



## **MINUTES**

### **REGULAR JOINT MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION DECEMBER 20, 2017 – 4:45 P.M.**

The Governing Board and the Mental Health Commission met in a Joint Meeting on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 4:48 p.m. in the MHSA Office located at 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

**CALL TO ORDER** Governing Board Chair Carder and Mental Health Commission Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 4:48 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** Visual Roll was taken.

#### **GOVERNING BOARD**

**PRESENT:** Robin Carder, City of La Verne, Chair  
Ronald T. Vera, City of Claremont, Vice-Chair  
Carolyn Cockrell, City of La Verne, Board Member  
Rubio R. Gonzalez, City of Pomona, Board Member (arrived at 4:56 p.m.)  
Joseph M. Lyons, MA, PhD, City of Claremont, Board Member  
Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, City of Pomona, Board Member

**ABSENT:** None.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

**PRESENT:** Toni L. Watson, Chair  
Donald R. Perez, Vice Chair  
Cheryl Berezny  
Anne Henderson  
Twila L. Stephens  
Alfonso "Al" Villanueva  
Davetta Williams (arrived at 5:00 pm)

**ABSENT:** Arny Bloom  
Elmer Vidaña

**STAFF:** Toni Navarro, Executive Director  
Darold Pieper, General Counsel  
Nancy Gill, Chief Operations Officer  
Elizabeth Owens, Director of Clinical Program Services  
Rimmi Hundal, Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services  
Natalie Majors-Stewart, Manager of Best Practices  
Trevor Bogle, Controller  
Jesse Duff, Special Projects Consultant  
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

Board Member Lyons commented that it was a good investment for Tri-City to be at the table because the local needs are important; and inquired how the issue of parity had been affected by all of the changes at the federal level in health care. Executive Director Navarro stated that just before President Obama left office, he gave more authority to the parity task force which will issue more sanctions; that beginning in July 1, 2018, the DHCS is being mandated by Center for Medicaid Services to develop regulations and rules regarding access and care to create parity; and that parity is being enforced more in the State of California than any other state.

Discussion ensued about how parity was achieved within a county when its behavioral health combined the drug and alcohol and mental health programs; about current efforts of modifying MHSA language to have more flexibility to include substance abuse treatment services in MHSA systems of care which increases parity; about Tri-City's best interest of not moving towards obtaining a drug Medicaid waiver due to the federal prohibitive and restrictive rules that make communication almost impossible between providers, and instead have substance abuse services within FSP; about evaluating Tri-City's realignment program to determine if funding can be allocated for substance abuse counselors because their services cannot be billed at this time in the outpatient services.

**6. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT**

Controller Bogle reported that the Medi-Cal payments in the amount of \$5.1 million had been received; that there has been no change in the IBHIS system transition; and that Tri-City anticipates making a bankruptcy payment in January 2018.

Discussion ensued about how bankruptcy payments are determined and calculated according to bankruptcy plan agreement; about how accounts payables and accounts receivable are recognized; about the ability to operate with the cash on hand; and that the Board will be notified before if there will be a need to use the reserve funds.

**7. NANCY GILL, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER REPORT**

Chief Operations Officer Gill provided a recruitment update for the Human Resources Manager position, which is currently underway after HR Manager Eileen Martin announced her retirement after nine years of service; and reported she is looking at staff training schedules for next year to make sure that Tri-City is compliant with state and federal laws.

**8. ELIZABETH OWENS, DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL PROGRAM SERVICES REPORT**

Director of Clinical Program Services Owens reported that during the last quarter she had been focusing on communication with clinical staff as a result of the staff satisfaction survey; that she also had created her own survey to find out how staff connects with her, with the supervisors, their peers, and program managers, and as a result she had created a cohort new employee orientation; that she will be meeting with staff for about one year to determine how to close gaps and revamp some processes, employee retention, and caseloads, making sure to continue to provide excellent services to clients; and indicated that all findings and outcomes will be presented to clinical staff during its quarterly meeting in February.

**9. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT**

There was no comment.

**10. RIMMI HUNDAL, DIRECTOR OF MHSA AND ETHNIC SERVICES REPORT**

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Hundal provided an update of the community planning process and reported that they are wrapping up the workgroup meetings; that most PEI programs have been approved with no-cost to low-cost changes with the exception of the Mental Health First Aid program which had been in place for six years, due to the lack of requests for trainings despite outreach efforts; and stated that even though there will not be a program dedicated to MHFA training, there still will be MHFA trainers in staff.

Vice-Chair Vera suggested inviting those that participated in MHFA to apply for the vacant positions currently available at Tri-City, if they qualify. Executive Director Navarro stated that it was a great idea and will look at data base to invite those that qualify.

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Hundal continued with her report and stated that stakeholders also recommended transferring \$400,000 from the CSS plan to WET Plan to continue staff's education and future trainings through FY 2019-20; that the new art display for the Creative Minds Art Gallery will begin in February; that as part of Tri-City's Stigma Reduction Campaign, Tri-City staff participated in the Pomona Christmas Parade and promoted Room4Everyone website; that Tri-City hosted a holiday party for housing residents, noting that it was not well attended as hoped for and that staff will continue to create a stronger community amongst tenants; that the Baseline property is fully occupied; that the Holt Family Apartments construction will be completed at the end of the December and the furniture will not be able to be delivered until January, and at this time persons will start to move in.

Commissioner Stephens reported that the furniture delivery will be on January 4th, the first move in date on January 6th, and second move in on January 8th; and provided an update of the available units.

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Hundal concluded her report by stating that the Wellness Center hosted its annual tree lighting ceremony and Tri-City's annual Bye Bye Butts Campaign designed to help clients stop smoking.

**NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, MANAGER OF BEST PRACTICES REPORT**

Manager of Best Practices Majors reported that Tri-City is in the process of implementing a client portal of its clients receiving clinical services; explained that the client portal was a secure online site where clients can access selected parts of their medical record, communicate with providers and complete certain forms; indicated that the goal for using the client portal is to strengthen client engagement in treatment, increase collaboration and communication between client and providers, and overall improve the client outcomes; and pointed out that the client portal will be implemented in three phases: (1) preparation and implementation, (2) promoting use of client portal, and (3) managing and enhancing the client portal; and noted that currently the process is in phase 2.

Vice-Chair Vera commented that this is a great program and asked if the Governing Board could see a demonstration. Manager of Best Practices Majors replied in the affirmative.

Discussion ensued regarding what type of information will be available through the client portal which it is not a requirement at this time but it will become a mandate; about Tri-City providing this service now in preparation for mandate and because research shows that it is a benefit for clients as it will enhance communication between client and provider; and about ways in which client information will be protected and kept confidential as required by law.

There being no further discussion, Board Member Lyons moved, and Board Member Ontiveros-Cole seconded, to receive and file the month of December staff reports. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Cockrell, Gonzalez, Lyons, Ontiveros-Cole; Vice-Chair Vera; and Chair Carder. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

### **GOVERNING BOARD / MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Board Member Cockrell commented that she was happy to see that Vice-Chair Vera was assisting in the collaboration between the Pomona Valley Hospital and Tri-City.

Vice-Chair Vera stated that approximately 40% of the people that show up at the emergency room have behavioral health problems and that when they are released, they do no follow-up with their medication or they need a proper referral; and commented that more problematic for hospitals is that they do not have staff that can diagnose; therefore, Pomona Valley Hospital (PVH) wants to implement a program to address this issue. However, PVH had not reached out to Tri-City staff and he had encouraged them to do so; as a result, Tri-City's Executive Director had met twice with PVH staff and that the County of Los Angeles Spot 3 Director will be also meeting with them. Lastly, he indicated that he hopes that there will be more collaboration between Tri-City and PVH as this is program being rolled out.

Executive Director Navarro thanked Vice-Chair Vera for his efforts in establishing communication between Tri-City and PVH.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dick Bunce commented that Tri-City staff does an amazing job in a highly stressful situation; noting that he is involved in the community and appreciates that Tri-City staff is also very involved; that he also appreciates the Agency's efforts in continuing to reach out to the heart, soul and minds of staff due to their difficult work; and that he wishes to continue to hear progress reports and about best practices.

Executive Director Navarro announced that as a result of Governing Brown changing the law for Mental Health Commission which allows those with lived experience to be part of the Mental Health Commission and also an agency employee, Commissioner Stephens had been recently hired as a Tri-City Employee.

The Governing Board and Mental Health Commission congratulated Commissioner Stephens for her recent appointment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:35 p.m., there being no further discussion, Commissioner Villanueva moved, and Commissioner Stephens seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, Henderson, Stephens, Villanueva, and Williams; Vice-Chair Perez; and Chair Watson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Bloom and Vidaña. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard #B, Claremont, California.

At 5:35 p.m., there being no further discussion, Board Member Lyons moved, and Board Member Cockrell seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Cockrell, Gonzalez, Lyons, and Ontiveros-Cole; Vice-Chair Vera; and Chair Carder. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 4:45 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard #B, Claremont, California.



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Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk