You are invited to the International Indigenous Mental Health leadership and information exchange on September 9-10, 2019 in Washington DC Indigenous behavioral health leaders from the Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Greenland, and the U.S. are meeting in Washington DC at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian on September 9-10, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Indigenous thought leaders will share best practices on how to recruit, develop, support and sustain Indigenous mental health leadership.

We recognize that Indigenous communities carry both great strengths and trauma history. How do these positive and negative influences effect the recruitment and sustainability of new generations of Indigenous mental health leaders? What competencies are needed by today’s Indigenous mental health leaders to sustain their role as providers of meaningful care? How can we best support training, supervision, mentoring and coaching? The Indigenous leadership exchange will address the strengths and stresses of Indigenous mental health and explore ways to nurture our current and future Indigenous behavioral health workforce. The emphasis of this 2-day meeting will not be on the “what” (that is, the description of programs). Instead, the discussion will focus on the “how”. What ideas, understandings, steps, relationships, and actions were needed to move from the initial vision to implementation and sustainability?

Here’s how to register to attend the 2-day meeting Indigenous Mental Health Leadership Exchange at the Smithsonian tribal museum on September 9-10, 2019 (note: registration is free, but we regret that we are not able to cover any travel or lodging costs).

* **STEP 1** - Join [http://www.iimhl.com/iimhl-leadership-exchange-2019-washington.html#Join](http://www.iimhl.com/iimhl-leadership-exchange-2019-washington.html#Join) there is no charge to join IIMHL, you will be added to the IIMHL contact list)  

If the IIMHL website indicates that the Indigenous Exchange is full, please contact Holly Echo-Hawk and she will have the number of registration slots expanded. The Wharerātā Group is an international network of Indigenous leaders who work in the Indigenous mental health and addiction treatment fields. The Wharerātā Group is a partner of the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership. You are invited to attend the Wharerātā Group membership meeting at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Indigenous Mental Health Leadership exchange, and the Wharerātā Group meeting, are part of the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) and the Indigenous meetings occur prior to the convening of the larger IIMHL network. The IIMHL is a collaboration of nine countries: Australia, England, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Scotland, U.S. and Sweden. The IIMHL network meeting will occur on September 11-13 in Washington DC at the Capital Hilton Hotel. The IIMHL meeting will provide updates on global mental health initiatives and approaches, summaries of the topical leadership exchanges, and cultural presentations. The IIMHL network begins with an evening reception at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 and concludes Friday afternoon on September 13, 2019. Representatives from a total of 20 countries will attend the IIMHL convening at the
Capital Hilton hotel, which includes the U.S. state mental health commissioners, the Indigenous leaders, and leadership from the International Disabilities Initiative.

Your U.S. Indigenous Co-Hosts are Holly Echo-Hawk at echohawk@pacifier.com and Dolores Subia BigFoot, PhD., at Dee-Bigfoot@ouhsc.edu. We hope to see you next month in Washington DC! Please contact them with any questions.

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