



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
JANUARY 14, 2020 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 3:41 p.m. in MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 3:41 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
Alfonso "Al" Villanueva
David J. Weldon

ABSENT: Jeanette Heitmann
Twila L. Stephens (Approved Leave of Absence from 12/2019 – 03/2020)
Davetta Williams

STAFF: Toni Navarro, Executive Director
Rimmi Hundal, Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services
Gamaliel Polanco, Wellness Center Manager
Janet Lewis, Clinical Program Supervisor
Mary Monzon, Housing Manager Trainee
Jennifer Phang, MHSA Wellbeing Supervisor
Michelle Mora, Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist II
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION JOINT MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2019

There being no comment, Commissioner Ryback moved, and Commissioner Reyes seconded, to approve the Mental Health Commission Minutes of its regularly scheduled Joint Meeting with the Governing Board of December 18, 2019. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, Gonzalez, Reyes, Rodriguez, Ryback, Villanueva, Weldon; Vice-Chair Henderson; and Chair Watson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Gardner. ABSENT: Commissioners Heitmann, Stephens, and Williams.

II. PRESENTATION

A. “RECOVERY MOMENTS” STORY

Mary Hendrickson talked about her experience with homelessness, abuse, and several traumatic events; indicated that she was referred to Tri-City who understood her situation and she became a client; discussed her road to recovery and stated that now she is a Tri-City employee.

Executive Director Navarro shared that Mary Hendrickson has been with Tri-City approximately nine years; that she is one of Tri-City’s first staff at the Wellness Center; and that she has helped many persons in creating stability and support in their journey of recovery.

Mary Monzon, Housing Manager Trainee, announced that Ranesha Boykins had completed one year living at Parkside Apartments, noting that she was the last person on the original waitlist for Parkside; that she is one of the many success cases; and that she recently had the pleasure of touring Boykins’ apartment, pointing out that it was very welcoming.

Ranesha Boykins shared that she is very fortunate because a year ago she was on the verge of homelessness and she was staying temporarily with relatives and friends; talked about how Tri-City helped her get housing and her struggles with her mental illness; however, now she is very confident because this is the first time she has her own apartment; and expressed gratitude for Tri-City.

Executive Director Navarro stated that the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Committee came to visit Tri-City for a second time regarding Measure H, Tri-City programming and permanent supportive housing, and pointed out they were given a tour of Ranesha Boykins’ apartment and that they were very impressed and inspired by her story.

Gamaliel Polanco, Wellness Center Manager, introduced Louie Quiroz who started as a Tri-City client and that he modeled the step down programming for persons currently in treatment in which the Wellness Center provides support to maintain their stability.

Louie Quiroz shared about his journey and indicated that the Wellness Center connects people to resources whatever their need might be. He shared that at a one point in his life he felt useless because he was unemployed for 10 years; however, he received help at the Wellness Center and he fit, he was welcomed, regained his sanity, and is a place where he can belong to.

B. TRI-CITY’S CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE UPDATE

MHSA and Ethnic Services Director Hundal reported that Tri-City, as a recipient of federal funding, is required to have a cultural competency plan, as all the counties are required, noting that it has to be updated every three years; that a committee was formed from staff members from each department; that its Chair and Vice-Chair are in attendance to provide information about Tri-City’s Cultural Inclusion and Diversity Committee and share the activities that they do.

Jennifer Phang, MHSA Wellbeing Supervisor, who oversees the Peer Mentor Program, stated that she has been part of the Cultural Inclusion and Diversity Committee (CIDC) since its inception in July 2017; and that she is currently its Chair.

She discussed the vision of the CIDC which focuses on recognizing the importance of the different cultures, beliefs, perceptions that individuals have and the impact it can have on our colleagues, community members and the consumers; as well as to understand that there are various populations and communities that are being underserved and unserved; and also to look at Tri-City's system of care, to provide effective care to consumers and the communities it serves.

Michelle Mora, Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist II, who is part of the Intensive Outreach and Engagement Team (IOET), reported that there are 20 staff members representing various different departments to engage in open dialogue to connect their personal vision of culture with Tri-City's vision of culture and inclusion. She then shared the CIDC Mission Statement that the committee members revised and developed: "*Tri-City Mental Health Services' Cultural Inclusion and Diversity Committee (CIDC) is committed to the advancements of quality mental health services that are culturally compatible and respectful of the diverse healthcare beliefs of the people we serve. It is the mission of this CIDC to guide and support the staff of Tri-City to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate programs and services are available for community members residing in the cities of Claremont, Pomona and La Verne. By building strong and collaborative relationships through partnerships and community engagement, the CIDC will effectively review and evaluate the policies, practices, and programs provided by Tri-City to ensure the highest standards of care is accessible to all regardless of race, religion, disability, gender, language or ethnicity.*" She continued to say that the CIDC is comprised of several subcommittees to help plan, research and develop informative material and trainings for Tri-City staff, and pointed out that these subcommittees allow consumers to be a part of the agency; and discussed the different activities and programming that they plan and develop to enhance employee cultural competency and promote cultural awareness months.

MHSA Wellbeing Supervisor Phang discussed the CIDC Outcomes for Years 2017- 2019, noting that there were over 40 culturally relevant, informative and educational trainings/activities, and events that focused on the specific communities and populations that we serve.

Discussion ensued about RELIAS online training and about how the Commissioners can also receive training through RELIAS.

MHSA Wellbeing Supervisor Phang then talked about the current goals of the CIDC which include the plan to educate and inform staff regarding culturally relevant issues, different perceptions, beliefs and customs of the community and populations that we serve, and create a safe environment for open discussion and dialogue to improve equal access to quality mental health services; that the next steps are to create a joint alliance and expand the committee to community partners to engage in an open dialogue which can lead to increase consumer representation focusing on the diverse populations that we serve and bridge gaps between services, improve current services, and support the on-going effort to increase workforce diversity through recruiting and hiring practices. She then invited the Mental Health Commission Members to be a part of the committee, noting that they were also going to invite stakeholders; that the committee meets once a month on the second Thursday of the month, indicating that next meeting has been scheduled on February 13th.

Commissioner Reyes expressed support for partnering with the CIDC.

Executive Director Navarro shared the importance of the CIDC because staff learn about the different departments and get a different perspective for duties and responsibilities.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Navarro reported that Governor Newsom had released his initial budget summary to the public; there is a lot of emphasis on homelessness and about persons with mental illness; that things that will be taking place in the next few months and coming year will impact the work that we do and how we do it; that the Governor is looking at Mental Health Services Act reform; that we are closely involved in working with the administration and the Head of Health and Human Services to make sure that whatever changes are made, they do not negatively impact the county's behavioral health and the work that we do, and just continue to provide the right level of service for all the populations that we serve; that there is also more money coming in for homelessness and/or helping persons with chronic mental illness with housing, and staff will be in top those developments as well; and discussed some of the things that the state is doing to deal with the homelessness crisis. She then stated she had included some talking points from California Behavioral Health Directors Association on homelessness and mental health issues; and provided a housing services update indicating that the permanent supportive housing is occupied, and there are quite of few clients in services that are in the verge of homelessness, noting that the cost of housing in Pomona is high; and that staff is working in entering into memorandum of understanding with developers to build some additional units in the next two years; and that Tri-City continues to figure out some innovative ways with our partners across the state about how to turn the tide on this crisis. She then thanked Commission Chair Watson for participating in the Pomona Christmas Parade with Tri-City staff.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

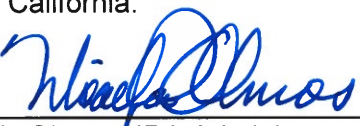
Commissioner Reyes announced that the Commission event (to impact disparities in mental health access for culturally diverse groups) will take place on February 18th at the Claremont Library beginning at 4:30 p.m.; and discussed the planned outreach efforts for this event.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Barford, MHSA Projects Manager, distributed flyers for next stakeholder meeting scheduled on January 28th and 30th, one in the morning and one in the afternoon respectively; and offered her assistance in make any announcements on behalf of the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:27 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of January 14, 2020 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk