



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
OCTOBER 14, 2014 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 3:34 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 3:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A visual roll call was taken.

PRESENT:

Arny Bloom, Chair
Sylvia Whitlock, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Cheryl Berezny
Ashley Nielsen, MSW
Donald R. Perez
Twila L. Stephens
Davetta Williams

ABSENT:

Paul Capraro
Betsy MacLaren, Secretary
Toni L. Watson

STAFF:

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

There being no comment, Commissioner Berezny moved, and Commissioner Nielsen seconded, to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2014. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, Nielsen, Perez, Stephens, and Williams; Vice-Chair Whitlock; and Chair Bloom. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Capraro, MacLaren and Watson.

II. PRESENTATION

Dana Stein, MSHA Projects Coordinator, talked about the MSHA stakeholders' process for Tri-City and stated that Tri-City would like to increase the number of stakeholders; therefore, staff did a lot of community outreach and reported that there are 20 current stakeholders that will be returning and approximately 40 persons that have expressed interest in becoming a stakeholder. She then announced that two stakeholder meetings had been scheduled in October, one that will be held in the evening and the other one in afternoon, in an effort to accommodate different schedules. She indicated that two things will be offered before the meeting: one, an orientation before the actual meeting; and a binder that will contain information such as definitions of acronyms, programs summaries, and Tri-City system of care information, noting that any paperwork distributed at each meeting can be incorporated in the binder. She then encouraged the Commission to participate.

Executive Director Duff stated that both stakeholder meetings will offer the same information; that they are simply being held at different times; and a person can choose either one to attend. Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro added that at the conclusion of the second meeting, Minutes of the meeting will be distributed to all stakeholders.

Chair Bloom expressed concern about reaching a consensus when there are two separate meetings. MSHA Projects Coordinator Stein stated that these two meetings are for information purposes and not for obtaining consensus. However, when the time comes to reach a consensus, then one meeting will be required.

Chair Bloom stated that the binder is a good idea and suggested to also distribute electronic copies of documents, such of the program summaries and the system of care diagram. Commissioner Nielsen concurred with Chair Bloom's comments noting that it would be very beneficial to have the information before the meeting in order to give critical thought on the feedback that a stakeholder will be giving at the meeting.

MHSA Manager Hundal stated that it is not too late to sign up to become a stakeholder and to participate in the stakeholder meeting.

Chair Bloom inquired if Tri-City will be looking for representation of various agencies such as school districts. MHSA Project Coordinator Stein replied in the affirmative, noting that currently there is good representation; however, there are few areas where there could be more representation and staff is focusing on those areas. She also encouraged the Commission to let her know if they are aware of an underserved community group so that Tri-City can reach out to them.

Chair Bloom encouraged the rest of the Commission Members to participate in the stakeholders meetings, stating that it is a great process and give the opportunity to provide input. MHSA Project Coordinator Stein added that it would be great to participate only in the four stakeholders meetings if there is no time to participate in the various workgroups.

The Mental Health Commission thanked staff for their presentation.

III. REPORTS

Housing Project Manager Pruyn reported that the Cedar Springs project will have a ground breaking event in January 2015; that the County decided to put operating Section 8 Vouchers instead of cash in the reserve fund and this decision caused concern regarding the county not accepting the definition of “at risk of homelessness” which is a MHSA requirement; however, it was resolved and eight units will still be available to Tri-City’s clients. He then said that the West Holt Apartment project by the Related Companies has received all entitlements from the City of Pomona; and that is currently going through the process of relocating the historical house to a City owned property. He also reported that the Tax Credit Funding Application was denied to Clifford Beers Housing for the Holt Avenue Family Apartments project because they did not have enough outside funding as other competitors; therefore, in order to be competitive staff suggested increasing Tri-City’s contribution from 2.5 million to 2.7 million; and to contribute the Park Avenue Apartment property as a scattered joint site so that the value of the property can be used as additional outside funding, noting that it will relieve Tri-City of the burden and liability of owning and operating this facility since it will be taken over by Clifford Beers. He then stated that all residents have moved back in the Park Avenue Apartments; and that RKA Engineering continues to work with the City of Pomona and the PUSD to find a solution to the Garey property easement issue.

Executive Director Duff reported that on the last week of August, the Tri-City executive team met with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health management team to talk about issues that needed to be resolved; that most issues were resolved; and that next steps were agreed to address unresolved matters. He then stated that the NAMI Walks took place last Saturday at the Grand Park in Los Angeles, noting that Tri-City staff played an important part as they were responsible for pedestrian safety; that Tri-City staff donated \$3,000; and that Tri-City’s shirt design won 2nd place. He then thanked those Commission Members that were able to attend the Park Avenue Apartments Open House. Lastly, he stated that staff had been working on a comprehensive report to the community about Tri-City services which will be published in November. He explained that one of the concerns in the past was how many people actually read the report regardless if it was widely distributed; therefore, the delivery system will be different this year through a full wrap of the Daily Bulletin to be delivered only in Pomona, La Verne, and Claremont. He indicated the newspaper wrap will be a more effective distribution and the Daily Bulletin will provide Tri-City 1,000 copies of the wrap so that staff can distribute during Tri-City’s community events.

Commissioner Nielsen inquired whether the report will be published on the weekend or during the week. MHSA Manager Hundal stated that the report will be published on the weekend since that is when the newspaper wraps are published.

Executive Director Duff also announced that the Holiday Luncheon will take place on Thursday, December 4th starting 12 noon at the Double Tree Hotel in Claremont. He then provided an Executive Director Recruitment status stating that there had been an initial interview board who interviewed six semifinalist applicants; that the results were presented to the Governing Board and they selected three finalists whom will be interviewed on Thursday, October 30th and make a selection; that the employment contract will be presented to the Governing Board for approval and the new Executive Director will be appointed at its November Meeting; and that the new Executive Director is expected to commence work anytime between November and January.

Commissioner Nielsen inquired how long Executive Director Jesse Duff had been working for Tri-City and what are the three top concerns with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

Executive Director Duff stated that he has been with Tri-City since July 2007; and that the concerns with the LAC DMH had always been financial since it is important to have a stable predictable revenue source, but it is hard to predict when money will be received from LAC DMH. Another concern is the Affordable Care Act, its implementation, and the coordination between the LA County health care providers and Tri-City, noting that it is a very complex and convoluted system.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Stephens reported that Dawn of Amy's Farms had been informed that eminent domain was going to be enforced and the property was going to be taken over by the City; therefore, she inquired if Tri-City has been discussing a new location for the community garden.

Executive Director Duff stated that Tri-City staff had not been notified of such issue, noting that eminent domain is not an overnight process or a certainty; nevertheless, Tri-City staff is always looking for additional sites in anticipation of continuous growth, noting that staff had already been in discussions with the Fairplex for use of their farm grounds and have indicated that Tri-City may be able to use them in the future. He added that there is also the option of Tri-City purchasing property so that it can be owned and operated by Tri-City. He then thanked Commissioner Stephens for the information provided. He also indicated that the City likes the garden; however, they would like the structure that burned down rebuilt.

Commissioner Stephens also reported that the Pomona Housing Authority has launched the latest round of their resident advisory board and that its meetings will start next month, noting that she will be part of that board and encouraged everyone to advise her of any concerns so that she can bring to the table.

Commissioner Dr. Whitlock stated that community gardens have become a great part of school experiences for kids, noting that she has seen a real good one in San Diego; therefore, one should be considered for children locally in the future.

Commissioner Nielsen stated that there still are 20 spots available at the Family Caregivers Conference at the Senior Center in the City of Rancho Cucamonga.

Chair Bloom stated that when he is asked about housing, he usually refers them to Tri-City's community navigators; however, he was not sure if they were able to provide housing information. Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro replied in the affirmative as persons seeking housing information are referred to the housing division. Chair Bloom stated that he would like to know more about housing so that he can provide better information. Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro stated that it sounds like a great community presentation for the Commission, as well as having presentations semiannually by Gilbert Saldate, Public Outreach & Housing Manager, specifically for families at school districts.

Commissioner Nielsen inquired about how loose or strict Tri-City is regarding referrals for housing or community resources, wanting to know what type of requirements such of residency status or affiliations are needed in order to receive services.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro explained that services and housing referrals are two different things; thus, for formal clinical services recipients need to be residents of the three cities and they have to meet the specialty mental health criteria. She added that Tri-City does not provide housing assistance in the outpatient services; only with the FSP program because it has a flex fund that helps supplement rental or moving costs. However, anybody can access the community navigators to obtain housing referrals or some kind of advocacy assistance, noting that they do not have to be a client, be eligible for any of Tri-City services, or even have access to any of our services. She added that in order to receive the Shelter Plus Care voucher with the housing division, a person must be a client.

Commissioner Nielsen inquired how Tri-City partners with other community entities to provide holistic mental health services, and how people are referred when having substance abuse issues but not a mental health issue, being shelter-less but not homeless, and not having transportation.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro stated that Tri-City partner with Prototypes, ARC, National Council on Alcohol and other drugs, and the Network which is other providers in addition to those who are primary substance abuse treatment providers. She explained that Tri-City is also able to access the Community Assessment Service Centers (CASC) system that acts as the entry point for anyone seeking alcohol, or other drug treatment, and provides information and referrals on a wide variety of supportive services. The CASC is federally funded and composed of contracted community-based organizations with a network of substance abuse prevention and other drug treatment agencies, mental health providers, and domestic violence agencies that are located throughout the County.

Commissioner Nielsen inquired how Tri-City engages their community partners and asked for a presentation where those community partners can provide their perspective on how services are being delivered.

Executive Director Duff stated that Tri-City staff holds lunch-n-learn meetings for providers wherein Tri-City provides lunch, the program, and there is a lot of sharing of information that takes place; however, not everyone chooses to attend and participate. Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro added that integrated care is really much harder than it sounds, especially when there is too much turmoil due to the Affordable Care Act and the changes that is bringing to all the different providers in the area, noting that it is very difficult to keep them engaged. She also said that there is a monthly meeting and will ask Mark to put this on the agenda and present to them that the Commission is interested in hearing about how ICP is doing and ask partners if they are open to attend a Commission meeting to make a presentation.

Commissioner Dr. Whitlock thanked Tri-City staff for attending her church and engaging in a dialogue with the homeless there, noting that she really appreciated it.

Discussion ensued regarding Tri-City's efforts to bridge the gap between those people that do not qualify for its services.

Commissioner Perez inquired about the Cal Poly Veterans Resource Center having a site off campus at the Wellness Center. Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro stated that she will get that information and bring it back at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Nielsen recognized two APU Social Work Interns whom were in attendance to learn what Tri-City is doing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:24 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of October 14, 2014 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on **Tuesday, November 11, 2014**, in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard #B, Claremont, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, Executive Assistant