

October 2015

To

Leslie J. Caplan, Ph.D.

Rehabilitation Program Specialist

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Ms Caplan

Please find attached a short report about the activities in Israel between 2008 – 2015 of the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation under the leadership of Dr Marianne Farkas.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Tessler-Lozowick

Director, Israel Affairs

Background

The Laszlo N. Tauber Foundation established its Israel branch in July 2007. The Foundation decided to focus its efforts on mental health in general and psychiatric rehabilitation in particular.

After mapping the mental health field, the Foundation decided to invest in the professionalization of people working in psychiatric rehabilitation since this field has been underdeveloped in Israel.

In order to maximize its impact, the Foundation developed an extensive network with all the major stakeholders in the mental health field, including government agencies, academic institutions and service providers.

To advance the state of art in training, the Foundation contacted in 2008 Prof Marianne Farkas of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Boston University. Since then, the Foundation has had an on-going working relationship with the Center in general and Prof Farkas in particular.

The main activities of the Center can be divided into four categories:

1. **Direct Training:** Direct training to mental health organizations and service providers; hospital staff; senior staff of the rehabilitation department in Ministry of Health; peers; families; senior counselors; senior management staff; training for faculty at Hebrew University; some of the trainings have been on a one-day basis, others have been ongoing and some of them still are.
2. **University courses:** Academic courses at Hebrew University (twice by Prof Farkas; an additional member of the Center taught one course) and at Ben Gurion University; additional courses have been scheduled at the University of Haifa and Bar-Ilan University.
3. **Key-note lectures at conferences and workshops:** Keynote lectures at four conferences sponsored by the Foundation; another lecture has been delivered at the National Rehabilitation Council.
4. **Consultations:** Consultations to a number of organizations and rehabilitation services; following requests from additional organizations, Prof Farkas is scheduled to provide consultations to more services and organizations during 2016.

Prof Farkas also assisted in **developing a research design** for assessing the effectiveness of a case-management service developed by the Foundation in cooperation with the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Department at the Ministry of Health.

The knowledge brought to Israel by Dr. Farkas and her staff was based on work done over the years through the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center's research and knowledge dissemination projects. The main topics taught were:

- **Recovery:** Prof Farkas provided the first systematic training of the recovery concept in Israel and since then has continued to expose many professionals working in the field to this concept, including policy makers, academics, service providers, supervisors, consumers, etc.
- **Consumer providers:** Sharing her vast experience with consumers, Prof Farkas empowered the consumer community in Israel to expand the scope of their work, discussed new ideas and concepts with them and supervised part of their initiatives.

- **Psychiatric Rehabilitation Case-management:** Prof Farkas provided a multi-year training for the staff of a new case-management service developed by the Foundation in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.
- **Leadership:** Through focused expert training, Prof. Farkas helped to develop potential leaders in the Psychiatric Rehabilitation field in Israel. Some of them received additional training during a field trip to Boston.
- **Supervision:** Prof Farkas delivered training to senior supervisors on the implementation of the recovery concept; she also taught how to promote organizational change in supported employment in order to adapt the organizational culture to the rehabilitation and recovery concept.
- **Psychiatric Rehabilitation readiness assessment and development:** With the help of Prof Farkas, the Foundation in cooperation with the Ministry of Health was able to "import" the "Readiness for Rehabilitation" intervention. Within a "training the trainers" program, Prof Farkas trained 7 senior professionals which have been certified by the Center in Boston University. Since then these trainers have trained dozens of staff members in different services all over the country.
- **Recovery process of family members:** In a one day-long training for staff and family members, Prof Farkas exposed them to the applicability of recovery also for families who have a member with a psychiatric disability; this training has been a first of its kind and we hope to continue it in the future.
- **Implementation of recovery in hospital based programs:** During her visits to Israel Prof. Marianne Farkas visited at least in 3 psychiatric hospitals to supervise the staff how to adjust the organizational culture in the hospitals along the lines of the recovery oriented concept.

Exposure & Impact

Throughout the years thousands of persons have been exposed and influenced by the expertise developed at the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation in general and Prof. Marianne Farkas in particular. Her expertise and clear way to convey knowledge to different audiences contributed and still contributes a lot to the effort of creating a more professional and human/person centered "system of care" based on the recovery concept. The impact of Prof. Marianne Farkas' work not only contributed to a shift in the way of thinking and attitude within the Israeli Mental Health and Rehabilitation systems, but also increased the level of competence among those who support persons in recovery, through increasing their skills in interventions based on the up to date and evidence-based knowledge in mental health.

The opportunities we have had with Prof. Marianne Farkas and the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation over the last the years contributed without doubt a lot to the Psychiatric Rehabilitation development in Israel and we hope that this will continue in the future.