies in your organization?



### What is a competency?

#### DEFINITION

A pattern of behavior, associated with effective performance that helps an organization achieve desired results

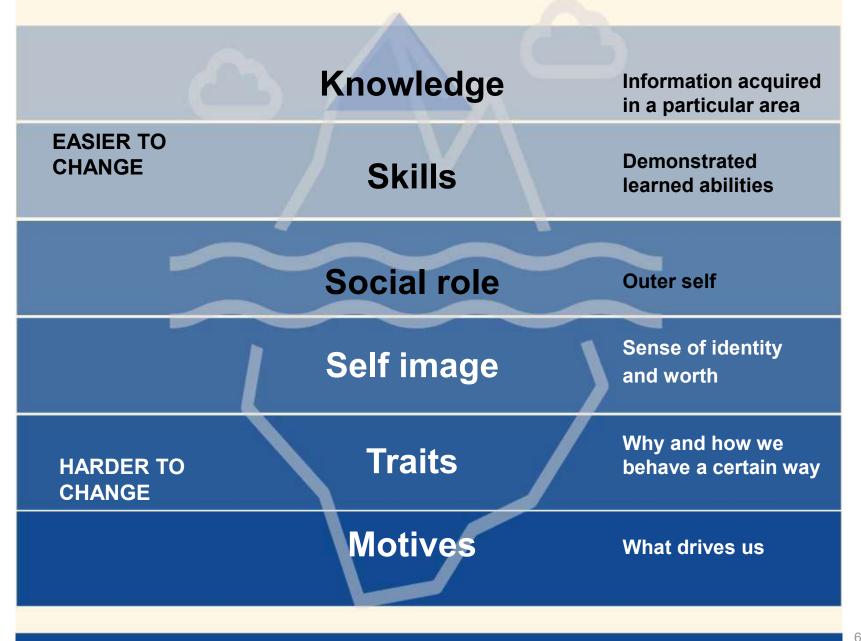
### **Competencies are:**

- Associated with thoughts and feelings
- Enabled by knowledge, skill and ability
- Driven by motives:
  - Values
- Instincts
- Attitudes
- Needs

Beliefs

- Traits
- Personality

### Competency is like an iceberg with visible and hidden parts



### **Competency modeling**

A framework that identifies the essential competencies needed for effective performance in a particular role in an organization Takes exemplary performers, emulates them and turns those into a model (a concrete set of competencies)

Creates a common language for talent management which integrates all your systems

### Why develop competencies?

- Help you assess and measure employee capabilities and ultimately enhance workforce performance by:
  - Identifying talent gaps
  - Measuring performance
  - Creating learning objectives
  - Designing career paths
  - Developing succession planning
- Employees benefit by understanding the competencies needed for different roles and/or career advancement
- Effective use of competencies results in building and retaining a skilled, high performing workforce that contributes to organizational success

### **Using competencies**

# 41 competencies grouped into 7 clusters:

- 1. Communications
- 2. Interpersonal
- 3. Contextual
- 4. Conceptual
- 5. Personal
- 6. Management
- 7. Leadership

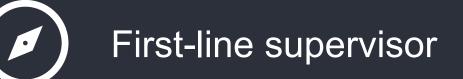
### APPLICATION OF COMPETENCIES

Can emphasize either the behavioral component or the motivational component of a competency

### **Competencies by level**



### Individual contributor



Middle manager



The competencies build on one another progressively from individual contributor to strategic leader and will be required to be mastered to move to higher levels.

### CORE COMPETENCY WORKOUT Individual contributor

Individuals at this level are primarily responsible for performing specific tasks or duties within their area of expertise.

### They focus on executing assigned responsibilities efficiently and effectively, often working independently or as part of a team under the guidance of a supervisor or manager.

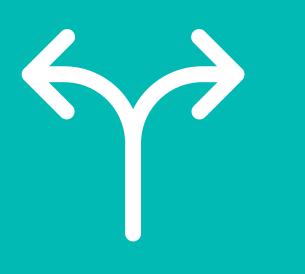
### **First-line supervisor**



First-line supervisors oversee the day-to-day operations of a team and provide guidance, support, and direction to frontline employees.

They are **responsible for managing workflow**, **ensuring productivity and fostering a positive work environment** while also serving as a liaison between frontline staff and upper management.

### core competency workout Middle manager



Middle managers are responsible for overseeing multiple teams or departments within an organization.

They play a critical role in translating organizational strategies into actionable plans, allocating resources and driving operational excellence.

Middle managers serve as decision-makers and change agents, working closely with senior leadership to implement strategic initiatives and achieve business objectives.

### **Strategic leader**



**Strategic leaders are visionary executives** who shape the long-term direction and success of an organization.

They are responsible for setting strategic priorities, driving innovation and ensuring sustainable growth in a dynamic business environment.

Strategic leaders inspire and empower others to achieve excellence, championing a culture of innovation, adaptability and organizational resilience. **Competency** activities

1) Work by yourself

2) Work with your small group

3) Group discussion and sharing on the process

### **Individual activity**

# 1) Pick 2 of the 4 position levels

2) Identify the most relevant competencies for each level

#### **Reminder:**

The competencies build on one another progressively from individual contributor to strategic leader and will be required to be mastered to move to higher position levels.

### Table/small group activity #2

- As a group, discuss and agree on core competencies for first assigned level
- Collaborate and share thoughts to ensure the selected competencies reflect a shared understanding

### Individual contributor

First-line supervisor

Middle manager

Strategic leader

### **Repeat with next level**

### **Full group discussion**

- What competencies generated the most discussion?
- What worked well? Challenges?



### **Technical competencies**

- Also critical to success in each level
- Layer technical competencies over core competencies
- Expect variation between departments/areas
- Involve and validate with department leadership
- Communicate with employees

### **Framework for competency implementation**

- Job descriptions
- Recruiting, onboarding and promotion
- Performance management
- Learning and development
- Succession planning

### Integration into workforce planning strategy

#### WORKFORCE PLANNING

Strategic, ongoing assessment and pipeline development for critical positions within the organization conducted in a collaborative nature between the Human Resources department and managers/supervisors

### **Benefits for the organization**

Serves as a strategic framework for assessing and developing pipelines for critical positions at all levels



Ensures the organization has the necessary talent in place to meet current and future business needs



Helps to optimize resource allocation and fosters organizational agility by aligning workforce capabilities with organizational goals



Enables proactive talent management by identifying skill gaps, succession needs and areas for development

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