Have a Good Mental Health Day at Work

If you suffer from depression and/or anxiety, you know that their symptoms don’t park themselves at the front door when you arrive at work. They might affect your mood and productivity, with some days being worse than others. Be sure to develop a strategy for yourself so you can manage the symptoms that are making your day a struggle. Reach out to an employee assistance program. Contact a “health buddy” (someone with whom you can share or can create a scenario of mutual support), take rejuvenating short breaks away from the work site, or work with your medical provider to explore reasonable accommodations. Both you and your employer want the same thing: You feeling your best and benefiting from your skills and abilities.

Gratitude’s Got Science Behind It

The benefits of practicing gratitude have real science behind them. This principle recognizes that how we think and condition ourselves to think produces expectations and plays a significant role in our self-esteem, perception, decisions, and ability to manage stress. Research supports the benefits of practicing gratitude. In one study, those who wrote about gratitude ten minutes a day were more optimistic and felt better about their lives, exercised more, and had fewer visits to physicians than those who did not. Practicing gratitude is a simple process: You simply reflect regularly on the people and things you are grateful for.

Problem Gambling Awareness Month is March

Problem gambling just means that gambling is causing problems in someone’s life. These problems could be related to money, relationships or even work. Over half a million people in New York State are struggling with problems due to their gambling. Problem gambling doesn’t just affect the individual. It also affects family members, friends and coworkers. If you’re struggling, you are not alone. HELP IS AVAILABLE. Don’t wait for gambling problems to get worse. Reach out today. Find your local Problem Gambling Resource Center at NYProblemGamblingHELP.org. Or contact OASAS.NY.gov/gambling/ or your EAP coordinator for information and support.

Giving Feedback that Sticks

Advice about giving feedback often centers on reducing the recipient’s defensiveness, not whether the feedback will create change. However, there is a science-based approach for the latter. It’s called “Situation – Behavior – Impact (SBI).” SBI consists of three essential elements: Identifying the situation needing feedback, describing the behavior needing change, and explaining the impact of the behavior in a way that motivates the recipient to make changes in the future. Giving feed-back isn’t always easy, but an internet search of the SBI Model can show you how to deliver more effective feedback.
Is there a “right way” or “best approach” for convincing a troubled friend or loved one to get professional counseling? Any approach will include unease, but don’t let the adage “no one accepts help until they’re ready” stop you from giving it a try. Contrary to popular belief, it is not fear of stigma that keeps people from accepting help for personal problems—resistance is usually founded on denial bolstered by brief wins at curtailing symptoms following negative events or incidents. These are also missed opportunities for change. They represent your best time to convince your friend or loved one to accept help, because they are accompanied by regret or remorse. Urgency for change is less likely when a person is feeling well, in control, and in a positive frame of mind. The person may be easier to approach, but his or her positivity is usually helpful only at convincing you that all is well. Instead, make your approach after the next incidental crisis. Each one is your cue to make a move. Don’t give up. With a supportive style, have the source of predetermined help at the ready as well as a way to access it. Make your time available to be supportive, encouraging, and facilitative until your friend is connected to help. Consider getting guidance from a professional counselor or EAP to boost your capability and the likelihood that you will be successful in helping your friend.

Research has shown that sitting at a desk most of the day can take a toll on your health. For this reason, some health experts call long-term sitting “the new smoking.” Stand-up desks and even expensive treadmill-desks have been introduced to mitigate this health crisis. There may be an easier way to mitigate all the risk: Move when you get the chance. Walk in the morning, walk at lunch, pace while on the phone, do some stretches every 30 minutes, try a few sit-ups, do some lunges, and/or try “burpees.” Put a reminder sticker near your desk that says “Move!” and fight the impact of sedentary work. See “lunges” and “burpees” on YouTube. (Get your doctor’s approval for an exercise program, if needed.)