UPDATE
FROM IIMHL AND IIDL

Welcome to this twice monthly Update issued June 1, 2022

The International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) and the International Initiative for Disability Leadership (IIDL) organise systems for leaders to share innovations, network and problem solve across countries and agencies.

Thanks for subscribing to our Update, we hope you find it informative and helpful. You may have noticed that our branding looks a little different? We have recently refreshed our logos and our websites. We may look a little different, but we are still the same organization.

A message from the CEO

Dear members and friends

All of us at IIMHL have been saddened by news of the death of our friend and colleague Ken Jue. Ken passed away after a short illness during May. Many of you will have known or met Ken, and even more will have been influenced by his work. Ken served as CEO of Monadnock Family Services in New Hampshire having worked in the organization since 1978. He held that role until 2011, when he started his own consultancy company. Ken had many accomplishments in his career, notably the establishment of the InShape program, which sought to address the heightened physical health risks that people with mental health conditions experience.

Ken was a key figure in the start of IIMHL and continued to contribute to its work. Most recently this included helping to start our collaborative of philanthropy organizations, and in the final weeks of his life, making connections and hosting our colleagues from the Dutch International Mental Health Hub during a visit to Boston, MA.

Ken was a man of compassion and a tireless advocate for mental health. Above all he was a friend to many. Not least to our former CEO Fran Silvestri, with whom he was close friends for 40 years. As an organization we have shared our condolences with his family and friends.

This edition of Update focuses on diversity in mental health, addiction and disability. The issue of diversity is one which we at IIMHL are proactively working on, both in terms of our own diversity as an organization but also with leaders in our member countries. This is truly a global issue and I hope you will find the information here of use in thinking about this topic.

Steve Appleton
President & Chief Executive
IIMHL/IIDL

IIMHL/IIDL Leadership Exchange 2022

The details of the 2022 Leadership Exchange can be viewed at this link:
Exchange-Pamphlet-FINAL.pdf

To register:
IIMHL: https://www.iimhl.com/2022-leadership-exchange
IIDL: https://www.iimhl.com/2022-leadership-exchange-iidl

This issue features the following articles:

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IIMHL Articles

Webinar | Soteria New York: Bringing an Innovative Approach to Psychiatric Crisis to New York - International
Thursday, June 9, 2022, 10:00am - 11:30am PT / 1:00pm - 2:30pm ET

This webinar will discuss the history and future of the Soteria model, an evidence-based alternative to acute hospitalization for persons experiencing psychiatric crises. Soteria provides intensive support in a communal residential setting with emphasis on humane interactions and understanding.

Replications of the Soteria model have been few and far between since the remarkable success of the original Soteria experiment, spearheaded by Loren Mosher and Alma Menn in the 1970s. Recently, a wide-ranging renewal of the Soteria model has taken place in Israel with very positive outcomes.

To register:

https://www.leaders4health.org/event/webinar-soteria-new-york-bringing-an-innovative-approach-to-psychiatric-crisis-to-new-york/

Crisis line: 13YARN - Australia
Lifeline, 2022

13YARN is the first national service of its kind for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people in crisis. We offer a confidential one-on-one over the phone yarning opportunity and support with a trained Lifeline Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter for mob who are feeling overwhelmed or having difficulty coping.

We are here to provide crisis support 24/7 to yarn with you without judgement and provide a confidential, culturally safe space to yarn about your needs, worries or concerns. We will work with you to explore options for on-going support. You know you will be connected to another Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person who will understand where you are coming from and value knowing HOW to listen, without judgement or shame.

https://www.13yarn.org.au/

evokateapp – Website for Youth – USA
A tool for young adults who are passionate about intersectional issues related to mental health and want to advocate for change
National Mental Health Advisory Board, Well Being Trust, Active Minds, and Young Invincibles, 2022

Areas include:

- LGBTQ
- Gender-affirming care
- Destigmatizing mental health
- Healing from intergenerational trauma and racism
- Racial justice

https://evokateapp.org/

2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health - USA
The Trevor Project, 2022

The Trevor Project's 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health demonstrates that rates of suicidal thoughts have trended upward among LGBTQ young people over the last three years, making our life-saving work all the more important.
Capturing the experiences of nearly 34,000 LGBTQ youth ages 13 to 24 across the United States, with 45% of respondents being LGBTQ youth of color and 48% being transgender or nonbinary, our fourth annual national survey is one of the most diverse surveys of LGBTQ youth ever conducted.

These data provide critical insights into some of the unique suicide risk factors faced by LGBTQ youth, top barriers to mental health care, and the negative impacts of COVID-19 and relentless anti-transgender legislation. This research also highlights several ways in which we can all support the LGBTQ young people in our lives—and help prevent suicide.

https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/

Cultural Competence in Canadian Mental Health Care - Canada
Psychology Today, 2022

Racism in diverse communities requires informed mental health care services.

KEY POINTS

- Racism is imbedded in Canada and its mental health care systems. Canadians of colour may be traumatized due to racism.
- Cultural competence makes health care services more accessible and effective for people of different cultural backgrounds.
- Cultural competence helps clinicians work effectively with culturally marginalized adults, children, and families.

https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/blog/culturally-speaking/202203/cultural-competence-in-canadian-mental-health-care

Traveller Mental Health Initiative - Ireland
National Social Inclusion Office, 2022

The Traveller Mental Health Initiative (TMHI) programme was funded by the Health Services Executive via the Dormant Accounts Fund and was developed to:

- Improve mental health outcomes for Travellers and reduce suicide
- Maintain and promote positive mental health and wellbeing
- Improve Traveller access to mainstream health services

https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/primarycare/socialinclusion/travellers-and-roma/irish-travellers/traveller-projects-and-resources/traveller-mental-health-initiative.html

IIDL Articles

Changing community attitudes toward people with disabilities - Australia
NSW: Family & Community Services, 2022

Attitudes toward, and beliefs about, people with disabilities are important determinants of social inclusion. Misconceptions, negative attitudes and a lack of knowledge can affect many aspects of life for people with disabilities, including employment opportunities. Existing research on community attitudes toward inclusion of people with disabilities, and employer attitudes toward workers with disabilities, indicates that stigmatisation is still prevalent.

Changing negative community and employer attitudes toward people with disabilities, and challenging stigma, is likely to make a positive contribution toward greater inclusion.

https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/file/0008/372608/Rapid-Review-V3-interactive.pdf

Things you should know: Definitions, concepts and approaches - Aotearoa/New Zealand
Office for Disability Issues, 2022

A quick course on disability concepts and approaches The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) defines a disability as any long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder the full and effective participation of disabled people in society on an equal basis with others.

The experience of disability is influenced by the nature of a person's impairment. Gender, age, ethnicity, and culture can also have a profound and sometimes compounding effect on an individual's experience of disability.

The New Zealand Disability Strategy adopts the UNCRPD's 'social model' of disability. The social model of disability arose from the disability rights movement in the 1970s and 1980s, in response and resistance to the prevailing medical model and specifies that individuals have impairments but rather than the impairment disabling a person, the barriers created by an inaccessible society are the disability.

https://www.odi.govt.nz/disability-toolkit/things-you-should-know-definitions-concepts-and-approaches/

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Join IIMHL / IIDL
Leaders in any sector that can affect the conditions for Mental Health and Addictions and leaders in Disability services can join IIMHL or IIDL free by using these links:

For IIMHL:
https://www.iimhl.com/iimhl-join

For IIDL:
https://www.iimhl.com/iidl-join

IIMHL and IIDL Briefings contain information, reports and articles that may be of interest to leaders and organisations. The information, articles and reports represent the views and opinions of the organisation referenced, not necessarily those of IIMHL and IIDL.