Succession Planning identifies necessary competencies and works to assess, develop, and retain a talent pool of employees in order to ensure a continuity of leadership for all critical positions.

**SUCCESSION PLANNING MODEL**

1. **Identify Key Positions**
2. **Build Job Profiles for Each Key Position**
3. **Competency Gap Analysis**
4. **Development Opportunities**
5. **Individual Development Plans**
6. **Maintain Skills Inventory**

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WORKFORCE PLANNING MODEL

Step 1 – Identify Key Positions

Succession Planning identifies necessary competencies within key positions that have a significant impact on the organization. Criteria for key positions may include:

- Positions that require specialized job skills or expertise.
- High-level leadership positions.
- Positions that are considered “mission-critical” to the organization.

Step 2 – Build Job Profiles for each Key Position

Determine the key success factors of the job and how proficient the job holder would need to be. This information can be obtained several ways, including performing job analysis or gathering critical information during the performance appraisal process. The information that should be gathered includes the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attributes that the current employee in a position possesses that allow for the competent and efficient performance of the functions.

Step 3 – Competency Gap Analysis

- Using the job profile of competencies determine the tool required to gather data on current employee competencies for the key positions
- Analyze the difference between current employee competencies and future needs
- Document findings for development opportunities

Step 4 – Development Opportunities

- Assess the abilities and career interests of employees
- Candidates should demonstrate high potential or ability that will enable them to achieve success at a higher level within the organization. Preferably, the list of possible replacements should be stored in a database so that the organization can easily track candidates.
Step 5 – Individual Development Plans

- Design a plan for each candidate – developmental plans should be available for candidates and then incorporated into their performance management plans. Plans may include identifying career paths for high-potential candidates and others who have the interest and ability to move upward in the organization.
- Provide development opportunities – This can be accomplished through job assignments, training, or job rotation, and it is one of the best ways for employees to gain additional knowledge and skills.

Step 6 – Maintain Skills Inventory

- Continually monitor skills and needs to determine any gaps and develop plans to meet deficiencies.
- Keep an inventory of current and future needs and maintain the information for individual and group development.