Military Issues Work Group of the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership: Engaging International Partners to “Listen to the World”

Kate McGraw, PhD1; MAJ Demietrice Pittman, PhD2; Andrew D. Blatt, PsyD3; Kelley Blasko, PhD2

1Deployment Health Clinical Center, 2 National Center for Telehealth & Technology, Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, Defense Health Agency, Silver Spring, MD.

INTRODUCTION

The Deployment Health Clinical Center (DHCC) supports the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) by leading the Military Issues Work Group (MIWG) to facilitate dialogue and information exchange among leaders of psychological health in military health care systems across the world.

AIMS OF IIMHL

- Succeed in moving evidence-based and promising practices into the service provider environment
- Address absence of resources and supports for key leaders in mental health hammer them, their organizations, and communities to obtain and adapt skills and processes identified as most likely to support consumers to achieve recovery
- Organize systems for international innovation sharing, networking, and problem solving across countries and agencies

BACKGROUND

- IIMHL is sponsored in the United States by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- IIMHL provides an international infrastructure for innovation sharing and problem solving across countries and agencies and encourages the development of organizational and management best practices for mental health service delivery
- This effort is in line with the U.S. Military Health System (MHS) existing efforts and spirit behind the Center for Global Health Engagement (GHE) to improve collaboration between global health leaders (MHS Communications Office, 2015)
- IIMHL is a unique international collaborative that focuses on improving leadership of mental health and addictions services. IIMHL is a collaboration of eight countries: Australia, England, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, United States, and Sweden
- National perspectives such as those in Australia, Canada, England, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, Sweden and the United States realize that mental health leadership is just as vital to the success of community-based services as are effective clinical practices
- Over the past 13 years, military units across the globe have been involved in continual conflict. The MIWG focuses on strengthening leadership in military mental health service delivery

RESULTS

- RAND 2015 Improving Access to Behavioral Health Care for Remote Service Members and Their Families
  http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR57821.html
- International resource compendium of existing telemental health programs, mobile applications for mental health, and research on the use of technology to extend access to care
- A sortable Excel tracker tool that captured the inclusion criteria of the search strategy for the environmental scan which will be available for use on a secure shared internet location once completed

POC: Kate McGraw, Ph.D., Deputy Director
Deployment Health Clinical Center
kathyl.mcgraw2.civ@mail.mil

REFERENCES