



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
JULY 9, 2019 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 3:38 p.m. in MHS Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL A visual roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Toni L. Watson, Chair
Anne Henderson Vice-Chair
Cheryl Berezny
Ethel Gardner
Rubio R. Gonzalez
Joan M. Reyes
Daniel Rodriguez
Wray Ryback
Twila L. Stephens

ABSENT: Jeanette Heitmann
Alfonso "Al" Villanueva
David J. Weldon
Davetta Williams

STAFF: Toni Navarro, Executive Director
Angela Igrisan, Director of Clinical Program Services
Deborah Johnson, Child and Family Services Program Manager
Gamaliel Polanco, Wellness Center Manager
Dana Barford, MHS Projects Manager
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 11, 2019 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

There being no comment, Vice-Chair Henderson moved, and Commissioner Berezny seconded, to approve the Mental Health Commission Minutes of its Regular Meeting of June 11, 2019. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, Gonzalez, Reyes, Rodriguez, Ryback, Stephens; Vice-Chair Henderson; and Chair Watson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Gardner. ABSENT: Commissioners Heitmann, Villanueva, Weldon and Williams.

II. PRESENTATION

A. "RECOVERY MOMENTS" STORY

Child and Family Services Program Manager Johnson introduced Theresa, and her two children, who participated and completed an 8-week course "Making Connections", a group for parents and children; and announced that she will be translating from Spanish to English language.

Theresa stated that she is thankful for having participated in a Tri-City program and that it is her pleasure to attend this meeting; that she joined the group due to having issues with her daughter and expressed gratitude for having participated in the program because it helped her greatly; talked about the structure and content of the group which allowed her to learn a lot of beneficial tools; that Tri-City team is a great help to the community; however the community needs to be aware about the type of services that Tri-City has to offer because if everyone was aware, people would seek help to deal with issues that they are facing with their children, indicating that the youth are facing many problems and do not know where to turn, but they can come to Tri-City and and get a lot of help; she also discussed learning how to communicate; and shared that her daughter has not had the need to take medication for a month.

Executive Director Navarro inquired if Theresa had any recommendation regarding where to advertise and outreach in her community about Tri-City programming. Theresa stated schools, churches, and community fairs. Theresa's daughter recommended that other kids go to the Wellness Center because their programming is excellent, stating that she has learned anger management.

Greg Alcala, talked about his journey through recovery with the help of Tri-City; discussed the various programming that he has participated in; and sated that he is current a volunteer greeter under Tri-City's WISH (Working Independent Skill and Helping) program.

Executive Director Navarro explained the WISH program.

B. INFORMATION FROM REGIONAL MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (CALBHB-C) HELD IN SANTA ANA

Executive Director Navarro stated that she, Chair Watson, and JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos attended the CALBHB-C Training in Santa Ana, noting that they learned that more work needs to be done.

Chair Watson shared that the Tri-City Mental Health Commission is currently doing great things; however, there are ways in which she can improve as well as the Commission.

Executive Director Navarro stated that she would highlight two important things from the training: the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) community planning process (stakeholder process); and the Commission's report to the Governing Board. She noted that at the training, it was emphasized the importance and expectation of all the Commissioners to be actively involved in the community planning process because they are the first group to review, approve and recommend the Plan for approval by the Governing Board.

She stated that the Commission must stay engaged from beginning to end in all phases of the community planning process and be an integral part in the community leadership for staff in this process; that the new community planning process begins in September and hopes that there is Commission representation at each meeting, as well as participate in the designated workgroups and report back to the Commission during its regular meetings; and that the CALBHB-C emphasized having the Mental Health Commission take the lead in the stakeholder meetings with the community. She then talked about one of the duties of the Commission which currently does not perform and that is preparing its own annual report to the Governing Board which it requires to set 2-3 goals for the Commission at the beginning of the year, and at the end of the year highlight what has been done throughout the year.

Chair Watson stated that she supports the idea of being organized, and having a focus will be a good thing.

Executive Director Navarro added that part of the annual review is the overview of the Commission Bylaws because part of the report will be to report the Commissioners attendance. She asked the Commission to consider meeting in August to have a strategy meeting to discuss the Tri-City Mental Health Commission Bylaws, roles and responsibilities, and establish its priority goals for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

There was Commission consensus to adjourn this meeting to August 13, 2019 to discuss the Commission Bylaws, and establish its priority goals for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

Executive Director Navarro reported that the MHSA legislation states that counties can use up to 5% of their Community Services and Supports Plan for costs associated with the community planning process; that the CALBHB-C presented a report wherein indicated that counties were not spending enough money for their community planning process, including Tri-City; however, there is a disconnect in the reporting and she discussed the issue with Tri-City's Chief Financial Officer who noted that where this expenditure is reported, is a vague and convoluted line item; that there is no place where to report the cost of the community planning process; and that the CFO is waiting to hear where the expenditure should be reported correctly.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Navarro reported that there was a housing summit in the City of Claremont hosted by Jed Leano, Claremont City Council and Tri-City's Governing Board Member, noting that it was well attended including local and statewide elected officials or their staff representatives; that she made significant connections with the staff of both Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors staff from our region who Tri-City is in communication with to arrange tours and presentations of our system of care and permanent supportive housing projects in the coming months; that she noted that there is a growing heart for the work what we do around homelessness; that there were a lot of great ideas; and that she excited that Tri-City has money to spend in permanent supportive housing this year because YIMBY is growing.

Commissioner Reyes stated that developers are buying properties that could be for affordable housing and she believes that the cities should place a moratorium on the sale of properties due to the housing shortage.

Governing Board Liaison Gonzalez indicated that the City cannot tell persons what to do with their private developments, only if it belongs to the City.

Discussion ensued regarding the ratios from owner to renter ratios; about the lack of commitment in the communities from outsiders; about the negative views about low income housing; and the need to have more private commitment to keep housing affordable and invest in communities because it is not only the government's responsibility to keep affordable housing.

Executive Director Navarro then stated that Tri-City has received 12 additional vouchers from the Pomona Housing Authority; and that the hotel conversion was withdrawn by the developer due to the prohibitive cost to relocate the existing residents of the hotel.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Rodriguez inquired about the protocol for Commission reports. Executive Director Navarro indicated that informal comments can be made without being on the Agenda; however, if a more formal presentation was needed, then it would have to be placed on the Agenda for discussion.

Chair Watson indicated that it would be a good idea to keep abreast of current legislation from Sacramento, similarly as the CALBHB-C do. Executive Director Navarro stated that she would place in the next agenda how to identify and review legislation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

LaDonya Milner, NAMI Pomona Valley Board Member, and Tri-City stakeholder, provided a collage of pictures regarding Bebe Moore Campbell Minority Mental Health Month and discussed Campbell's life accomplishments and her struggle with mental health illness. She also discussed her own accomplishments in the community; and indicated that NAMI Pomona Valley is in desperate need for a treasurer.

Dana Barford distributed a flyer regarding the activities taking place in the community regarding Minority Mental Health Month and invited everyone to participate.

Executive Director Navarro stated that Tri-City received a Proclamation from the City of Pomona recognizing July as Minority Health Month; that tonight a Certificate from the City of Claremont will be presented to Tri-City; and that next week the City of La Verne will recognize Minority Mental Health Month.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:28 p.m., Commissioner Rodriguez moved, and Vice Chair Henderson seconded, to adjourn its Regular Meeting of July 9, 2019 to August 13, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk