



# LEADERSHIP APOCALYPSE: Why You Need a Plan



# Agenda

## Session One

- The Why
- Traditional Leadership Development
- Transformative Leadership Development
- Future Proofing Your Firm Through Strategic Succession Planning
- Beach Side Chat
- Q&A



# Agenda

## Session Two

- Strategic Positioning for Long-Term Success and Resilience
  - Small & Large Group Brainstorming
  - Q & A



SIMON SINEK

START WITH WHY

# Enhancing Collaboration and Connectedness

Purposeful and  
Intentional  
Leadership

Understanding  
Generational  
Dynamics

Increasing  
Emotional  
Intelligence




Achieving  
Work-Life  
Harmony

Embracing  
Digital  
Transformation

Rapidly  
Changing  
World

Sustainability and  
Resiliency

# Aggressive Recruitment

An illustration of a man in a white shirt and red tie, looking stressed with sweat drops on his forehead. He is being pulled from both sides by two large, tan-colored hands. The background is a bright blue with abstract shapes in dark blue, orange, and yellow.

From outside  
the industry  
too!

# Greatest Asset & Challenge

Succession Planning Importance:  
**86% of Firms**

Effective Succession Planning:  
**14% of Firms**



# Impact of Not Investing in Leadership Development & Succession Planning





# Your Cost

How much total value is lost by firms in the US each year?

**\$1 Trillion**

How much could your valuation increase?

**20%+**



# Traditional Leadership Advancement



# Leadership Development Over the Generations

## Traditional Leadership (Pre 1980s)

### **Hierarchical Structures:**

Command-and-control models

### **Skill Focus:**

Technical expertise and operational efficiency

### **Leadership Development:**

Mostly ad-hoc and technical

## Modern Leadership (1980s-2000s)

### **Flattening Hierarchies:**

Emphasis on teamwork and collaboration

### **Skill Focus:**

Soft skills and emotional intelligence

### **Leadership Development:**

Some formal training programs and workshops

## Contemporary Leadership (2010s)

### **Flexible Structures:**

Cross-functional teams with some “business-trained” leaders

### **Skill Focus:**

Inclusivity and consensus building

### **Leadership Development:**

More formal training programs and workshops

## Intentional Leadership (2020-Present)

**Agile Structures:**  
Proactive, adaptive, and inclusive

**Skill Focus:**  
Strategic and forward thinking, growth mindset, innovation, rapid decision-making, digital literacy & AI

### **Leadership Development:**

Custom programs with group and personalized development plans



One Size  
Does Not Fit All



Do you lead like whom  
you succeeded?



Should *you*?



Will your successor?



Should *they*?



A hand holding a crystal ball that reflects a street scene with lights and a building. The background is a blurred street with many lights, and the crystal ball shows a clear reflection of the scene.

# Transformative Leadership Development

*“People buy into the leader before they buy into the vision.”*

~ John Maxwell~





# Strengths & Areas for Growth: Individualization

# Goals of Custom Transformative Leadership Development Programs

## Align with Organizational Goals

### **Strategic Fit:**

Leadership capabilities are in sync with the organization's strategic goals and objectives

### **Cultural Alignment:**

Leaders who embody the organization's values and culture

## Address Skill Gaps

### **Customized Training:**

Programs to address specific needs and gaps of individuals and the firm

### **Future-Proofing:**

Leaders prepared for emerging trends and future challenges

## Enhance Employee Engagement and Retention

### **Growth Opportunities:**

Commitment to leadership and employee development

### **Talent Retention:**

Firms invested in the future of leaders, future leaders, and the company

# Leadership Characteristics

What are your firm's needs to further its success and ensure resiliency?

What leadership characteristics promote your firm's culture now and in the future?

How does this align with your Core Values?



How will you gain buy-in from your leaders and future leaders?

How will you ensure input from those with different perspectives?

What does it mean to be a successful leader in your firm now and in the future?

# Authentic Alignment™ Leadership Models

Purpose-Driven

Facilitative

Charismatic

Transformational

Many more...

Servant

Combination of Two+

Visionary

Adaptive

# Authentic Alignment™

## Characteristics

- Empowered & Empowering
- Inspired & Inspiring
- Determined
- Results-Driven
- Curiosity

## Models

- Transformational
- Servant
- Adaptive



# Transformative Leadership Program **Key Components**

## Holistic, Comprehensive & Tailored

- Focus on skill-building and aligning personal growth with organizational core values, mission, and vision
- Incorporation of innovative learning and development methodologies

## Customized & Expert Assessments

- Expert assessments (Core Strengths, LE306, etc.)
- Change Style Indicator™ (CSI) Assessment
- Custom 360 Assessments based on the culture and goals of the program and firm
- Beginning and end of program to measure growth individual and firm growth and ROI

# Transformative Leadership Program **Key Components**

## Strategic Individual Development Plans

- Creation of personalized development plans that align with strategic priorities and guide daily decision-making

## Personalized Executive Coaching

- Individual executive coaching sessions tailored to each participant's and the firm's needs throughout the program

# Transformative Leadership Program

## Key Components

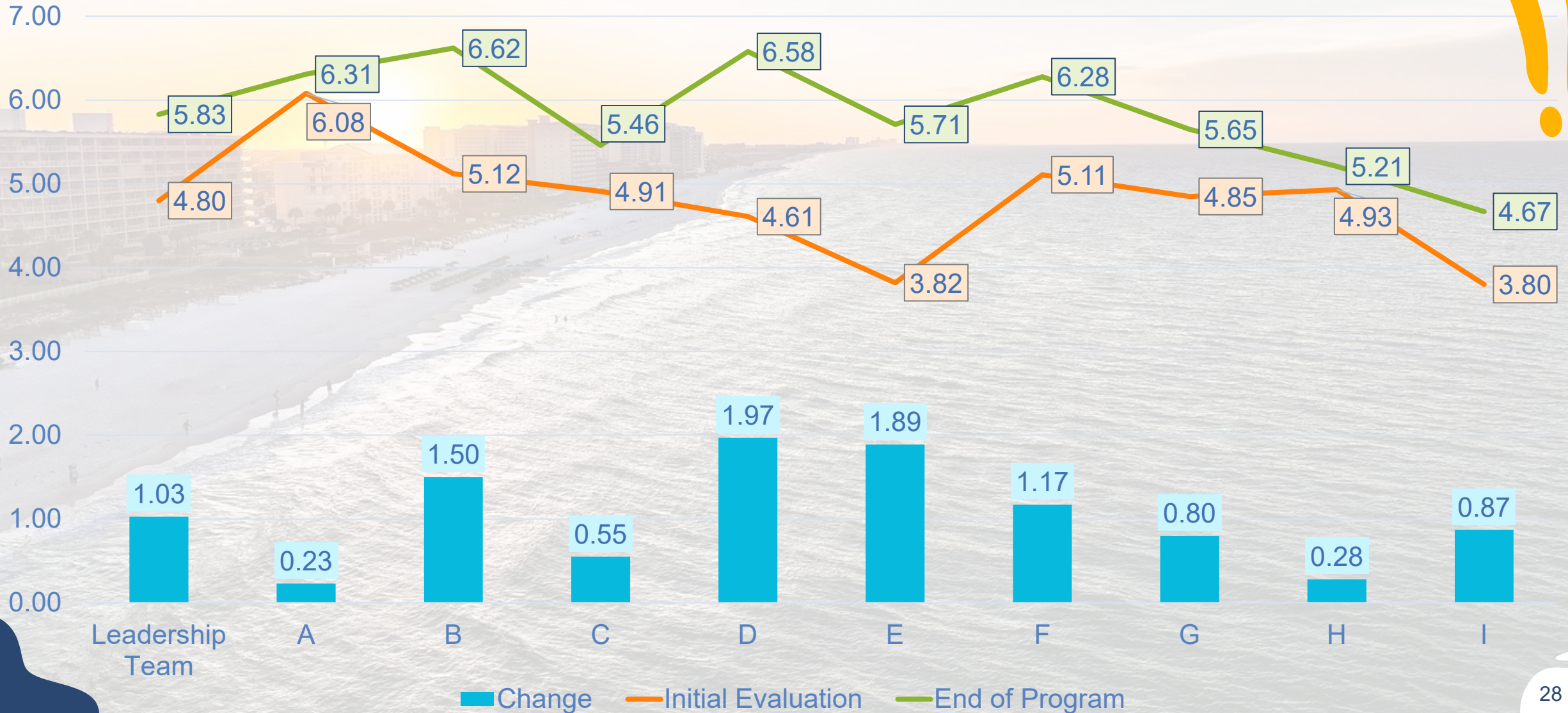
### Experiential Learning and Real-World Application

- Curated list of books, articles, videos, and podcasts with custom created learning activities (individual and small and large groups)
- Focus on tackling real-world challenges through experiential learning during in-person workshops and virtual shared experiences

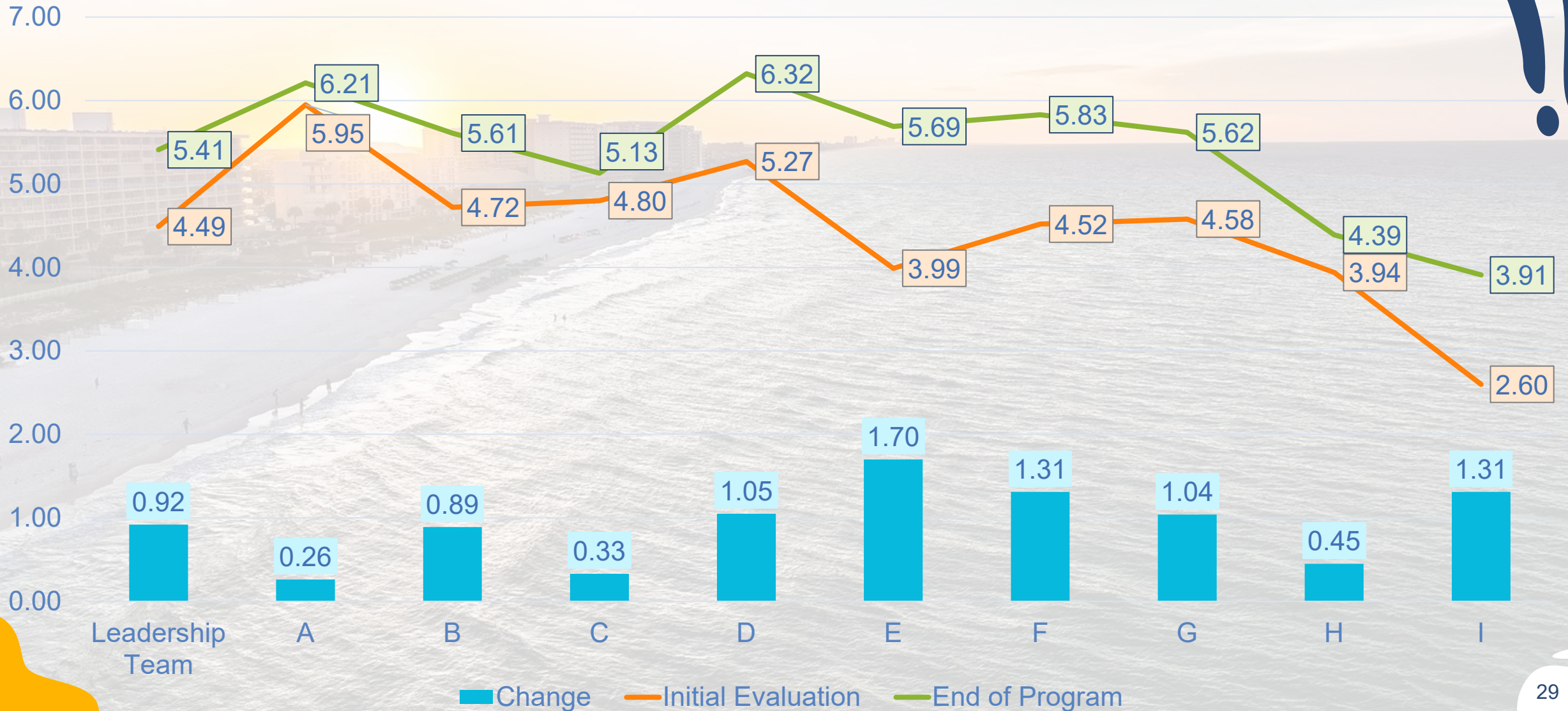
### Future Outlook & Strategic Growth Mindset

- Ensure broad range of perspectives in leadership roles
- Embrace digital transformation, new business models, data monetization, and a rapidly changing world

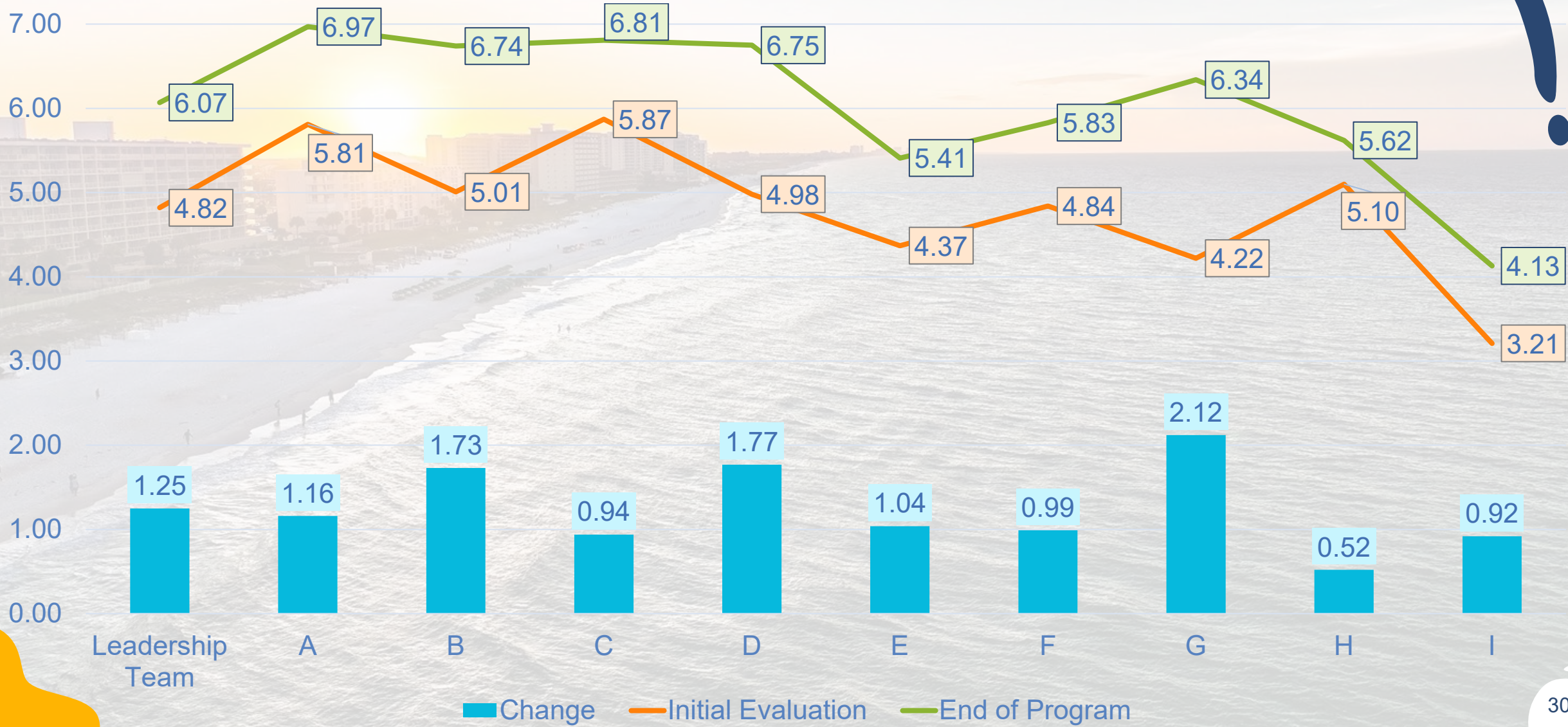
# Participant Growth: Visualizing the Future



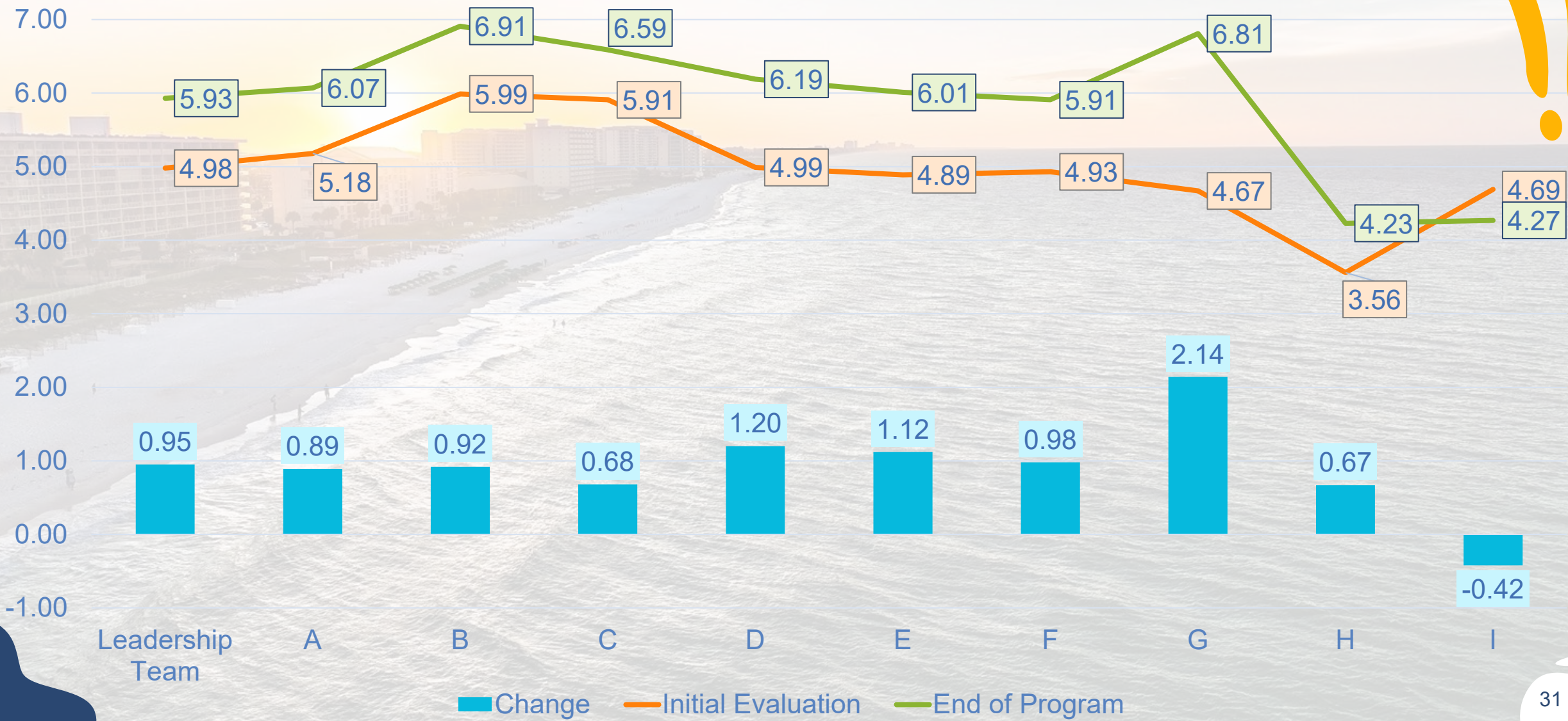
# Participant Growth: Delegation



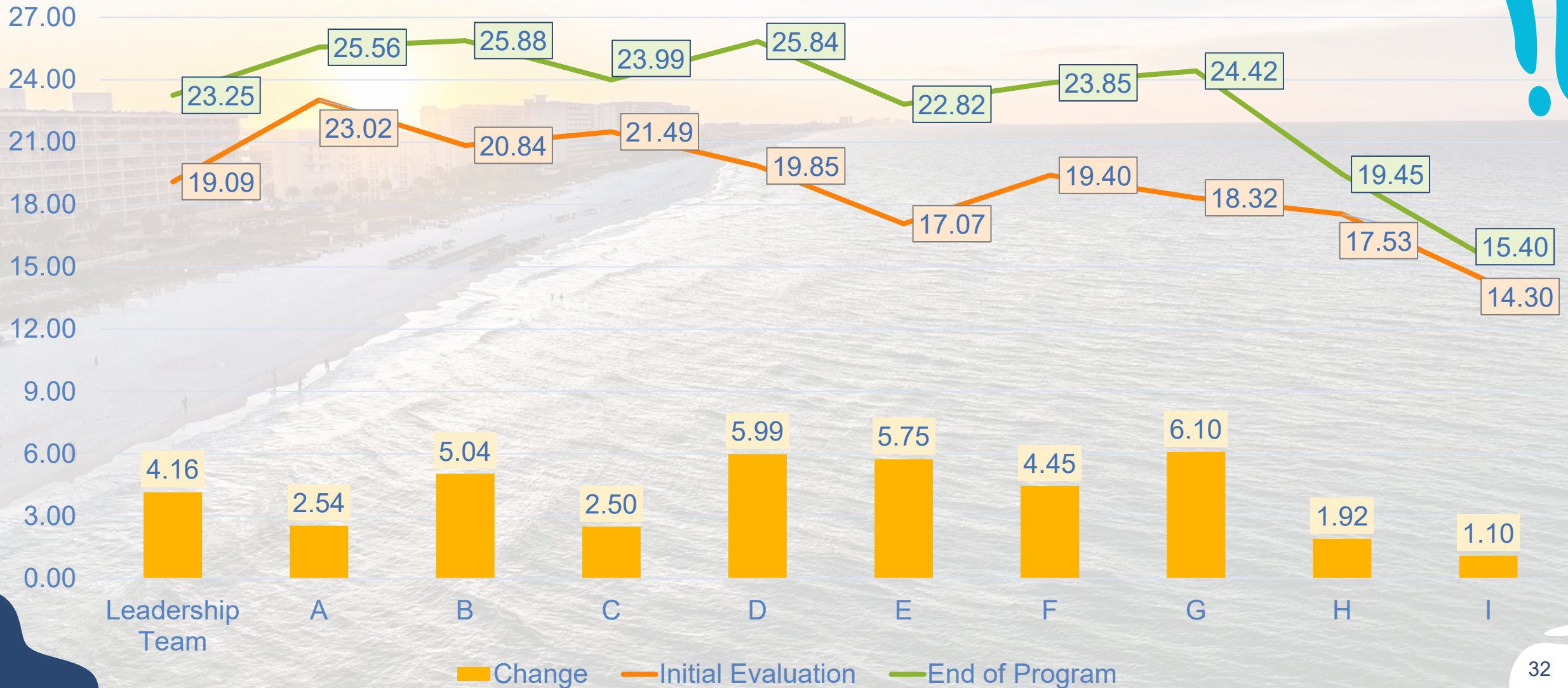
# Participant Growth: Communication with Direct Reports



# Participant Growth: Communication with Supervisor



# Participant Growth: Total Growth





# Participant Scores

Before the Program	Leadership Team	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Delegation	4.49	5.95	4.72	4.80	5.27	3.99	4.52	4.58	3.94	2.60
Visualizing the Future	4.80	6.08	5.12	4.91	4.61	3.82	5.11	4.85	4.93	3.80
Communication with Direct Reports	4.82	5.81	5.01	5.87	4.98	4.37	4.84	4.22	5.10	3.21
Communication with Supervisor	4.98	5.18	5.99	5.91	4.99	4.89	4.93	4.67	3.56	4.69
Average	4.77	5.76	5.21	5.37	4.96	4.27	4.85	4.58	4.38	3.58



# Participant Scores

After the Program	Leadership Team	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Delegation	5.41	6.21	5.61	5.13	6.32	5.69	5.83	5.62	4.39	3.91
Visualizing the Future	5.83	6.31	6.62	5.46	6.58	5.71	6.28	5.65	5.21	4.67
Communication with Direct Reports	6.07	6.97	6.74	6.81	6.75	5.41	5.83	6.34	5.62	4.13
Communication with Supervisor	5.89	6.07	6.91	6.59	6.19	6.01	5.91	6.81	4.23	4.27
Average	5.80	6.39	6.47	6.00	6.46	5.71	5.96	6.11	4.86	4.25





# Future Proofing Your Firm Through Strategic Succession Planning

# Succession Planning Over the Generations

## 1900s-1950s

### **Focus on Seniority:**

Leadership roles were often filled based on tenure and seniority within the company

### **Limited Scope:**

Succession planning was typically limited to top executive positions

### **Informal Processes:**

Process was largely informal, with decisions made by a small group of senior leaders

## 1960s-1990s

### **Introduction of Formal Programs:**

Companies began developing more formal succession planning programs

### **Identification of High-Potentials:**

Focus shifted towards identifying high-potential leaders

### **Training and Development:**

Training became encouraged

## 2010s-Present

### **Competency-Based Approach:**

Skills and attributes required for some leadership roles are identified

### **Broader Inclusion:**

Expansion of succession planning beyond top executives was encouraged

### **Technology Integration:**

Incorporation of tech to help manage planning is growing

# Goals of Succession Planning: Future Proofing Your Firm

## Foster Culture You Have Now & Need in the Future

**Internal Mobility:** Encourage the development and promotion of internal candidates

**Employee Morale:** Boost morale by providing clear career pathways and opportunities for advancement

**Ensure the Right Fit:** Take the time to grow and find (internal and external) the best leaders

## Ensure Resiliency

**Leadership Pipeline:** Maintain a steady flow of prepared leaders ready to step into key roles

**Risk Mitigation:** Minimize disruption caused by sudden leadership changes or departures

## Support Long-Term Growth

**Sustained Success:** Ensure the organization has the leadership strength to drive long-term growth and success

**Strategic Agility:** Enhance the organization's ability to adapt to external forces and market changes with capable leaders at the helm



Right People **Right Roles**

# Aligning Leadership Development & Succession Planning

## Leadership Evaluation & Talent Identification

**Leadership Evaluation:** Objectively assess the depth and breadth of leaders based on program growth

**High-Potential Leaders:** Identify leaders who have shown significant growth and readiness for higher roles

## Future Role Alignment

**Succession Mapping:** Map leaders to potential future roles based on their skills, competencies, and career aspirations

**Readiness Assessment:** Evaluate the readiness of leaders for specific roles, their potential successors, and identify gaps

## Targeted Development

**Individual Development Plans (IDPs):** Create tailored development plans for high-potential leaders to prepare them for future roles

**Stretch Assignments:** Provide challenging assignments that align with future role requirements

## Mentorship & Executive Coaching

**Senior Leaders as Mentors:** Pair high-potential leaders with senior leaders for mentorship and guidance

**Executive Coaching:** Offer executive coaching to refine and enhance leadership capabilities

## Continued Evaluation & Modifications of Succession Plan

**Performance Tracking:** Continuously track the performance and development of leaders

**Succession Plan Review:** Regularly review and adjust the succession plan based on evolving organizational needs and leader readiness

# Future Proofing People-Centric Succession Planning

## Objective

- Data-Driven
- 360 Feedback
- Other Assessments

## Subjective

- Cultural Fit
- Potential Focused
- Ideal Leadership Characteristics & Models
- Results/Action-Driven

## Proactive & Adaptive

- Firm Goals & Vision
- Future Focused
- Growth Mindset
- Strategic Ability & Agility



# Future Proofing People-Centric Succession Planning

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- Data-Driven
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# Future Proofing People-Centric Succession Planning

## Subjective

- Cultural Fit
- Potential Focused
- Ideal Leadership Characteristics & Models
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# Future Proofing People-Centric Succession Planning

## Proactive & Adaptive

- Firm Goals & Vision
- Future Focused
- Growth Mindset
- Strategic Ability & Agility



# Business Results

Evolved from 2<sup>nd</sup> generation closely held family-owned firm to 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of ownership

Vastly increased ownership opportunities

Flat organization chart to a matrix organization

Grew four times+ in people and revenue while increasing NPS & eNPS 11%+

**Increased profitability almost 100%**

Created two subscription revenue products

Formed a software as a service firm subsidiary

Expanded into three new markets and five new offices

Added additional layer of leadership to work on business instead of in



# Prevent a Leadership Apocalypse



# Ensure Your Legacy & Your Firm is Resilient

# Beachside Chat



Jim Meads  
President / CEO



SAIN  
ASSOCIATES



Becky White  
Sr. Principal / COO

# Questions





An aerial photograph of a coastal city at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. In the foreground, the ocean waves are breaking onto a sandy beach. To the left, several multi-story buildings are visible, likely hotels or residential complexes. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The image is framed by large, abstract shapes in dark blue and yellow on the left and right sides.

# #futureproof

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**LEADERSHIP  
APOCALYPSE:  
Brainstorming Workshop**



# Agenda

## Session Two

- Strategic Positioning for Long-Term Success and Resilience
  - Small & Large Group Brainstorming
  - Q & A

# Brainstorming Session

- **Part One: ~5 MIN**
  - Read all questions individually
  - Write down two ideas for each question
- **Part Two (2X)**
  - **15 MIN:** Form small group and discuss two questions
  - **5 MIN:** Rejoin large group for more discussion



# Questions



A large, intricate sandcastle is the central focus, built on a sandy beach. The sandcastle features multiple towers with conical roofs, a central entrance, and a winding path leading to a small circular structure. The background shows a beach scene with people sunbathing, colorful umbrellas, and the ocean under a clear sky. The image is framed by dark blue and orange abstract shapes on the left and right sides.

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