FRAN SILVESTRI - CEO

The International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership and the International Initiative for Disability Leadership

Submitted by

JANET PETERS
New Zealand Liaison, MNZM, Registered Psychologist

PICTURED ABOVE: Fran Silvestri and his equally wonderful partner Dr Sue Hallwright
MĀORI PROVERB/WHAUUKATOKĪ:

“Ehara taku toa, he takitahi, he toa takitini
My success should not be bestowed onto me alone,
as it was not individual success but success of a collective”

IIMHL TAGLINE: ‘LEAD THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE: CONNECTING LEADERS GLOBALLY’

Through his leadership and skills working collaborative and co-productively, Fran Silvestri has established an organisation that:

1. Improves, enhances and develops leadership skills
2. Enables rapid sharing of knowledge: recovery best practice, service development, frameworks and structure.
3. Shares successes and enables learning (individual, services, communities, countries).

Shaped by Fran, the vision and goals have been agreed by leaders of the nine participating countries:

VISION

We seek a future where everyone with a mental illness / mental health, addiction and/or disability issue and those who care for them will have access to effective treatment and support from communities and providers who have the knowledge and competence to offer services that promote recovery.

IIDL is a partner nine-country agency for people who live with disability and people who work in disability services. Similar aims are sought: “People with Disabilities and their families want to have personally satisfying everyday lives in the community”.

GOALS

+ Provide a single international point of reference for key mental health, addiction and disability leaders.
+ Strengthen workforce development and mentoring of mental health, addiction and disability leaders.
+ Identify and disseminate best management and operational practices.
+ Foster innovation and creativity.
+ Expand the knowledge of: Building community capacity, implementing best practices for consumer recovery and expanding methodologies for integration with other health and social systems.
+ Promote international collaboration and research.
+ Provide assistance to international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), Organisation for Economic Development (OECD), and sponsoring countries to support low and middle income countries to increase their ability to operate community based recovery systems.
Our submission is that Fran Silvestri’s work in establishing and leading IIMHL and IIDL is evidence of his significant contribution on a local, state, national and global scale AND this section will also show evidence of innovation and a high standard of service.

All peoples’ names will be in bold as we are all about PEOPLE! In addition, each section will start with a Māori “Whakautokī” or proverb as we remember our indigenous cousins in Aotearoa.

These two criteria can be summarised in eight points:

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<td>To enable IIMHL and IIDL to be valuable and effective enough to be seen as “value add” by those funding mental health, addiction and disability services in the nine countries is a major achievement.</td>
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The nine countries are:

IIMHL is a “Government-to-Government” initiative. It is funded by the eight participating Governments of each country. Governments and national organizations recognizing the issues outlined above and wanting to promote mental health leadership are:

- The Department of Health (England)
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) of the US
- The Mental Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health New Zealand (MOHNZ)
- The Scottish Executive (SE)
- Health Service Executive, Republic of Ireland (HSE)
- The Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Principal Committee (MHDAPC)
- Health Canada and Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC)
- The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Sweden
- GGZ Nederland / Dutch Association of Mental Health and Addiction Care

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<td>Evidence of Fran’s work can be seen in the policies and processes shared across countries IIMHL has helped to bring about new practices in many different countries. For example, IIMHL was the catalyst to share:</td>
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1. Mental Health First Aid brought from Australia to the US and New Zealand.
2 Zero Suicide was started in England and the US and then bought to many countries
3 Work on indigenous peoples and enabled “The Wharerātā Declaration”
4 The development of young and emerging leaders
5 Facilitate the emergence of population based mental health programmes in cities
6 Promoted rural communities mental health
7 Showcased trauma informed care among countries
8 Supported Military Mental Health
9 Supported E-mental health
10 Promoted primary mental health care.

| NUMBER THREE |

Evidence of his expertise is found in the following quotes from local and national colleagues:

MĀORI PROVERB/WHAKATAUKĪ

“Whaiwhia te kete mātauranga”
“Fill the basket of knowledge”

Eddie Bartnik - IIDL SCLG Chair, Australia

“Since 2010 in particular, Fran Silvestri as CEO has facilitated with key disability leaders the development of the International Initiative for Disability Leadership (IIDL) as a sister organisation to IIMHL.

From humble beginnings with New Zealand as a founding member then Ireland and Australia, IIDL has now grown rapidly to a network of 8 member countries so that all IIMHL member countries have also joined for disability expect for the Netherlands.

This was a visionary and far sighted strategy and achievement as there are many areas of overlap between mental health and disability – many people with disabilities experience mental health challenges and some people with significant long term mental health challenges develop a psychosocial disability (for example, in Australia this population is estimated to be 64,000 people).

The UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) included psychosocial disability so this has led to a sharper focus on the group internationally and importantly opened up the world of self-directed support and personal budgets. Both Australia and the USA have led the way in this regard, along with the UK and IIDL/IIMHL have enabled a rapid knowledge transfer and leadership development. The international work of IMHL and IIDL has been of significant benefit to participants of Australia’s National Disability Insurance Scheme and the international perspective has been gained through leadership exchanges and published journal articles and publications/research reports on self-directed care.

The National Disability Insurance Agency has been the country member for IIDL from 2015-2020 and co-hosted the Sydney IIMHL/IIDL International Leadership Exchange which directly benefitted both the mental health and disability sectors in Australia. Fran’s leadership
across mental health and disability has been a rare, lengthy and outstanding contribution to our sectors and has impacted positively the Australian population and community, as well as our neighbours New Zealand and more widely across all 8 member countries. His championing of lived experience, emerging leadership and relationship based leadership networks and knowledge exchange has been truly unique.

Dr Barbara Disley - Aotearoa/New Zealand

“One of Fran’s real achievements has been to form strong relationships with people with lived experience and to ensure they are always at the forefront of all IIMHL and IIDL activities.

He has ensured that IIMHL and IIDL have had a positive impact across all the national, regional and international connections he has had.

Similarly he has promoted strong relationships and links with indigenous groups as is shown by the “Whareātā Declaration”.

To be able to do this AND work closely with clinical leaders, government officials, family/whanau members, diverse leaders, emerging leaders, cities' leaders, academics, military leaders, international leaders and other ethnic communities is nothing short of miraculous!

Anita Everett MD DFAPA - Director Center for Mental Health Services US, HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) USA

“Fran has a naturally inclusive style that permeates everything he engages with. He models respect, civility and kindness that draws people toward him and renders him an effective leader. Our world is a kinder place with Fran in it!”

Bob Glover - USA Chair Board IIMHL/IIDL

“Fran is an exceptional person and a visionary leader. Through his vision, values and commitment he has created a unique environment for learning and improvement among international leaders in mental health. He has been able to work closely with key leaders in New Zealand to ensure that the country remains a central member of IIMHL, and that the good practice there is shared widely, and in many cases, adopted by numerous other countries.

What always shines through with Fran is his desire to encourage and develop new leaders, especially young people and those from indigenous communities. Fran’s impact on mental health improvement and transformation, not just in New Zealand, but around the world cannot be underestimated. This award would be worthy recognition of his outstanding contribution.”
Dr Aaron Groves - Chief Psychiatrist Tasmania, Vice Chair, Board of IIMHL Australia

“Fran Silvestri has undertaken the role of Chief Executive of IIMHL (the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership) since its inception in 2003. This organisation, the only one of its type in the world, is aimed at growing and nurturing leaders in the Mental Health Sector at all levels including policy makers, clinical leaders, service managers and providers and those with lived experience who are leaders within the sector. Under his extraordinary leadership well nearly 5000 leaders across 9 countries are regularly involved in sharing their ideas, building on what works and supporting one another in the adoption of new and innovative ways of improving the mental health of our communities, from national leaders right down to people to emerging leaders who maybe work directly providing services.

He has been instrumental in bringing innovation from around the world to both Australia and New Zealand and putting people in contact with the rest of the world as well as being a voice that takes our innovations to others in North America and Europe. He has fearlessly and passionately navigated changes of government and the political winds across these nine countries and two decades to bring a strong and consistent backbone to leadership, and the quest for quality and excellence in what we do.

He has been responsible for creating the context that allowed so many novel partnerships such as the Wharerātā group and the subsequent Gaya Dhuwi declaration as well as keeping leaders at all levels aware of the best approaches to how to work more collaboratively.”

Brian Hepburn - Executive Director of The National Association of State Mental Health Programme Directors (NASMHPD) USA

“Fran Silvestri has been an impressive leader for the IIMHL. He has a quiet, inclusive style of leadership that promotes hope and creativity. He has been a great friend to NASMHPD.”

Steve Appleton – Regional Lead (Europe) and CEO Designate of IIMHL England

“Fran Silvestri has made a significant and sustained contribution to the improvement of services for those with mental health problems. His ability to collaborate, create trusting, open relationships based on equity of esteem are at the centre of his skills. He is a leader who combines vision with an ability to provide mentorship and development to those who work for and with him.

He has developed and maintained positive relationships with senior leaders, service consumers among others. He is a man who possesses a truly world view of mental health, and how to create the circumstances for sharing experiences, learning and good practice.

Mental Health First Aid, FACT services, population based mental health programmes are among many examples of innovation that he has enabled countries to take forward.

Fran is a remarkable person, whose vision, commitment and leadership are among the qualities that have enabled him to make an exceptional contribution to mental health services.”
In developing our strategy we listened closely to our many stakeholders to get a better sense of their needs and hopes.

As part of our membership of IIMHL we had an opportunity to study the evidence from researchers and the academic sector in internationally to be certain that our plans had a solid evidence base and represented best practice. With additional support from Fran we were able to connect with international colleagues to invite their input and advice. We will keep up with our IIMHL and IIDL links as we implement our strategic plan.

Fredrik Lindencrona - Sweden

Fran Silvestri is a unique global leader. His charismatic, visionary while humble and servant and appreciative leadership style has been able to bring out the best in all other global leaders within the unique innovations of IIMHL and IIDL.

Through the network, ideas and innovations spread must faster and this leads to improvements every day for people, their close ones, their communities, Cities and nations. A truly exceptional achievement that would not have happened without Fran Silvestri.

Ron Manderscheid, PhD - President/CEO, NACBHDD - National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors, NARMH - National Association for Rural Mental Health, US

Fran is an international behavioral health superstar, with exceptional humility and good will. We are very lucky to have him at IIMHL and IIDL.

Sue Dashfield, Werry Workforce Whāraurau, Child & Youth Workforce Development Aotearoa/New Zealand

Fran is the ultimate connector of people with similar interests, knowledge and ideas. His enthusiasm is contagious and he is an absolute legend.

NUMBER FOUR

Evidence from people with lived experience

MĀORI PROVERB/WHAKAUTOKĪ

“Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou”
“Seek after learning for the sake of your wellbeing”
Several people with lived experience have talked about their positive experiences of IIMHL over the 17 years. Some examples include:

**Ailie McGinty - Canada 2018**

“When I attended in IIMHL 2009, I had only recently begun my recovery journey. I was diagnosed with bipolar 1 and had had an extremely rough few years. I had lost so much; family, friends, career and almost my children too. Meeting with everyone in Brisbane (and the match in New Zealand) made me realize that there is so much work to do in terms of mental health. It was a great opportunity for me to meet with other like-minded people and share our experiences and ideas. I returned to Scotland with a real hunger for change.

I don’t want this email to read like an essay so here is a summary of the chain of events in my life set in progress by IIMHL:

+ After my visit to Brisbane, I became much more involved in the service user movement throughout the UK. I also followed up on international connections I had made at the conference.
+ By the time I arrived in Nova Scotia to live (2010) I was already a Board member of a Nova Scotia consumer group.
+ Within 12 weeks of my arrival I was involved in round table work with the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC).
+ That led to my being on the MHCC Mental Health and Law Advisory Committee and Consumer Advisory Committee. IIMHL gave me the passion to develop my interest in mental health leadership further.

Since then, I have gone from strength to strength - I have been on the Canadian Mental Health Association National Board for 5 years now and am involved in lots of other mental health organizations. The impact of IIMHL was not just on my mental health advocacy and policy development work. As a result of the confidence I obtained in those roles, I began to place more emphasis on my own recovery - I had good reasons now to maintain mental wellbeing.

I also reclaimed my career and am happier than ever. I work as the Crown Attorney (prosecutor) with the Mental Health Court, Court Monitored Drug Treatment Program and Court Monitored Alcohol Programs in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. I LOVE my work and am grateful every day for how my life has turned out. I am now paid to do work that I am passionate about and I feel I can have real influence in the area of mental health and the justice system.

**William Kellibrew (US) - Trauma recovery**

“The IIMHL/IIDL Leadership Exchange in Washington, D.C. was one of the most engaging and foundational events I have attended. As a youth consumer of mental health services and now an adult, it was inspiring to have met passionate global mental health leaders - the kind of professionals who played a major part in my healing and recovery.”
Emily Ladau (US) - Emerging Leaders Disability

“Being surrounded by a community of like-minded people at the Leadership Exchange was a true bright spot in my activism journey. It’s empowering to know that so many people are connected by their dedication to paving the way for disability rights across the globe.”

Tunchai Redvers (Canada) - First Nations Leader

“The IIMHL 2019 created a space for so many folks from across the globe, to come together to share and question the current state of mental health. I’m happy with the growing diversity and platforms given to young people and those with lived experiences - it is through them that we truly get a sense of the mental health landscape and what is most important.”

| NUMBER FIVE |

Evidence is also found in evaluations and feedback from international IIMHL and IIDL Leadership Exchanges

MĀORI PROVERB/WHAKAUKITI

“Whāia e koe te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe, me he maunga teitei”
“Pursue excellence – should you stumble, let it be to a lofty mountain”

Each link below is a link to an evaluation:

2019 Washington DC
“ Inspiring” said the attendees CLICK HERE TO VIEW
For more information about matches: CLICK HERE TO VIEW

IIDL “inspiring”
CLICK HERE TO VIEW

Stockholm 2018
CLICK HERE TO VIEW

Sydney 2017
IIMHL “Inspirational” was the word most used: CLICK HERE TO VIEW

IIDL “Inspiring, enlightening, excellent” were most used CLICK HERE TO VIEW
NUMBER SIX

Evidence can be seen in formal international strategic partnerships

Māori proverb/whaukatokī

‘Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi. Engari, he toa takitini. 
My strength is not mine alone, but is the strength of many.’

IIMHL has many formal ongoing collaboratives with international agencies. These are:

World Health Organisation Leadership Development Programme:

In 2020, the WHO and IIMHL began working together to create a leadership development programme. Detailed planning and development involving WHO staff and IIMHL regional leads took place, and a leadership development programme has now been established.

Also another aim is to support the advancement and achievements of the WHO Special Initiative strategic actions by providing mentorship between IIMHL leaders and the Special Initiative country leaders so they can progress the transformation of mental health services in their countries.

Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with four key international partners

In 2020, IIMHL established strategic partnerships with other organizations working internationally in mental health. We agreed new Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with four key partners below. By creating these strategic alliances IIMHL and its partners will be able to work together to advance our shared mission, values and objectives at scale. All four will contribute to our collaboratives and CBHL will host our United States liaison. We are looking forward to developing projects and areas of work in the coming year and beyond. We will build on our existing MoUs with the Wharerātā Group and the City of Philadelphia.

+ Mental Health Europe
+ City Mental Health Alliance
+ EUCOMS
+ The College for Behavioral Health Leadership

NUMBER SEVEN

Evidence is also found from the ongoing across-nation collaboratives which have been in process for many years via teleconference (in the old days) and now Zoom

Māori proverb/Whakataukī

“I orea te tuatara ka patu ki waho”
“A problem is solved by continuing to find solutions”
To note: this information below was abbreviated from the 2020 IIMHL and IIDL Annual Report: CLICK HERE TO VIEW

Wharerātā Group

This Group is co-chaired by Carole Koha Te Rarawa Nga Puhi, Aotearoa/New Zealand and Tom Brideson Kamilaroi/Gomeroi CEO, Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia

Indigenous populations and communities around the world confront historical, cultural, socio-economic and forced geographic limitations that have profound impacts on mental wellness. The impacts of colonialism and, for some Indigenous populations, forced residential schooling and the resulting loss of culture and family ties, have contributed to higher risks of mental illness in these groups

The International Cities and urban Regional Collaborative (I-CIRCLE)

Fran talks on a video about how this Collaborative came about: CLICK HERE TO VIEW

Led by Dr. Gary Belkin, with inputs from Kathy Langlois and Steve Appleton (I-CIRCLE co-convenors), the statement was signed and supported by over 20 leaders from around the world. These included leaders working in low and middle-income countries (LMIC). The statement was published in the Lancet Planetary Health journal. CLICK HERE TO VIEW

Signatories to the above document CLICK HERE TO VIEW

Council for Public Health Leadership (CPHL)

The CPHL is chaired by Jude Stansfield and Ian Walker from Public Health England, with key thought leadership from Stephanie Priest from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Child and Youth Collaborative

Led by Dr Bronwyn Dunnachie (NZ), the IIMHL Child and Youth Group continued to meet via Zoom every two months on average in 2020 – there are approximately 90 people internationally who are actively involved in this work. Discussions and shared learning focused on a range of topics including: Loss, Grief and Self-care in Trauma Informed Organizations, service provision and sharing resources, and tips for ICAMHS/AOD service delivery in COVID-19 times.

Philanthropy

Co-lead by Kristen Ward (US) from Mindful Philanthropy and Kathy Langlois (US), IIMHL, this collaborative aims to foster strategic conversations and cross-sharing to deepen the collective understanding of the impact philanthropy can achieve in mental health grant-making.

Council for Clinical Leadership (CCL)

Council for Clinical Leadership (CCL) The CCL is co-chaired by Anita Everett (US) and Peggy Brown (AU). Since February 2020, the CCL has been meeting virtually, resulting in an
increase in the frequency of meetings. There has been a particular focus on the response to COVID-19.

Rural Behavioral Health Collaborative

The Rural Behavioral Health Collaborative connects key rural mental health leaders in member countries, coinciding with the publication of the Orange Declaration (Australia) on rural mental health. Chaired by Ron Manderscheid (US), the aim of this group is to encourage innovation and good practice in relation to issues of accessibility of services in rural areas as well as addressing the specific mental health needs of people living in rural areas.

Metrics: data for excellence

This match provides a platform to explore evidence in mental health policy and delivery of care. An annual report is produced and widely shared with Governments, commissioners, providers, and user and carer organizations. It is the world’s widest and most up to date reference source on mental health comparisons and supports the ongoing process of prioritizing mental health care and optimizing practice. 2018 and 2019 reports are available.

Psychology: Military Issues Work Group

Chaired by Kathy McGraw (US Department of Defense Psychological Health Center of Excellence), this group meets twice a year and is continuing to focus on a joint publication. The group has included members from the Australian Institute of Family Studies, Mental Health Commission of Canada, Department of National Defense (Canada), UK Royal College of Psychiatry and Royal Air Force, and participants from New Zealand, the US Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

NUMBER EIGHT

The work of the International Initiative for Disability Leadership (IIDL)

Māori proverb

“Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari kē he toa takitini”
“My success should not be bestowed onto me alone, it was not individual success but the success of a collective”.

This work is led by Eddie Bartnik (Australia) and activities included:

The Australian IIDL National Network meeting in June 2020 focusing on leadership learnings from COVID-19 through the lens of capacity building. We also had a series of three IIDL webinars hosted by the Think Local Act Personal National Partnership in the UK on the Australian National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Nordic Collaboration on Disability event on
COVID-19 leadership, and the US Advisory Committee for IIDL series of events for the wider IIDL international membership.

A key outcome of the England webinars included follow up meetings between Australia and the Engage Britain team who are working on the public campaign to reform health and social care in England.

There were two key program areas where the work of IIDL was broadened throughout 2020 to include more intentional linkages with IIMHL.

These include the Emerging Leaders Strategy coordinated by Aisling Blackmore, which saw several meetings to connect the IIDL network to a number of mental health groups.

Our work on accessibility has resulted in the development of an Accessibility Charter for IIDL and IIMHL to ensure all events and activities (especially digital) are accessible to all. This remains in draft while work in undertaken to finalise the document.

Governance highlights throughout the year included Anne Skordis from IIDL being appointed to the IIMHL Board, the smooth transition of Australian country membership from the National Disability Insurance Agency to the federal Department of Social Services and the agreement to transition the SCLG Chair from Australia to New Zealand in 2021.

The Board’s ongoing work on the Governance Structure and Strategic Plan has provided valuable opportunities for our SCLG members to engage with the wider organisation and is strengthening the identity and voice of IIDL as we continue to grow and develop.

| CONCLUSION |

STEVE APPLETON England

“After 17 years as President and Chief Executive of IIMHL/IIDL, Fran Silvestri announced his intention to retire and will step down from his role at the 2022 Leadership Exchange in New Zealand.

Fran has brought significant commitment, enthusiasm and an ability to develop strong and positive relationships with leaders around the world. His humility, combined with his expertise and commitment to encouraging and supporting others to grow in their leadership, has been a hallmark of his approach and the success of IIMHL and IIDL.”

JANET PETERS - Registered Psychologist, New Zealand Liaison IIMHL. Winner THEM-HS Exceptional Contribution Award 2015

“It is my hope that winning such an award would bring Fran’s nearly two decades tenure to a fitting end AND we have had lots of support from around the world!”
IT’S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Examples of the last wonderful Leadership Exchange in 2019 organised by Canada and the US with presentations from around the world:

IIMHL/IIDL Washington DC Leadership Exchange Network Meeting September 11-13, 2019

“Leading the Way Forward; Access, Accountability and Action”

The overall OHP and videos from the two days: CLICK HERE TO VIEW

Welcome to the Network Meeting – Co-MCs Hosts Holly Echo-Hawk (First Nations leader: Canada) and Dr Brian Sims (US)

Disability: Inspirational Keynote – Voice of Lived Experience from the IIDL Emerging Leaders Network – Emily Ladau

Photo PowerPoint: CLICK HERE TO VIEW

Mental Health: Inspirational Keynote - Voice of Lived Experience and Trauma Informed Care – William Kellibrew

Poem by Tunchai Redvers

Video of whole morning: 48mins CLICK HERE TO VIEW

Dévora Kestel - World Health Organisation (WHO)

“Disruptive Innovation and Accountability: What can we learn from a Global Perspective?”

OHP presentation: CLICK HERE TO VIEW

Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 has had a huge impact for people across the globe. A key action for all has been to pivot to more online learning.

Supported by Fran IIMHL and IIDL have contributed to global online learning about the pandemic in relation specifically to addiction, mental health and disability services by hosting online webinars and online discussions.

IIMHL and IIDL have published over sixty COVID-19 briefings online and they are still continuing. CLICK HERE TO VIEW

Research publications

Fran’s publications:

+ Peters, J & Silvestri, F. Promoting Mentally Health Cities Across IIMHL Countries: I-CIRCLE, December 2017 CLICK HERE TO VIEW
+ Peters, & Silvestri, F. Mental Health and Addiction Leadership Programmes Across IIMHL Countries CLICK HERE TO VIEW
+ Peters, J & Silvestri, F. Healthy Families: From ACEs to Trauma Informed Care to Resilience and Wellbeing- Examples of policies and activities across IIMHL and IIDL countries, December 2016 CLICK HERE TO VIEW
+ Peters, J. & Silvestri, F. The Use of Tasers on People with Mental Health Problems Across IIMHL Countries For IIMHL, October 2016 CLICK HERE TO VIEW
+ THEMHS Conference 2005. S36 Leadership, Change and Service Policy 1/09/2005 From: 1030 To: 1230 Venue: Hall E Paper 20 Minutes: International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL). Fran Silvestri “This workshop will describe the work and programmes of the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) which Australia has joined. CLICK HERE TO VIEW
+ Richard H. Beinecke, Suffolk University Department of Public Management; Suffolk University, USA; Harry Minas, University of Melbourne; Sonja Goldsack, Blueprint for Learning; & Janet Peters, IIMHL. NZ. Global Mental Health Leadership Training. Int. J Leadership in Public Services, Vol. 6, No. 3, 63-72.

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MĀORI PROVERB/WHAUKATOKI:

“Tē tōia, tē haumatia”
“Nothing can be achieved without a plan, workforce and a way of doing things”

From Brian Hepburn, USA

“Before founding IIMHL, Fran was the Chief Executive of Monadnock Family Services in Keene, New Hampshire from 1988 to 1998, having joined the organization in 1973. He gained his MBA from Whitmore School of Economics at the University of New Hampshire. In 1983, he spent three months abroad studying the Italian mental health care system. Based on the Trieste model, he developed the Wyman Way Cooperative; an independent, non-profit corporation managed and operated by long-term consumers of mental health services, which has been operating since 1985.

While CEO at Monadnock, Fran pioneered a programme of exchanges between leaders in his organization with those in other countries. His aim was that they would learn from each other and experience new practices and innovations that would be of benefit to the improvement of services and to individual professional development.
Drawing on the experience of those individual exchanges, in 2002 Fran then sought to find a way to expand this method of knowledge sharing, with a focus on leadership development, recovery, social inclusion and building networks that could more rapidly bring best practice to the field.

In 2003, Fran formed IIMHL. Through his efforts, he initially engaged leaders from the US, England and New Zealand to support his new endeavour. IIMHL now comprises nine member countries in North America, Europe and Australasia with nearly 5,000 members. The aim of IIMHL remains one of leadership development through building international collaborations amongst leaders and the rapid exchange of innovations to the mental health and substance use sectors.

In 2006, Fran established the International Initiative for Disability Leadership (IIDL) with the same aims but for those working in the disability sector. IIDL now has nine country members.
Aaron McMahon, Māori carver, who did this wonderful carving for the 2014 Leadership Exchange Australia & Aotearoa/New Zealand

The wonderful Erin Geaney who is head of operations, Fran and Janet in Sweden

Zero Suicide first meeting Oxford England 2014

IIMHL Country Liaisons in Sweden in 2018

Dr Arpan Waghray US, Fran and Robyn Shearer, NZ, Kathy Langlois, Canada and Tyler Norris, US in Washington DC 2019

Dr Michael Smith (Scotland) and colleagues in Sweden 2018

Fran, Janet and Manase Lua all from Aotearoa/New Zealand in Washington DC

Fran, Eddie Bartnik (IIDL Australia) and Robyn Shearer (Aotearoa/New Zealand) in Washington DC.