



August 2012

New and improved e-LEAN Update

In an effort to better serve our readers and reach a larger audience, we've redesigned the e-Lean update! What do you think of our new look? Let us know your thoughts and we'll continue to improve future issues based on your feedback.

State Agencies develop CI Training Collaborative

To maximize development, access, and distribution of Continuous Improvement (CI) training materials, a group of state CI leaders has been quietly working to assess, assemble and create a wider variety of CI training materials which will be available to interested Minnesota public sector entities.

"Over the last few years, multiple agencies have independently developed similar training modules for continuous improvement," said Cathy Moeger, Sustainability Manager at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). "We decided that if we collaboratively offer basic CI training, it frees up the time for the agencies to work together to create more advanced courses."

Participating agencies include MPCA, and the state departments of Human Services, Corrections, Natural Resources, Employment and Economic Development and Administration. In addition, the State's private sector partner, General Mills, has been sharing some of their training modules and approaches in helping to develop a full range of CI lesson plans and training materials.

Beyond basic CI training, modules that focus on CI leadership, problem solving, voice of the customer and the Six Sigma DMAIC approach are in development. An interagency agreement has been developed and signed by the participating agencies to encourage and support the collaboration across the agencies.

"The result is that we can increase the number of state employees trained in CI across the enterprise, collaborate to deliver training on existing modules in less time individually, and accelerate the development of new classes that we need," said Moeger.

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Did you know?

[The number of trained Kaizen facilitators across the state just topped 700!](#)

[More than 250 Kaizen events have been held since the inception of the Lean program.](#)

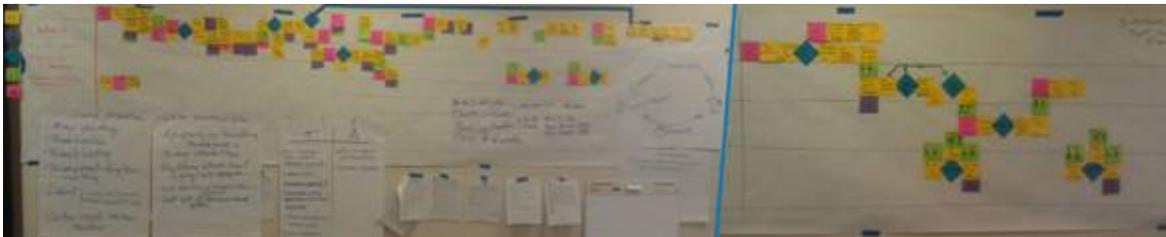
Minnesota Department of Health reduces X-ray registration and inspection time by 59 percent

The Department of Health hosted a Kaizen event June 25 to 28 to streamline the X-ray registration and inspection process. The Department's Radiation Control Program establishes limits for radiation exposure to workers and the general public, reviews radiation safety programs and inspects radiation sources to ensure the health and safety of all Minnesotans.



The Kaizen team that worked to streamline the X-ray registration and inspection process.

The Kaizen team identified potential improvements, including moving from paper-based registration and inspection to electronic registration and inspection records management. Process times for new registrations and inspections will improve by 59 percent and other registrations and inspections by 55 percent.



The current and future process swim lane maps for the X-ray Kaizen event show the level of streamlining achieved.

With support from agency leadership and financial and technology resources, the team plans to fully implement improvements by January 2013. The new process will save an estimated 4000 staff hours per year to better meet the Department's mission of protecting, maintaining and improving public health.

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 8-10**, Assoc. of MN Counties Lean Training
- Aug. 14-17**, DEED Kaizen Event
- Aug. 23**, Mille Lacs County Lean 101
- Aug. 28**, Lean 101, Registration Full
- Aug. 29**, MDH Lean 101
- Sept. 5-6**, Kaizen Facilitator Training, Registration Full
- Sept. 12**, Assoc. of MN Counties Train the Trainer
- Sept. 21**, Wright County Lean 101
- Sept. 24-27**, MDE Kaizen Event
- Oct. 9**, Lean 101, **Registration Open**
- Oct. 10-11**, Kaizen Facilitator Training, **Registration Open**
- Oct. 22**, Lean 101, Registration Full
- Oct. 23-24**, Kaizen Facilitator Training, Registration Full

View all Lean events at www.lean.state.mn.us/calendar