

Riding a Dead Horse

Anyone who has been in health care very long will agree that flexibility is key to accomplishment of goals and good outcomes. It is the nature of our business.

On the other hand, inflexibility is perhaps the most relentless enemy of achievement, personal growth, and success.

Recently, I read an article entitled *The Top Ten Strategies for Dealing with a Dead Horse*. Its author is unknown, but it is hilarious and filled with truths. The list appears in a book by author and motivator John C. Maxwell, entitled the *Maxwell Daily Reader*. Here it is:



1. Buy a stronger whip.
2. Change riders.
3. Appoint a committee to study the horse.
4. Appoint a team to revive the horse.
5. Send out a memo declaring the horse isn't really dead.
6. Hire an expensive consultant to find "the real problem."
7. Harness several dead horses together for increased speed and efficiency.
8. Rewrite the standard definition of *live horse*.
9. Declare the horse to be better, faster and cheaper when dead.
10. Promote the dead horse to a supervisory position.

Have you seen one of these "solutions" where you work – in Life Care, Century Park or Life Care at Home?

If so, there is only one good way to deal with that problem: When your horse is dead, dismount. You don't have to love change to be successful, but you need to be willing to accept it.

– Beecher Hunter