James K Smith (jksmith@increasesignal.com) – Custom Training Library as of 2/16/2023

Agile Concepts 101 – 45 mins. Why humans instinctively use agile processes to solve problems. One example and one exercise.

Sprint 0 Activities (Prep for Execution) – 1 hour. Working session to identify what is needed for a program to meet Definition of Ready for value elaboration stream execution.

Product Owner Introduction – 1 hour. Detail role and scope of the product owner, and what the role maps to in your organization.

Scrum Master Introduction – 1 hour. Detail role and scope of scrum master, and introduction to systems of predictability, productivity, continuous improvement, and risk management.

Building a prioritized backlog taxonomy – 1 hour. Explanation of what a backlog taxonomy is, what it is meant to accomplish, what it contains, and how to get started building it.

Effort Estimation – 45 mins. "How to estimate while being chased by a rhinoceros." Explains the concept of estimation, and why it doesn't depend on mapping that estimation back to units of time.

The Definition of Ready/Definition of Done Contract – 1 hour. DoR and DoD are special working agreements that take teams beyond legacy collaboration and enables parallel work delivered with certainty and stability.

Portfolio work item types with specific Definitions of Ready – 45 mins. Why board workflows should be designed to meet a DoR for the next level down in the backlog taxonomy, ultimately leading to a DoR for the execution (Scrum) team.

Work Item Templates – 1 hour. Templates for initiatives, epics, features, and stories. Combined with work item workflows, reinforces rigorous work-item elaboration as practiced by high-performing teams. Also provides highly enhanced transparency for elaboration activities for the organization. Contributes to increasing certainty and stability as workflow executes.

How to work a Kanban board – 45 mins. Explanation of Kanban process and when to use it. Everyone participating in the development value stream should feel confident in working a Kanban board pull system, even if they are part of a delivery team using Scrum.

Board Interval Templates – 1 hour. Kanban process board intervals are lightweight complements to scrum ceremonies but take Kanban process into account. Board interval sessions are great for members of the value stream team who are doing continuous exploration at the initiative, epic, and feature levels in the backlog taxonomy.

Story Trailblazing – 45 mins. Story trailblazing is a critical refinement workflow specific to stories. The goal of this workflow is to provide high confidence and enhance stability for the teams executing those stories**.** Also provides a workflow that eliminates need for research stories in sprints, thus allowing sprints to produce business value only, thus enhancing certainty and predictability.

Scrum Ceremony Templates with built in team working agreements – 1.5 hours. Reinforces rigorous scrum ceremonies, and how those ceremonies work together, as practiced by high-performing teams. Also provides highly enhanced transparency for scrum team activities for the organization. Covers best

use cases for scrum process, intro to scrum, sprint planning readiness, and how ceremonies contribute to the systems of predictability, productivity, continuous improvement, and risk management.

Portfolio workflow design with Feature working agreements – 1 hour. Frames a rigorous continuous exploration conversation workflow from initiatives to epics to features to stories. Empowered with work item type specific DoR, provides for a higher level of scalability by using more resources in the value elaboration stream working in parallel.

What is a Kaizen Story, and using the Kaizen Generator – 1 hour. This is explanation of a self-assessment tool that allows teams to inspect and improve their process (Scrum or Kanban) by suggesting Kaizen (improvement) stories that can be worked on the backlog just like any other story. Enables organizational transparency into continuous improvement efforts for teams.

Working with Enabler, Complicated Sub-System, and Platform teams – 45 mins. Best practices for engaging predecessor teams using workflows and working agreements.

Why shifting your testing left in the workflow is critical and approaches for how to do so – Work in progress

Moving from Bug Tracking (ProdOps) tools to a single backlog as the source of truth – Work in progress

Engaging Vendors into your Agile Product Delivery System. Approaches and supporting contract language – Work in progress

Engaging stakeholders and business into to value elaboration stream. Two approaches – Work in progress

Understanding the difference between Develop on Demand and Develop on Cadence/Release on Demand – Work in progress

Metrics: tracking useful metrics, getting rid of useless metrics, and why metrics are results and not goals – Work in progress

Work item types for the investment level of the portfolio – 1.5 hours. These work items help leadership vet opinions, analyze budgets, forecast dates, and develop initiatives.

The Delivery System with Automation and Parallel Work – This is a visualization exercise for the complete value elaboration stream, from Investment, to Portfolio, to Delivery, to Release.

The Agile Manager as Business Systems Engineer. Moving from managing people to managing the flow of value – Work in progress

Key differences distinguishing agile product delivery from legacy project management – Work in progress.

PI Planning Definition of Ready – If you are doing a SAFe style delivery, this training describes predecessor work required to have an effective PI Planning with good outcomes. Work in progress.

Intro to Agile Maturity Model with supporting assessment tools – 1 hour. Provides explanation of a highly configurable organizational assessment tool covering leadership engagement, stakeholder engagement, portfolio execution, delivery execution, and release management.