



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 3:35 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1717 N. Indian Hill Blvd. # B, Claremont, California.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bloom called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A visual roll call was taken.

PRESENT:

Arny Bloom, Chair
Betsy MacLaren, Secretary
Paul Capraro
Cheryl Berezny
Donald R. Perez
Ashley Nielsen, MSW
Twila L. Stephens
Toni L. Watson

ABSENT:

Sylvia Whitlock, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Davetta Williams

STAFF:

Jesse H. Duff, Executive Director
Toni Navarro, LMFT, Director of Clinical Program Services
Rimmi Hundal, MHSA Manager
Dana Stein, PEI Program Coordinator
Donald Pruyn, Housing Project Manager
Mica Olmos, Executive Assistant

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 10, 2014 GOVERNING BOARD & MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION JOINT MEETING AND MHSA PUBLIC HEARING

There being no comment, Commissioner MacLaren moved, and Commissioner Watson seconded, to approve the Minutes of June 10, 2014. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, Capraro, MacLaren, Perez, Nielsen, Stephens, and Watson; and Chair Bloom. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Williams and Vice-Chair Whitlock.

II. PRESENTATION

Jamie Holes, Community Capacity Organizer, provided an update regarding Tri-City's *Room4Everyone* stigma reduction program. She reported that this week is the 40th Suicide Prevention Week nationally; therefore, Tri-City had partnered with 20 community groups to distribute materials for suicide prevention and distributed some of those materials to the Commission. She indicated that Tri-City's stigma reduction efforts focus internally, by making part of Tri-City's culture; in the community, Tri-City staff takes every opportunity to be visible with stigma reduction materials noting that 19 presentations have been done to the community; and through Courageous Minds Speakers Bureau who share their success stories of recovery. She also indicated that staff is currently working on the *Room4Everyone* stigma reduction campaign website wherein all materials and information will be available to help engage the community. She then talked about the Courageous Mind Speakers Bureau and the tremendous support that has developed amongst the group through the 3 cohorts and workshops that Tri-City has held. She then stated that a speaker from Courageous Minds was in attendance to share her story about hope, treatment, and help.

Alicia Torres, a 17 year old student and a Pomona resident, thanked the Commission for allowing her to share her story. She talked about her struggles with a mental illness since age 9, her coping mechanisms, her recovery, the importance of seeking help, and being thankful for being able to help others by sharing her story.

Commissioner MacLaren inquired about how stigma reduction is measured. Community Capacity Organizer Holes replied that research shows that it is very difficult to capture, and be able with evidence support, measurements of how stigma reduction over the long term is impactful; however, Tri-City is currently developing internally performance measures in RBA format; in addition, staff currently is distributing surveys to measure the stigma and get an understanding of what people's attitudes and beliefs are and use this information to shape how we capture data.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro added that staff strategically will ask people attending Tri-City's presentations to leave contact information; thereafter, follow-up with them in 45 days to collect data. She explained that any time further than 45 days, people may not want to participate with Tri-City's survey.

Commissioner Nielsen inquired what is the focus for the schools in stigma reduction. Community Capacity Organizer Holes replied that the focus is always to have access to students and teachers through presentations; however, access is not easy in all school districts. She also talked about CALMHSA projects such as "*In Our Shoes*" and "*Directing Change*" programs that promote mental health awareness amongst students.

Discussion ensued regarding the Speakers Bureau participants' diversity and how their presentations are tailored. Then, Community Capacity Organizer Holes introduced Araceli Aguirre, a Tri-City intern who is currently attending ULV, to talk about her partnership with Tri-City through volunteer work in PEI.

Araceli Aguirre, ULV student, talked about her volunteer work through the Psychology Chapter at ULV.

The Mental Health Commission thanked staff for their presentation.

III. REPORTS

Housing Project Manager Pruyn reported that the Cedar Springs project had been awarded a Federal tax credit allocation; that it will have a ground breaking event in January of 2015; and that it will be ready for occupancy in October 2015. He then talked about the Park Avenue Apartments project and said that the remodeling work is on schedule; that residents will move back in on October 7th; and that staff scheduled a tour of the property on October 1st, noting that there will be before/after pictures to appreciate the transformation. He also stated that the West Holt Apartment project by the Related Companies had been awarded Federal tax credits; that is expected to break ground in February 2015; and that the City of Pomona continues to ensure that the existing residents at the mobile home park are aware of their relocation benefits. He also reported that the Holt Avenue Family Apartments by Clifford Beers Housing has received informal notification that its Tax Credit Funding Application had been approved; that it anticipates breaking ground in March 2015; and that a revised Memorandum of Understanding will be presented to the Governing Board at its Meeting in October. Lastly, he stated he will recommend that the Garey Avenue Project be abandoned so that the property will be available for its original intended purpose of future expansion of the clinical facility; and that the remaining MHSA housing funds be allocated to an alternate project.

Discussion ensued regarding future use of the Garey Avenue property, parking related issues, and possible mitigating measures by Tri-City.

Executive Director Duff acknowledged Don Pruyn for his leadership of all housing projects. He then talked about Tri-City's Innovation Plan, stating that two of its programs were approved and one program will be revised and sent back to the delegates, Commission, and the Governing Board due to the significant changes. He also reported that Tri-City hosted a Housing Summit, a training session as part of the Landlords' Program under the PEI program. He said that Public Outreach & Housing Manager Gilbert Saldate had created a network of landlords, property owners, property management firms, and approximately 60 people attended the Housing Summit representing over 500 rental units. He then provided an Executive Director Recruitment status and reported that it is expected that the finalist will be appointed by the Governing Board at its November 19th Meeting.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Capraro thanked Tri-City staff, especially MSHA Manager Rimmi Hundal for the assistance provided during the AB 60 community meeting hosted by the Mexican Consulate.

Commissioner Perez stated that he became a peer member and has learned a lot about the Veterans group under the Peer-to-Peer Program from Jose Montenegro and Carolina Kennedy, whom are excellent for this program, noting that he had had an opportunity to visit the Veterans Resource Center at CalPoly Pomona Campus.

Commissioner Nielsen announced that a Caregiver Conference will take place on November 8, 2014 at the Goldy Lewis Community Center in Rancho Cucamonga. She then recognized an APU Social Work Student who was in attendance at the meeting.

Chair Bloom reported that he was happy to report that a back to school program, which was possible due to a Tri-City Grant, is about teachers teaching social skills to children. He then shared a message from Vice-Chair Whitlock wherein she stated that Director of Clinical Program Services Toni Navarro had attended a Rotary Meeting to speak about services offered through the Wellness Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:40 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of September 9, 2014 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on **Tuesday, October 14, 2014**, in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard #B, Claremont, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, Executive Assistant