



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 11, 2014 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 11, 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
Sylvia Whitlock, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Betsy MacLaren, Secretary
Cheryl Berezny
Donald R. Perez
Toni L. Watson
Davetta Williams

ABSENT: Paul Capraro
Ashley Nielsen, MSW
Twila L. Stephens

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 14, 2014 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Whitlock referred the 4th paragraph on page four, and stated that the word "*certainly*" should be "*certainty*". Revisions to the Minutes were made as requested. There being no further comments, Commissioner Whitlock moved, and Commissioner Perez seconded, to approve the Minutes of October 14, 2014. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, MacLaren, Perez, Watson, and Williams; Vice-Chair Whitlock; and Chair Bloom. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Capraro, Nielsen, and Stephens.

II. PRESENTATION

Gilbert Saldate, Public Outreach & Housing Manager, distributed information regarding the Project Homeless Connect which Tri-City takes the lead along with 50 other non-profit organizations and is sponsored by the City of Pomona. He then provided an overview of the Landlords' Program under the PEI Program and stated that it was designed to engage landlords and service providers to create a safe and comfortable living environment; and to simply find housing for individuals and families that always have had the difficulty of finding affordable housing or having difficulty due to behavioral issues. He indicated that staff sees the difficulty on placing Tri-City clients into housing which is a key element for recovery; therefore, it was important to build a relationship with landlords. He noted that the Landlords' Program offers a 7-week training that covers topics such as landlords expectations; and educating tenants about their rights and responsibilities, how to maintain a clean and safe home and how to become a good neighbor. He added that the program helps landlords understand mental health, reduce stigma and discrimination that can take place in housing. Lastly, we talked about how many persons have been helped through the Landlord's Program and reported that its budget for FY 2013-14 was \$121,273 and 988 people served; thus, it cost approximately \$122 per person to help stabilize housing, maybe prevent evictions, or get into housing and continue with the skills for self-sufficiency.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro added that anyone who calls for housing assistance is referred to the housing division. Public Outreach & Housing Manager Saldate then indicated that staff keeps an updated rental listing and available for anyone that asks for it.

Commissioner Watson inquired if the 7-week landlord program training was open to any landlord or if it is only for those landlords that accept Section 8 housing vouchers. Public Outreach & Housing Manager Saldate replied that the training is for any landlord in the Tri-City area that wants to participate and learn about mental health.

Chair Bloom inquired if Public Outreach & Housing Manager Saldate could be available to make an hour presentation at his school district regarding how staff works with Tri-City clients and non-clients in helping them with housing issues. Mr. Saldate replied in the affirmative.

Commissioner Perez inquired if the housing assistance provided is throughout the Tri-City area. Public Outreach & Housing Manager Saldate replied in the affirmative.

Commissioner MacLaren sought clarification regarding the value of the voucher and the cost of rent. Public Outreach & Housing Manager Saldate stated that the vouchers are usually \$100 to \$150 less than the cost of rent as a result of rent increases and the federal government reducing cost. However, due to engaging and establishing working relationships with landlords, staff has been able to find housing at a reduced cost.

The Mental Health Commission thanked Public Outreach & Housing Manager Saldate for his presentation.

III. REPORTS

Housing Project Manager Pruyn reported that the Cedar Springs project will have a ground breaking ceremony in January 29, 2015; and that an MOU with David and Margaret and A Community of Friends is currently being developed for the approval of the Governing Board. He then said that the West Holt Apartment project by the Related Companies has an anticipated groundbreaking on March 1, 2015; that they are in the process of relocating approximately 21 families that currently reside on the property and anticipate completing it by January 2015; and that the historical house located on the site is going through the environmental review process by the relocation site. He also indicated that all residents have been moved back at the Park Avenue Apartments; that it has five tenants and it is approaching full occupancy; and that the loan for the rehabilitation will be forgiven if Tri-City complies during 10 years with the requirements of the loan. He then said that Clifford Beers Housing decided to submit the Holt Avenue Family Apartments project for tax credit finance; however, it was not awarded due to its low outside funding; that 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; that to minimize the risk of donating the property, any donation will require a 55-year commitment to reserve all 8 units for Tri-City clients; and that the donation wouldn't occur until the Notice of Completion for the Holt project is filed.

Commissioner Watson inquired if the total contribution value would be over \$3 million. Housing Project Manager Pruyn replied that it would be approximately \$3.5 million. He added that RKA Engineering continues to work with the City of Pomona and the PUSD to find a solution to the Garey property easement issue. Lastly, he indicated that the purchase option that Clifford Beers Housing has on the Holt property expires in 10 days; therefore, they can buy the property or negotiate an extension on the purchase option, noting that staff prefers that they purchase the property. Executive Director Duff stated that if Clifford Beers Housing walks away from the property, there have been conversations with other nonprofit developers that might be interested on the project. Housing Project Manager Pruyn indicated that the property has entitlements from the City of Pomona and they stay with the property, not the owner; therefore, anyone that buys the property will have the same rights to develop.

Executive Director Duff then reported that the MHSA process had begun and that Tri-City has 42 new stakeholders; that the two meetings held at different times, afternoon and evening, was well received; and that the process will be completed by May 2015. He then stated that Tri-City staff will participate in the Pomona Holiday Parade to be held on December 6th and encouraged the Commission to attend and also reminded them that Tri-City's holiday party will take place on December 4th. Lastly, he stated that Tri-City' Report to the Community, which will discuss the progress and the new programs of Tri-City's system of care, will be published in the Daily Bulletin as a wrap; that the distribution will be limited to Pomona, La Verne, and Claremont on the 2nd weekend in December; and that Tri-City will receive 1,000 prints.

Commissioner Perez inquired if the Community Report can be posted on the website. Staff replied in the affirmative.

Executive Director Duff reported that an employment agreement for the new executive director will be presented to the Board the following Wednesday; that the new executive director will commence work on December 8th; and that he will continue to work on the transition from December 8th through December 31st.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro announced that next Wednesday the Governing Board will be approving her employment contract to be Tri-City's new executive director; that she was beyond honored and excited for the new role; and that she looks forward to working with the Commission in her new capacity.

The Commission congratulated Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro for being selected the new executive director.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

MSHA Manager Hundal reported that she, along with a community navigator and the PEI Program Supervisor, met with Elke Azpeitia the person in charge of the Cal Poly Veterans Resource Center, noting that Ms. Azpeitia expressed support for Tri-City's idea and that she would love to work with us; that due to being midterm season, further discussion will be postponed until January; that Ms. Azpeitia suggested Tri-City staff having a focus group at Cal Poly to determine the biggest need and then implement a program at the Wellness Center to meet that need; that Ms. Azpeitia said that their biggest need was to develop a service dog training program to train the dogs of the Veterans; and that staff is currently working on finding a partner in the community to provide this service.

Commission Perez stated that this is exciting news as well as he having more involvement with the veterans community. Discussion ensued regarding efforts to engage female veterans.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro announced that this year Commissioner Toni Watson has been named the outstanding community partner to Tri-City and that she will be recognized at the Holiday Party on December 4th. She noted that in the past year, Commissioner Watson had been actively involved almost in every aspect of Tri-City services ranging from the integrated plan, innovations project, annual update, volunteering at the Wellness Center, and being a huge advocate for Tri-City in the community.

The Commission congratulated Commissioner Watson for her recognition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:27 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of November 11, 2014 was adjourned. The Mental Health Commission will meet next in a Joint Meeting with the Governing Board to be held on **Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 4:45 p.m.** in the Clinical Building, 2008 N. Garey Avenue in Pomona, California.

The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on **Tuesday, January 13, 2015**, in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard #B, Claremont, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, Executive Assistant