



## MISSION

*By understanding the needs of consumers and families, Tri-City provides high quality, culturally competent behavioral health care treatment, prevention and education in the diverse cities of Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne.*

## TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION AGENDA

OCTOBER 11, 2022  
3:30 p.m.

### MEETING LOCATION

There will be no in-person public meeting location. On September 16, 2021, the Legislature amended the Brown Act provisions regarding teleconferencing through Assembly Bill No. 361, codified under Government Code § 54953. Accordingly, the Mental Health Commission will hold this public meeting via teleconference and the public seeking to observe and to address the Mental Health Commission may participate telephonically or otherwise electronically.

To join the Mental Health Commission meeting click on the following link:

<https://tricitymhs-org.zoom.us/j/84938842284?pwd=dXM2QW5JdVZ3NXB4emVoT3FXMWRDZz09>

Passcode: Xt7Yr8?w

Or Telephone: 1-213-338-8477

Webinar ID: 849 3884 2284

Passcode: 51717365

*Posting of Agenda. The Agenda is posted 72 hours prior to each meeting at the following Tri-City locations: Clinical Facility, 2008 N. Garey Avenue in Pomona; Wellness Center, 1403 N. Garey Avenue in Pomona; Royalty Offices, 1900 Royalty Drive #180/280 in Pomona; MHSA Office, 2001 N. Garey Avenue in Pomona; and on the Tri-City's website: <http://www.tricitymhs.org>*

*Public Participation. Section 54954.3 of the Brown Act provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Mental Health Commission on any item of interest to the public, before or during the consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Mental Health Commission. **The public can make a comment during the meeting by using the 'raised hand' feature, or by calling in, if they wish to address a particular agenda item or to make a general comment on a matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Mental Health Commission. The Chair will call on the member of the public at the appropriate time and allow the person to provide live comment. The public can also submit a comment by writing an email to [molmos@tricitymhs.org](mailto:molmos@tricitymhs.org).** All email messages received by 1:30 p.m. will be shared with the Mental Health Commission before the meeting. If you wish to speak on a matter which is not on the agenda, you will be given the opportunity to do so at the Public Comment section. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the Agenda. The Chair reserves the right to place limits on duration of comments. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by Tri-City Mental Health Authority to all or a majority of the Mental Health Commission less than 72 hours prior to this meeting are available for public inspection at <http://www.tricitymhs.org>*

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Henderson calls the meeting to Order.

## **ROLL CALL**

Anne Henderson – *Chair*  
Wray Ryback – *Vice-Chair*  
Carolyn Cockrell – GB Liaison  
Clarence D. Cernal

Isabella A. Chavez  
Nichole Perry  
Joan M. Reyes  
Twila L. Stephens

Alfonso Villanueva  
David J. Weldon  
Toni L. Watson

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **I. APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT TELECONFERENCING REQUIREMENTS DURING A PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY UNDER AB 361 (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953)**

Recommendation: “A motion to ask the Executive Director, or designee, to perform all actions necessary to implement the Brown Act provisions regarding teleconferencing in compliance with Government Code § 54953.”

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

### **III. PRESENTATION**

- A. “RECOVERY MOMENTS” STORY
- B. OVERVIEW OF PSYCHIATRIC ASSESSMENT CARE TEAM (PACT) PROGRAM

### **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT**

## **COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Commissioners are encouraged to provide comments or ask questions about the community’s mental health needs, services, facilities and special problems. In addition, this is an opportunity to provide reports on their activities.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Public may speak regarding any Tri-City related issue. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the Agenda. The Chair reserves the right to place limits on duration of comments.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on **Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.** via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MICAELA P. OLMOS  
JPA ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK



**Tri-City Mental Health Authority  
AGENDA REPORT**

**DATE:** October 11, 2022

**TO:** Mental Health Commission of Tri-City Mental Health Authority

**FROM:** Rimmi Hundal, Executive Director

**BY:** Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

**SUBJECT:** Approval to Implement Teleconferencing Requirements during a Proclaimed State of Emergency Under AB 361 (Government Code Section 54953)

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Summary:

On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) relaxed the masking requirement for unvaccinated individuals; however, it did not lift the state of emergency. The following day, Cal-OSHA announced its intent to mirror CDPH's recommendations except in certain industries, such as healthcare settings. Per Cal-OSHA regulations, masking will continue to be required in healthcare settings until further notice. Accordingly, Tri-City Mental Health Authority must follow Cal-OSHA requirements.

Therefore, TCMHA will continue to hold virtual meetings per Assembly Bill No. 361 (AB 361) enacted on September 16, 2021, which amended the Brown Act by waiving certain provisions regarding teleconferencing; and effectively authorizing public agencies to hold its public meetings via teleconference under a proclaimed state of emergency which makes it unsafe to meet in person, provided that it allows the public, seeking to observe and to address the legislative body, to participate in real time telephonically or an internet-based service option during a virtual meeting; and the legislative body makes additional findings every 30 days in order to continue such teleconferencing pursuant to AB 361.

Background

The Ralph M. Brown Act requires that all meetings of a legislative or advisory body of a local agency be open and public and that any person may attend and participate in such meetings; and allows for legislative bodies to hold meetings by teleconference, but imposes the following requirements for doing so:

1. The public agency must give notice of each teleconference location from which a member will be participating in a public meeting.
2. Each teleconference location must be specifically identified in the meeting notice and agenda, including full address and room number.
3. Each teleconference location must be accessible to the public.

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4. Members of the public must be able to address the body at each teleconference location.

On March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-29-20, suspending the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements (enumerated above) in order to address the need for public meetings during the present public health emergency (COVID-19) and allow legislative and advisory bodies to meet virtually as long as certain notice and accessibility requirements were met; and on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-8-21 continuing the suspension of the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements through September 30, 2021.

On September 16, 2021, the State Legislature amended the Brown Act through Assembly Bill No. 361 (AB 361), codified under Government Code § 54953, waiving certain provisions of the Brown Act in order to allow local agencies to continue to meet using teleconferencing without complying with the regular teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act when a legislative or advisory body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and it unsafe to meet in person.

In addition, Government Code section 54953 adds new procedures and clarifies the requirements for conducting remote (virtual) meetings, including the following:

- Public Comment Opportunities in Real Time – a legislative or advisory body that meets remotely pursuant to AB 361, must allow members of the public to access the meeting via a call-in option or an internet-based service option, and the agenda for the remote meeting must provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the body in real time. A legislative body cannot require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting.
- No Action During Disruptions – in the event of a disruption that prevents the local agency from broadcasting the remote meeting, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, AB 361 prohibits the legislative body from taking any further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access is restored.
- Periodic Findings – Government Code § 54953(e)(B) requires the legislative body to hold a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risk to the health or safety of attendees.

The Commission must make these findings no later than 30 days after the first teleconferenced meeting is held after September 30, 2021, and must also make these findings every 30 days thereafter, in order to continue to allow teleconference accessibility for conducting public meetings (Government Code § 54953(e)(3).) AB 361 will sunset on January 1, 2024.

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Tri-City Mental Health Authority (TCMHA) has already implemented the above stated requirements for conducting public meetings and is in full compliance with AB 361, thus there will be no change of the currently established procedures. Teleconference accessibility is available via call-in option or through via RingCentral Webinars platform (internet-based service option) and both the telephone number and meeting link are listed on the published agenda for each meeting as well as on TCMHA's website.

The JPA Administrator/Clerk monitors public comment submitted via email correspondence (as published on the agenda); and designated staff monitors comment via teleconference throughout each public meeting and provides access for public comment opportunities in real time both verbally (via call-in or by using the 'raised hand' feature) and in writing (in the 'chat' and 'Q & A' options.)

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Mental Health Commission (MHC) of Tri-City Mental Health Authority finds, determines, and declares by a majority of vote, the following:

1. That a state of emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19 still exists and continues to impact the ability of members of the Mental Health Commission, Tri-City staff, and public to meet safely in person.
2. The State of California and the TCMHA continue to follow safety measures in response to COVID-19 as ordered or recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health (DPH), California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA), and/or County of Los Angeles, as applicable, including facial coverings when required and social distancing.
3. That the MHC will make these findings every 30 days in order to continue such teleconferencing pursuant to AB 361.
4. That, pursuant to the findings listed in this Report, the Executive Director or her designee, continue to utilize teleconferencing accessibility to conduct MHC meetings and implement teleconference requirements in compliance with AB 361 (Stats. 2021, ch. 165) and Government Code § 54953 (as amended), effective immediately.

Attachments:

None.



## **MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 3:33 p.m. via teleconference pursuant to Government Code § 54953, which allows the continuation to hold meetings without gathering in a room in an effort to minimize the spread and mitigate the effects of COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease of 2019).

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** Roll call was taken by JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos.

**PRESENT:** Anne Henderson, Chair  
Clarence D. Cernal (joined the meeting at 3:54 p.m.)  
Nichole Perry  
Joan M. Reyes  
Twila L. Stephens  
Alfonso “Al” Villanueva  
David J. Weldon (joined the meeting at 3:39 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** Carolyn Cockrell, GB Member Liaison  
Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair  
Isabella A. Chavez  
Toni L. Watson

**STAFF:** Rimmi Hundal, Executive Director  
Liz Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer  
Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services  
Ken Riomales, Chief Information Officer  
Deborah Johnson, Children’s Program Manager  
Lisa Naranjo, MHSA Program Supervisor-PEI  
Erin Sapinoso, Program Analyst II -Grants  
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Item No. III was taken out of Order.

### **III. PRESENTATION**

#### **A. “RECOVERY MOMENTS” STORY**

Diana Robertson shared that she arrived at Tri-City’s Wellness Center in a dire situation and broken; that she suffered and struggled with her youngest daughter, which caused her to isolate because she was feeling unsafe being around anybody; and expressed gladness and gratitude

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for staff at the Wellness Center who reached out to her, and for providing transportation and a safe environment, and for treating her with respect, which helped her to her recovery.

The Commission thanked Ms. Robertson for sharing her story of recover.

At 3:39 p.m., Commissioner David Weldon joined the meeting.

## **B. SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

Lisa Naranjo, MHSA Supervisor –PEI, stated that Brittany Nguyen is the organizer of all the events and activities for this month; that September is National Suicide Prevention Month and talked about the related information available on Tri-City's website. She indicated that Suicide prevention week was from September 4th-10th; that World Suicide Prevention Day was on 9/10 across the nation; and that CalMHSA is leading the efforts of California's Initiative 'Know the Signs' across California with this year's theme 'Thriving At All Ages'; and encouraged those who are struggling, or if they know someone is struggling with suicide thoughts, to reach out and to visit this website section. She then announced that on September 29th a Directing Change film screening, which are 30-second Public Service Announcements (PSA) on suicide prevention, will take place to honor and recognize students from the three cities schools who had video submissions last year, noting that they had done a great job and have received awards and recognition throughout the State. She also stated that in the past few years there was a lot going on and unfortunately, someone might be supporting someone who is really struggling with their mental health challenges, and should be aware of the resources all year long, including the three-digit emergency response for mental health crisis, 988, which launched on September 17th.

Discussion ensued about the PSAs on suicide prevention created by students and about the Directing Change program.

Commissioner Villanueva inquired if research shows that there have been an increase on attempted suicides. MHSA Supervisor Naranjo stated that unfortunately, there has been an increase of suicides, and not just in California, also across the nation.

Commissioner Reyes referred to the 988 Suicide and Crisis hotline and inquired if there have been any decrease in suicides. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated that within the first month of implementation, there was a forty-five percent increase in people accessing the 988 crisis hotline over the old ten-digit telephone number hotline.

At 3:54 p.m. Commissioner Clarence Cernal joined the meeting.

## **I. APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT TELECONFERENCING REQUIREMENTS DURING A PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY UNDER AB 361 (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953)**

There being no comment, Commissioner Villanueva moved, and Commissioner Reyes seconded, to ask the executive director, or designee, to perform all actions necessary to implement the Brown Act provisions regarding teleconferencing in compliance with Government Code § 54953. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Cernal, Perry, Reyes, Stephens, Villanueva, and Weldon; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Chavez and Watson; and Vice-Chair Ryback.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 12, 2022 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

There being no comment, Commissioner Reyes moved, and Commissioner Cernal seconded, to approve the Minutes of the July 12, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Cernal, Perry, Reyes, Stephens, Villanueva, and Weldon; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Chavez and Watson; and Vice-Chair Ryback.

## **III. PRESENTATION**

### **C. COVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORTS:**

- 1. CRISIS CARE MOBILE UNITS (CCMU) GRANT**
- 2. MENTAL HEALTH STUDENT SERVICES ACT (MHSSA) GRANT**

Erin Sapinoso, Program Analyst II, announced that she and Children's Programs Manager Deborah Johnson, would provide an overview of both of the Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) and Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) Grants. She stated that in March 2022, Tri-City authorized to accept the CCMU grant and received a one-time Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000) dollars Planning Grant from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to engage in a planning process, indicating that the focus of this grant was to provide mobile behavioral health crisis services to prevent and divert involvement in the criminal justice system for individuals ages twenty-five and younger. She then stated that also back in March 2022, Tri-City authorized to accept a MHSSA grant; that the State of California's Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) initially granted Tri-City \$3.8 million dollars; however, granted earlier this year an additional \$1.03 million dollars, totaling \$4.8 million from the MHSOAC; that this grant is a four-year planning and implementation Grant project for children, youth and young adults, and also to foster school and community partnerships to provide access to mental health services where they feel comfortable, such at the schools sites, noting that the three school districts and charter schools, are Tri-City's major partners for this Grant project. She stated that Tri-City contracted Consultant Octopod Solutions to facilitate community stakeholder engagement, which was required under the grants, and explained the engagement process and mentioned the target groups that participated.

Deborah Johnson, Children's Program Manager, reported that Consultant Octopod Solutions wrote a final report about the community stakeholder engagement for each of the two Grants which included finding major themes, key findings, what works and does not work, potential initiatives, and plausible next steps, noting that these reports will be posted in Tri-City's Website. She then discussed some of the themes, such as difficulty navigating the mental health system and crisis response; mental health systems and services need to be more inclusive and accessible to provide culturally competent services and response; efforts to reduce stigma and criminalization around in mental health and behavioral health crisis; and location-based and co-located peer support programs and services. Accordingly, Tri-City has been having partner meetings, continuing to collect data, and has met with other grantees, stating that discussions include assessing how the landscape/community looks, what resources there are, where gaps exist, and how to utilize these grants to help improve these findings; and shared that design of project plans are in progress with community partners and internal Tri-City staff.



Commissioner Villanueva congratulated staff for doing this good work. He then talked about his professional life working with the Department of the Youth Authority.

Discussion ensued about how information was collected during the community stakeholder engagements to get the findings for the major themes, specifically the reduction of stigma and criminalization for youth experiencing crisis.

Commissioner Villanueva inquired if any of the grant money will be used for implementation. Program Analyst Sapinoso indicated that there are two separate grants: 1) the CCMU is a \$200,000 dollars grant, which was solely for the planning process and is ending in February 2023; and 2) the MHSSA grant, which includes \$50,000 dollars to be used specifically for planning, and the balance of more than \$4 million dollars will be used for implementation over the four years of the grant project.

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria announced that staff will come back and share the progress as this further develops, noting that staff is in the hiring phase for the MHSSA part; that it has been a whole team effort; and expressed being proud of the work that our community has done under these grants.

#### **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT**

Executive Director Hundal stated that National Suicide Prevention Awareness month is so important because it honors the lives of the people who have been successful, and to recognize that it is preventable. She then referred the Commission to the list of events in her Report that Tri-City is hosting during the month of September. She also shared that Hispanic Heritage month will begin on Thursday, noting that it is a nationwide celebration that honors the cultural contributions, achievements, and identities of Hispanic and Latinx people in the United States, and that Tri-City's DEI Committee will be hosting events to celebrate. She then reported that Tri-City is well on its way of implementing a new Electronic Health Record system, noting that staff are doing very well during this difficult change with the help of the leadership team. She also reported that during the last two months she has attended several community events; has met with the City Managers of the three cities to discuss mental health and their needs, and will continue to meet on a quarterly basis; that she has future appointments with the Police Chiefs; that she attended a local NAMI meeting; and that she, Liz Renteria, and Dana Barford presented on suicide prevention and awareness to the Police Commission of Claremont, in partnership with Moms Demand Action, noting it was well received.

#### **COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Commissioner Villanueva shared that he met with Executive Director Hundal, and thanked her for answering all the questions he had, and about the Commission goals that he was not able to hear during the last meeting because his computer went dead.

Commissioner Reyes inquired about the status of the Data Notebook. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford announced that staff is ready to get started, noting that the QI department is ready to join and help with the research; that she will send an email to check schedules of Ad Hoc committee members, and start meeting and reviewing the Data Notebook, and explained that with the launch of Cerner, QI staff was busy in September.

Executive Director Hundal announced that Ken Riomales, Chief Information Officer, has given his resignation citing personal reasons, and today was his last meeting; that Brian Cesario will assume the role of a lead in the IT department until the hiring of a new director; and thanked Mr. Riomales for his service at Tri City, and stated that it was a pleasure working with him.

Chief Information Officer Riomales stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to be part of the Tri-City team, and he wished the best to the agency, the community, and the Mental Health Commission.

The Mental Health Commission thanked Chief Information Officer Riomales for all his help and services provided to Tri-City, and wished him good luck in your further endeavors.

Executive Director Hundal introduce Brian Cesario and stated that they both started their careers at Tri-City together; that Brian has gone through two EHR implementations at Tri City, has helped with a lot of big IT projects, and has been instrumental in making us move with the times.

Brian Cesario, IT Systems Administrator & Security Officer, stated that he has attended many Mental Health Commission Meetings and Governing Board Meetings as support; that looks forward to working with the Commission; and that he is happy to help keep improving things at Tri-City.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:24 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of September 13, 2022 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. via teleconference pursuant to Government Code § 54953.

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Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk



### **III. PRESENTATION**

A. "RECOVERY MOMENTS" STORY

Presenter: Stephanie Contreras, Clinical Therapist I

B. OVERVIEW OF PSYCHIATRIC ASSESSMENT CARE TEAM (PACT) PROGRAM

Presenter: Shawn Smith, Crisis/Medication Support Manager



## Tri-City Mental Health Authority MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** October 11, 2022

**TO:** Mental Health Commission of Tri-City Mental Health Authority

**FROM:** Rimmi Hundal, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Monthly Report

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### **MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK**

The first week of October is dedicated to Mental Illness Awareness Week by recognizing mental health conditions and the unique challenges that come when these conditions intersect with everyday life. During the week of October 3-9, Tri-City launched a social media campaign focusing on bringing awareness to mental illness and how it affects everyone directly or indirectly through family, friends, or coworkers.

### **PEER CERTIFICATION**

Tri-City is very excited to support peers that we have on staff as they work on becoming officially certified as Certified Peer Specialists through the process established by the California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) and administered through California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA). This is such an exciting opportunity, which will allow for the vital work that our peers do to be counted as billable for Medi-Cal and to give them the recognition that they so richly deserve.

There are currently two tracks for becoming a Certified Peer Specialist for Tri-City Mental Health:

1. Staff members that have worked for Tri-City and have already been approved, completed online training using our Relias online learning platform and additional trainings as needed. Those participants received a "grandfathered" scholarship. Their names were submitted to the Workforce Education and Training Supervisor to be sent for eligibility in the scholarship. Those participants will take an examination in a space designated in a Tri-City facility for this purpose, and will be certified upon successful completion of this examination.
2. New staff, and eligible participants and volunteers can also become Certified Peer Specialists. Their names will be submitted to the Workforce Education and Training Supervisor. Upon successful acceptance into the program, whether or not they receive a scholarship, they will undergo an 80 hour training course by an institution approved by CalMHSA. They will then need to pass the certification examination in order to be certified.

## **MHSA MANAGER**

Tri-City staff are actively recruiting to fill the MHSA Manager position. This person is responsible for providing project management of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) planning and implementation process as well as oversee the development and drafting of MHSA Annual Updates, Three-Year Plan Updates, and all new MHSA program proposals. Interviews are scheduled to begin the week of October 10th with the goal of filling the position by the end of October.