## **Onboarding Best Practices Roundtable**

## **Reflecting on First Impressions:**

- Can you share a memorable first-day experience that
- made you feel welcomed and valued in a new role?
- My team supervisor at OFM (Audrey, at the time) got our team together on my first day and we went to lunch to connect on a personal note. Loved that! It was nice to get out of the office setting and calmed the "newness nerves".

## **Reflecting on First Impressions:**

- What actions or gestures by colleagues or leaders have had a
- ★ lasting positive impact on your integration into a new team?

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We do a meet and greet with our leaders after the new employee has had an agency 101 experience. The meet and greet creates and opportunity for the new staff to put faces and names to the programs and services they have learned about it. The introduce themselves, provide information about how they will be intersecting and interacting with the new employee. Our Director always takes her time to talk about why she is SO EXCITED about the new employee being a part of the agency (what unique skills, backgrounds, etc. they bring to the agency) the impact that she hopes that they have. We are also going to add in leaders sharing how they talk about our agency with the community/friends and family to empower the new employee with language on how to talk with friends/family/colleagues about their new employment.

hiring manager reaching out to the new employee before their first day to just do an informal get to know you, provide some context of what to expect, let them know that what the first day will be like and offer support.

Ex	ploring Onboarding Checklists:	
<b>⇔</b>	What elements of an onboarding checklist have been most helpful and why?	
$\ominus$	Internal promotions Include a checklist for onboarding processes for internal promotions	
$\Theta$	Ensure checklists encompass what is important for hiring supervisor to prepare the new employee beforehand.  Then a meaningful checklist for the new employee that covers important steps for them to take over their first few months.	
$\ominus$	FAQ and contact sheet so EEs know who to reach out to.	
Ex	We provide a training plan template that hiring managers can use to plan how they are going to help the new employee get up to speed, who are important people they need to meet with early on, what are priorities, expectations, and other resources ploring Onboarding Checklists:	
←	How can we tailor our onboarding checklist to better serve the diverse needs of new employees?	
$\ominus$	Ensuring it is accessible.	
$\ominus$	Supervisor portion to fill in	
$\odot$	How to make it more of an interactive process. Using some kind of platform so EE and supervisor can interact both within it.	
Di	scussing Remote & Hybrid Work:	

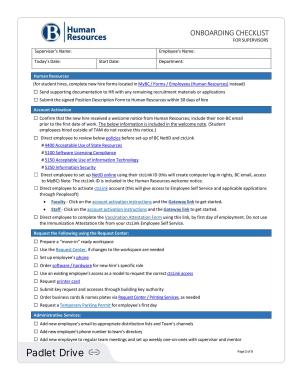
←	How has remote or hybrid work influenced your onboarding experience, and what practices would you recommend for a smooth transition?										
$\ominus$	New employee lunch Arrange optional in-person lunches to welcome new hires.										
Di	iscussing Remote & Hybrid Work:										
<b>⊕</b>	What strategies have you found effective for building connections and a sense of belonging in a remote or hybrid setting?										
$\Theta$	Designated in-office days  If in-office work is required, designate certain days as "in office"  days to ensure that employees are getting a chance to be together										
Di	iversity and Inclusion Insights:										
<b>⊕</b>	Can you describe an onboarding experience where diversity and inclusion were well-addressed, and what made it stand out?										
Di	iversity & Inclusion Insights:										
<b>⊕</b>	What are some ways we can ensure our onboarding process is inclusive and respectful of all backgrounds?										
C	ompliance & Paperwork Procedures:										
<b>⊕</b>	What approaches to handling compliance and paperwork during onboarding have made the process easier for you?										
<u>C</u>	ompliance & Paperwork Procedures:										
←	How can we streamline our paperwork process to make it more user-friendly while ensuring all compliance needs are met?										
Re	esources:										
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- Please share any resources here!
- Upload docs, info graphics, templates, forms, checklists; whatever you think might be helpful for a team revamping their onboarding process.
- Shared by Olivia at Bellevue College



Onboarding\_Checklist\_for\_Employees.pdf

Shared by Olivia at Bellevue College



Onboarding\_Checklist\_for\_Supervisors\_\_7\_2023\_.pdf

Shared by Theresa at Commerce



Onboarding\_Toolkit\_FINAL\_\_1\_.pdf

lce	e Breaker Responses	
$\odot$	Best onboarding experience I had was such a warm welcoming and personal call from HR as well as such a smooth process with IT equipment, etc. I actually had email and access to things.	
	In the best job I've ever had, my onboarding experience was super supportive. I knew I could go to my co-workers or leadership with any questions I had. It made me very comfortable and created an open communication environment from the start. In my worst job, I was given very little direction outside of the computer training I received and did not meet my HR manager for at least two months. There was little communication with management and most people did not enjoy working there. Vastly different experiences:)	
	One of the best onboarding experiences was just recently at L&I, their onboarding including walking in the building and the safety person getting my parking pass and badge before I even met anyone in my department!	
	I worked for a catering and events planning company in Emeryville called Pau la Leduc. They had the most thorough training and development program. T he NEO for all staff really level set, so if you were working in the office, you r eceived the same initial training as someone in the warehouse, serving even ts. Very clear and concise training manuals and training checklists. I still think about that experience today when I think of how to revamp the onboarding experience at SHR.	
$\ominus$	HR Rep met me at the door and said, "Welcome home." I use it now	
0	My worst experience with onboarding was being teamed up with someone who didn't love their job and they were responsible for training me.	
$\odot$	Good onboarding Communication and a schedule that really demonstrates that there was thought and	

	consideration about me vs, feeling like I had to try to figure out where I fit, and find things all on my own.					-					
$\ominus$	OFM IT does provide VIP service to new employees!		-	-	-		-	-		-	
⊕	A gift basket with swag, office plant, and a card from my new supervisor and colleagues welcoming me to the team.										
€	My WORST job and onboarding experience were one and the same. I had wo rked for a year as a contractor doing a communications refit for an aircraft ca rrier, and while that was hard work, it was good. The bad part was when the contract changed to stripping the deck of the same carrier. The machines w										
	ere loud and spat BBs at the deck to strip it, but those BBs came out and hit t he operators, too. There were no managers directing us to where we neede d to work, no training on the machines, nothing. I did not last long.										
$\ominus$	worst onboarding. I showed up on my first day and they had forgotten to let the front desk know I was starting that day. I finally get in the office and had no desk, computer, phone. sat at the table in the middle of the common area for the first week. This was in an HR shop.			-							
⊖	My BEST onboarding experience was with my current team - lunch in a park, talking about how we wanted to be successful together.										
<b>(</b> )	I was onboarded during full COVID remote work and had a great experience, mainly thanks to @Crystal Koplan Mungarro WSIB (she/her)!										
$\ominus$	In my last company, during orientation at the Tacoma Convention Center, the CEO introduced himself and greeted each table. 300 avg new hires.										
⊖	In my past (pre-state employment) life, I was the HR manager and also personally did all onboarding of new hires. I LOVED making it a positive experience and bringing together new hires from multiple areas so they could mingle and get to know each other during the										
	process. Was very rewarding, not just for them, but for me as leadership.										

We do a great job of hiring for passion, so the FEELING that most people shared, was the affirmation that connected with our mission in profound ways.. (Seeing the impact of I200 on state spend with our certified firms, and how we are slowly building it back up --- Hearing a leader say we are a part of helping folks build generational wealth)..

