



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
JUNE 9, 2015 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 3:31 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1717 N. Indian Hill Blvd. # B, Claremont, California.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Whitlock called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL A visual roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Sylvia Whitlock, Ph.D., Chair
Toni L. Watson, Vice-Chair
Betsy MacLaren, Secretary
Cheryl Berezny
Arny Bloom
Paul Capraro
Ashley Nielsen, MSW (arrived at 3:33 p.m.)
Donald R. Perez
Davetta Williams

ABSENT: Twila L. Stephens

STAFF: Toni Navarro, Executive Director
Donald Pruyn, Housing Project Manager
Dana Stein, MHSA Projects Coordinator
Mica Olmos, Executive Assistant

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 20, 2015 GOVERNING BOARD / MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION JOINT MEETING & MHSA PUBLIC HEARING

There being no comment, Vice-Chair Watson moved, and Commissioner MacLaren seconded, to approve the Governing Board/MHC Joint Meeting & MHSA Public Hearing Minutes of May 20, 2015. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, Bloom, MacLaren, Perez, and Williams; Vice-Chair Watson; and Chair Whitlock. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Capraro; ABSENT: Commissioners Nielsen and Stephens.

I. PRESENTATION

Executive Director Navarro talked about how the Tri-City's Military/Veterans Staff Committee got started in order to meet the needs of the veteran population in the Tri-City area.

At 3:33 p.m., Commissioner Nielsen arrived at the meeting.

Executive Director Navarro indicated that at the suggestion of the Claremont City Manager, Tri-City staff visited the Veterans' Village in El Monte and learned that there is an underserved veteran population of individuals with 'other than honorable discharge' who do not receive full or any military benefits. Therefore, outreach started with Tri-City's staff members who have identified themselves as active duty military personnel or have a family member who is a veteran or a member of the military. These staff members came together to form a military/veteran group to discuss their own personal experiences and to evaluate ways of improving staff outreach and engagement to access the underserved veteran population within the three cities. As a result, the clinical screening form has been improved and now includes questions that relate to veterans, noting that she has learned the many difficulties veterans face in obtaining medical benefits. She then talked about the recent Veterans Stand Down event held at the Pomona National Guard Armory and hosted by the City of Pomona. She reported that Tri-City's Public Outreach and Housing Manager Gilbert Saldate, son of a veteran, was Tri-City's representative for the event and was part of the planning process. She stated that Navigators and Housing Division staff were in attendance every day of the event to provide resources; and on professional services day, Tri-City staff from the military staff group signed up for rotating shifts of threes, two therapists and one case manager, for four shifts to be onsite providing services, inquiry, and setting up intake appointments. She noted that Commissioner Don Perez was also in attendance leading a support group. She added that Tri-City received a lot of praise and recognition from Jan Cicco, Homeless Services Coordinator of the City of Pomona, stating that this was the first time any agency was on site providing services at the Veterans Stand Down event. She also indicated that the best people to better engage and provide support are staff that understand the veterans issues; therefore, starting in July two panels will be created, as well as a follow-up of 3 – 4 hours or 1½ – 2½ hours of training, wherein staff can voluntarily participate and receive a certificate that indicates that they have received training and are certified to work with the veteran population. These staff members will be identified and the cases of this population will be assigned to them. Lastly, she stated that she was proud of the military/veteran staff group and felt honored to be part of the veteran outreach planning process.

Commissioner Perez stated that it was exciting to know what is currently being done for veterans because it is a step in the right direction as there are many veterans who need services. He then indicated that he read a recent article that says that Vietnam Veterans are starting to show signs of PTSD, 30 years after the war ended simply because they had been employed and now, after they are retiring, the symptoms are showing.

Executive Director Navarro stated that staff is refocusing on Tri-City's field capable services and older adult FSP and will pay attention to the veteran's population.

Discussion ensued regarding Tri-City's capabilities on providing services to those individuals who have private medical insurance and maintaining resources available for those that do not have insurance.

Commissioner Perez commented on the Veterans Stand Down event stating that he was happily surprised that for two hours there were nonstop conversations and it was exceptional seeing veterans opening up to him.

Executive Director Navarro reported that staff made buttons that say that Tri-City supports veterans as part of the awareness effort.

Discussion ensued regarding the type of questions added to the intake forms regarding Veterans and benefits information.

Commissioner Nielsen inquired about Tri-City's efforts on focusing on the older adult population. Executive Director Navarro stated that there are Tri-City staff that specialize in Gerontology Psychology who are doing quarterly staff presentations/training and being the 'go to people' as the experts in the agency.

Commissioner Nielsen further inquired about evidence based practices or strategies being used to engage the older adult in services. Executive Director Navarro replied that they are on the table to be determined and encouraged Commissioner Nielsen to share with staff any information that she might have on the subject.

III. REPORTS

Executive Director Navarro referred to the first page of the Housing report, noting that there was an error and the last sentence under the Holt Family Apartments and it will be deleted. She then reported that Tri-City is currently in negotiations to purchase a commercial building located directly across the Clinic at 2001 N. Garey Avenue in Pomona to accommodate the growing MHSA programs. In addition, at the end of June staff will meet with planners to discuss the development of additional parking, as well as the design of the Therapeutic Community Garden, at 2014 N. Garey Avenue, property adjacent to the clinic. She also reported that the Pomona Police Department reached out to Tri-City and asked to train 175 officers and police department personnel in Mental First Aid for law enforcement, noting the trainings have been scheduled to take place in the month of July.

Commissioner Capraro, City of Pomona Police Chief, reported that State Legislation AB109, Public Safety Realignment, gives funding to law enforcement for mental health training as a result of the different recent events throughout the nation; noting that the training is not only for police officers but all police department personnel and that legislation stipulates that the training must be provided by a third party.

Housing Manager Pruyn provided a supporting housing update and stated that there was some pollution found at the West Holt Family Apartments location which is being removed; that the Clifford Beers Project on East Holt did not receive Tax Credit Financing because it did not have a variety of outside funding sources, as a result, they will apply for a grant with the Federal Home Loan Bank and will resubmit its Tax Credit Application in July; that staff found two possible properties for housing in Claremont, indicating that one is cost prohibitive, and the other property is under escrow with another developer and is waiting for density relief approval from the City, if not approved, the property will be back on the market; that staff is currently waiting for the appraisal results on the clinic easement which was jointly funded by the City of Pomona, the PUSD, and Tri-City to determine the value of a 15' strip of land along the east clinic property and Tri-City owned vacant lot to the north of the clinic.

Discussion ensued about the proposed development of Tri-City's vacant lot adjacent to the clinic which will include additional parking and the Therapeutic Community Garden.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Watson inquired if any of the concerns brought up during the MHSA Public Hearing regarding the clinic accessibility and lighting had been addressed. Executive Director Navarro replied that the gate located on Garey Street is now open during business hours and staff is currently evaluating the lighting sources.

Chair Whitlock inquired about the number of people that attended the MHSA Public Hearing.

MHSA Projects Coordinator Stein indicated that there were 172 people that signed-in; however, not everyone signs in, and based upon other staff accounts, indicated that there were close to 200 people, noting that last year only 104 people signed-in.

Chair Whitlock stated that she was very impressed with the number of attendees and of MHSA Projects Coordinator Stein's professional approach to the process.

MHSA Projects Coordinator Stein stated that her goal is maintaining relationships with community members so that they see that the stakeholders' process does not occur only in October and allowing staff to obtain stakeholder feedback throughout the year.

Discussion ensued regarding the different outreach by staff that maintains the stakeholders' interest.

Commissioner Nielsen inquired if Tri-City's overall older adult assessment addresses family caregivers. Executive Director Navarro replied in the affirmative, noting that Elizabeth Owens, Director of Clinical Program Services, has that information and she can provide it to Commissioner Nielsen.

Commissioner Nielsen further inquired if there is any outreach for family caregivers since she is aware that there are many family caregivers of older adults that actually come in contact with relatives with active hallucinations and delusions that might be associated with dementia; therefore, these caregivers need to have the skills and competence to know what to do and how to interact under these circumstances.

Executive Director Navarro stated that the Peer-to-Peer programs have a caregivers group; however, outreach to caregivers is not covered under Tri-City's treatment services. Nevertheless, this can be looked into since staff is currently developing senior programming at the Wellness Center under Prevention and Early Intervention programming.

Vice-Chair Watson indicated that the Talent Show was fun and that she participated in the poetry reading.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:24 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of June 9, 2015 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on **Tuesday, July 14, 2015**, in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard #B, Claremont, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, Executive Assistant