# IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNICATION

Gord Unsworth Providence Care March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

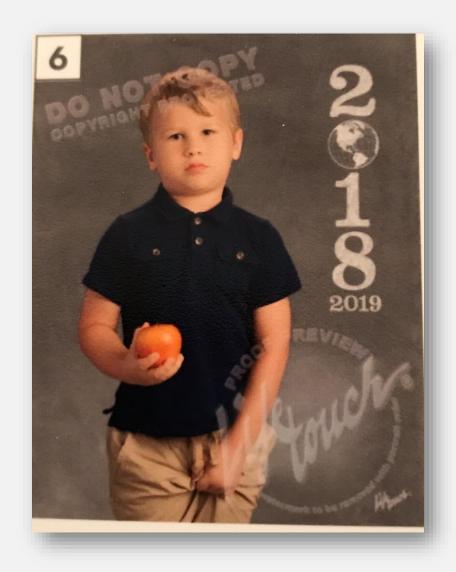
#### AIMS FOR OUR SESSION

- Interactive
- Informative
- Impactful
- Inspiring



#### AIMS FOR OUR SESSION

- 10 % Signing up / blocking off time (thank you!)
- 30% In session participation (thank you!)
- 60% The work after the session (reading my article, discussions with colleagues/family/friends, taking more training, setting goals) (thank you!)



### **STORY**

- Peter's story
- Please take notes about what strategies I used to communicate effectively with him

#### IN THE CHAT:

- Type out (capture) effective communication strategies I used with him
- Share other insights you have from the story (personal / professional implications)

# APPROACHES TO COMMUNICATION WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH ID/DD

- -be concise with your words
- -give time for the person to respond
- -speak directly to the client
- -ask the family what is the best way to interact with the person
- -Play music
- Listen/observe

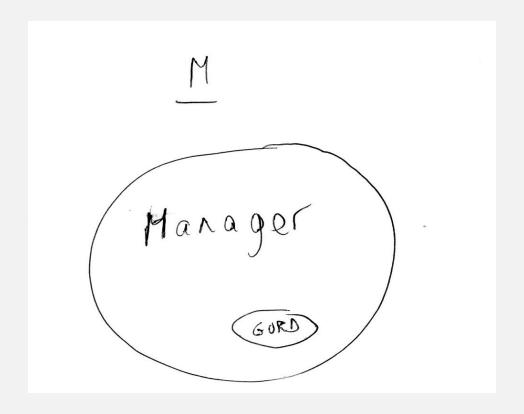
# POLL: FROM MY LIST PICK YOUR TOP 2

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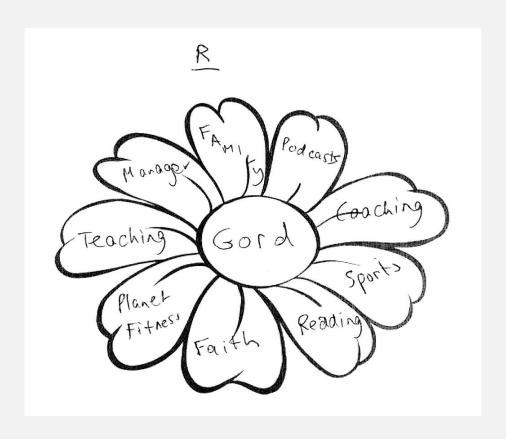
### IN THE CHAT:

-What other strategies do you use, be specific!

#### MEDICAL MODEL



### RECOVERY MODEL



#### IN THE CHAT:

• What is one value or interest you want to live out more?

# A NEW WAY TO COMMUNICATE?

Acknowledge

Explore

Support

#### **ACKNOWLEDGE**

 Make neutral or positive statements to bring the person into your interaction.

"It is nice to see you"

"Thanks for sharing"

"You seem different today"

#### **EXPLORE**

- Better understand individuals and make less assumptions by asking questions. We focus on our own narratives and need to understand other's perspectives more
- "Tell me more"
- "What's on your mind?""What do you need right now?"

#### **SUPPORT**

After we acknowledge and explore we can then support. We are more likely to co-create and have positive outcomes.

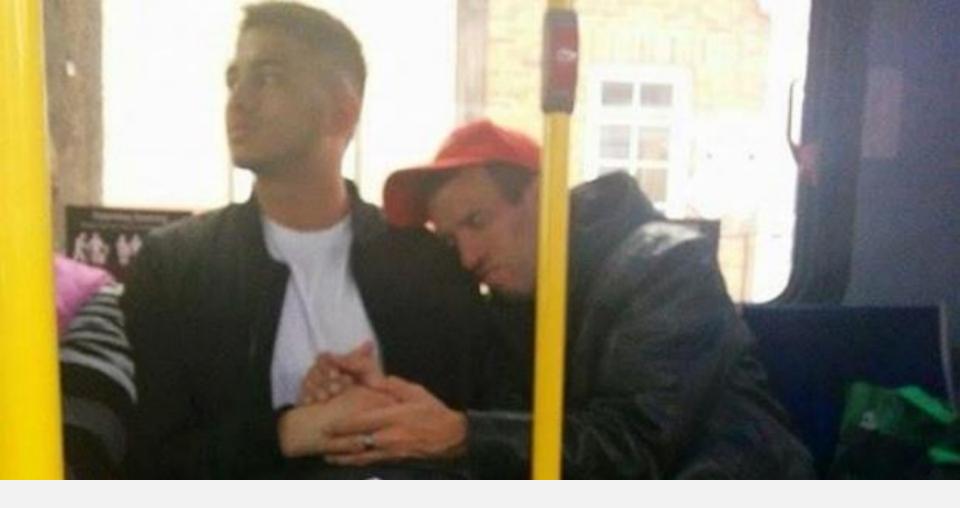
- "let's go for a walk"
- "let's talk about this again the next time I see you; I want to learn more from you!"
- "your mom needs to hear about this, will you let her know?"

#### POLL:

- What type of communication are you most comfortable with:
- -Acknowledge
- -Explore
- -Support

#### POLL:

- Which area do you want to improve and/or pay more attention to?
- -Acknowledge
- -Explore
- -Support



# MCMASTER STUDENT

# LESSONS FROM THIS STUDENT

- The approach of the student: to be there (present) for the person on the bus. Didn't have knowledge or the answer but simply embraced the situation.
- What would happen if we as leaders/physicians/community members took on this approach?



# FROM TODAY:

What is one thing you plan to change/implement in your life?

#### IN THE CHAT:

- List what you plan to do differently and/or state what 'matters the most' to you
- -Feel free to share how you plan to make this happen (accountability)
- -share other feedback or what is on your heart/mind

# QUESTIONS?





Want to keep the conversation going?

Please email me at <a href="mailto:unswortg@providencecare.ca">unswortg@providencecare.ca</a>!