**Agile Project Management Tools and Communication**

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The agile methodology has a prominent impact on the concept of communication. Within the waterfall-based method, the work is spread out and expected to be done by those assigned within their timeline and without turning back. Agile throws all of that to the wind by creating team collaboration and progressional implementation that has an ability to be susceptible to change. To achieve this, one of the first things you would have to do is break down the walls to create that transparency across the board. It would be impossible to create an open line of communication without putting every individual on the playing board at an equal state. One of the concepts that helps in this endeavor would be the daily stand-up meetings. These allow the varying teams to come together and discuss progress and potential problems as well as an idea on the direction they are moving. These 15-to-20-minute meetings can hold a great deal of information by showing you everyone’s strengths and where the project could be holding the team back based on obstacles they feel are in the way. Another idea of open communication is something called an information radiator. The information radiator is essentially a board of information that can show a collective standpoint of everything actively going on throughout the project. This allows from the bottom up a clear understanding where everyone stands thoroughly emphasizing equality and openness.

As I was working through the SNHU Travel project, being able to have those detailed communication emails helped tremendously as far as collecting specific information and being able to continue through with my work. I’ve worked in environments where you are not able to get insight from peers or have a clear direction which can make all the difference. As I was working on developing the actual program that showed the detox and wellness vacations by the end, it could have gone in a whole other direction without that line of communication. Another reference of completion would have been hosting a meeting between the product owner and the shareholders. Those meetings prospered what the consumers really are looking for and the outlines the bare minimum for what needs to be accomplished.

I researched several project planning tools that can be adaptive for the Agile method, and I found Time Camp Planner. This type of tool allows to be able to update calendars in real-time, show who is working on what projects, and allow for various metrics to be tracked on sprint planning or review. Azure boards is another management tool that allows all users to be able to customize all agendas and items on the platform allowing for a live white board that is easily accessible. These tools allow for everyone on the project to be able to quickly review where they are at and how the project is advancing. This would also allow users to be able to see people working on similar pieces which could allow communication to get ideas if they are moving further along. With these resources and tools, the agile method is designed to allow everyone to thrive as their own business owner within the business.

Sources:

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