

COVID-19: IIDL Featured Presentations on Leadership Learnings and Advancing Innovations in Employment

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Leadership Learnings from COVID-19 with an emphasis on the vision for a good life and systems transformation, country leadership learnings, focus on self direction and employment, moving from congrate models and accelerating reform

In early October 2020, this session was hosted by the Sponsoring Countries Leadership Group for IIDL and involved all eight member countries plus a number of invited guests from each county.

Start time for the 2½ hour Zoom session varied from 6am in Canada and the United States through to 11pm in New Zealand, with other countries in between. This highlighted the incredible commitment of this group as well as the strong appetite for connection and sharing a positive lens on the opportunities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the many challenges.

While the session had a focus on IIDL, we believe the session is also relevant for our IIMHL colleagues who are also invited to view the resources, in particular the opening session on setting the frame for leadership and transformation during the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of leaders who have a strong values based vision, are able to build collective and inclusive leadership and find knowledge during uncertain and uncharted times.

The session was of very high quality and the program featured:

Setting the IIDL Frame for Transformation - opening comments

- Long term universal themes/systems transformation and COVID-19 lens - Dr Michael Kendrick (US)
- What we know about working in austerity/difficult economic times - Ruby Moore (US)
- IIDL vision and alignment with the COVID-19 opportunity and challenge - Lorna Sullivan (NZ)

Member Country presentations on Leadership Learnings from COVID-19

Discussion on future priority areas for IIDL attention which identified employment,

Emerging Leaders and further sharing of COVID-19 experiences and resources.

Resources from this session are now available and include:

- The detailed program and speakers (<https://www.iimhl.com/files/docs/20201203a.pdf>)

- Selected PowerPoint slides (<https://www.iimhl.com/files/docs/20201203b.pdf> and <https://www.iimhl.com/files/docs/20201203c.pdf>) and a video produced in New Zealand <https://youtu.be/djrxCbLLf0o>
- A captioned video recording ([Leadership Learnings from the COVID-19 Pandemic - YouTube](#)) – remember to click on captioning if you want to view with them.

Advancing Innovation in Employment During COVID-19

In November 2020, two sessions were hosted by the Sponsoring Countries Leadership Group for IIDL with featured keynote presenters from the United States and country presenters and representatives from all eight member countries. Two sessions were held with one for the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia on the 10-11th November and the second session for the United States, Ireland, England, Scotland, Sweden and Finland on the 12-13th November 2020. While the session had a focus on IIDL, we believe the session is also relevant for our IIMHL colleagues who are also invited to view the resources, as advancing employment innovation and reform is a key universal priority and many of the discussions also included a focus on people with mental health challenges and also psychosocial disability.

Both sessions had excellent energy and enthusiasm and it was particularly pleasing to see each country SCLG member bring a number of colleagues from other parts of their disability and employment sectors.

The sessions were hosted by Ruby Moore and Jennifer Johnson from the United States Advisory Committee for IIDL.

Part One featured an excellent range of speakers who covered: The Value of Work/Employment/Careers – Individual experiences; the Role of Businesses – featuring the international case study of Microsoft ; and Building Capacity for Competitive Integrated Employment during COVID -19 , featuring workforce and workplace strategies, network capacity building initiatives and COVID -19 factors and responses, including shifting resources towards competitive integrated employment and use of data.

Part Two comprised of Country Updates and Discussion, including next steps for planning employment initiatives between now and Christchurch 2022, including steps to include a broader IIMHL network.

A practical outcome was that our guests from Microsoft reached out to country members with offers of opportunity for possible partnerships. In addition, the exceptional technical resources and support of the United States Network speakers also opens up a wide range of possibilities for interested members.

Resources from each session are now available and include:

Session 1: United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia

- The detailed program and speakers (<https://www.iimhl.com/files/docs/20201223a.pdf>)
- A video recording ([IIDL Employment Innovations During COVID-19 \(US, AUS, NZ, CA\) - YouTube](#)) – please click on captioning if you wish to view them.

Session 2: United States, Ireland, England, Scotland, Sweden and Finland

- The detailed program and speakers (<https://www.iimhl.com/files/docs/20201223b.pdf>)
- A video recording ([IIDL Employment Innovations During COVID-19 \(EU, US, UK\) - YouTube](#)) - please click on captioning if you wish to view them.

Thanks to Ruby Moore and the Georgia Advocacy Office in the United States for assistance with the video captioning and Aisling Blackmore for assistance with editing.

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