



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 3:36 p.m. via teleconference pursuant to California Governor Newsom Executive Order N-25-20 wherein he suspended certain provisions of the Brown Act to allow the continuation to hold meetings without gathering in a room in an effort to minimize the spread and mitigate the effects of COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease of 2019).

CALL TO ORDER Chair Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL Roll call was taken by JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos.

PRESENT: Anne Henderson, Chair
 Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair
 Carolyn Cockrell, GB Member Liaison
 Joan M. Reyes
 Alfonso "Al" Villanueva
 Toni L. Watson
 David J. Weldon

ABSENT: Twila L. Stephens
 Davetta Williams

STAFF: Toni Navarro, Executive Director
 Liz Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer
 Rimmi Hundal, Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services
 Ken Riomales, Chief Information Officer
 Mary Monzon, Housing Manager
 Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

REGULAR BUSINESS

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 13, 2021 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

There being no comment, Vice-Chair Ryback moved, and Commissioner Reyes seconded, to approve the Minutes of the July 13, 2021 Mental Health Commission Regular Meeting. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Member Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Reyes, Villanueva, Watson, and Weldon; Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Stephens and Williams.

II. PRESENTATION

A. “RECOVERY MOMENTS” STORY

None was presented.

B. TRI-CITY’S CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Executive Director Navarro stated that the primary mission of the Mental Health Commission is to keep Tri-City connected to the community, to be the eyes, ears, and advisory board to Tri-City’s Governing Board and staff; and noted that she appreciates all the feedback that the MHC provides. She then talked about the involvement in advocacy at the local and state level that Tri-City staff, including the Executive Director, participate. She reported that at the state level, as the executive director, she represents Tri-City on a monthly basis at the California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) and the California Social Work and Education Center (CalSWEC), noting that is the only collaboration consortium in the nation of public institution social work programs, including all the CalStates, UCLA, USC, child welfare heads of different counties from across the state, County Behavioral Health directors, the California Department of Social Services and the California Child Welfare Association, which come together and plan curriculum, policy development, and implementation of the education training and workforce development for social workers, primarily in the child welfare realm, but increasingly in county behavioral health. She pointed out that she is the president of the advisory group for CalSWEC and represent workforce development issues and policy issues around county mental health at its meetings.

She then stated that she has recently been invited to be a member of Senator Connie Leyva’s Anti-Racism Task Force, along with various county officials from primarily San Bernardino, who meet on a monthly basis to talk about legislation and/or policies that are being presented and put forth at the state level. She then stated that staff member Dr. Nicole Lobato, and supervisor in the Access To Care team Fatima Garnica, are part of the mental health behavioral health group as an advisory body to the Pomona Re-Entry Coalition, which are providers working together to serve folks who are coming out of the justice system and help them reenter home with their families in terms of employment and housing and the resources they need to help them maintain the gains that have led to their release.

She then said that multiple staff participate in Pomona's Promise, and certain staff are specifically involved in various of their initiatives; that she is part of the Pomona's Promise leadership team, and a co-chair on the Healthy and Pomona Initiative Committee, and co-chair and co-founder of the Health Access Committee, a group of partners that include Pomona Valley Hospital, East Valley Park Tree, Federally Qualified Health Center, LA County of Department of Public Health, Pomona Wellness Complex, Blue Shield Wellness Center, Prototypes, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Pomona Valley, Pomona Caring and Sharing, Project Sister, House of Ruth, and The Parents Anonymous, which focus on environmental, societal, and formal health and nutrition that the City of Pomona can provide to its residents; and indicated that they meet monthly to discuss ways to coordinate care and talk about establishing agreed upon standards for referral, and warm handoff to each other, which is an expansion of Tri-City’s own Community Navigator Program, but on a community wide scale, noting that Isela Moreno, Community Navigator Program Supervisor, is part of the Community Engagement Board of Pomona's Promise, to make sure that Tri-City is staying abreast of all the various events that are happening in the City and disseminating it out into the community.

She then stated that Rimmi Hundal, Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services, is part of the Basic Needs Committee of the Pomona Mayor's COVID-19 Task Force, which helps to look at things such as rental assistance, clothing, food, and all the resources that families need in Pomona as we continue to be challenged by this pandemic.

She added that Mary Monzon, Housing Manager, attends monthly the Pomona Continuum Of Care and the San Gabriel Valley Continuum Of Care meetings, which are partners that provide housing in our local three cities area; and that Housing Manager Monzon also attends the monthly meetings of the LA County Coordinated Entry System for adults, for the Transition Age Youth, and the one for families.

She also reported that Tri-City staff are also involved in the Hope4Home partners with the City of Pomona, Volunteers of America, and other partners; that Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Hundal is a founding member of the La Verne Cultural Awareness and Societal Inclusion Group, which meet monthly to discuss ways to improve services and the functioning of all departments across the City of La Verne, and providing anti-racism training and practices; that Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Hundal was invited to participate in the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Claremont Chapter, which works to address equity issues for the LGBTQ+ community in Claremont. She then said that staff is involved in Grace Napolitano's Mental Health Consortium made of providers from all across Grace Napolitano's jurisdiction, that meets on a monthly basis to talk about doing cross trainings and cross referrals, and about ways that policy can be improved for mental health needs in our region. Lastly, she stated that Chief Clinical Officer Liz Renteria is representing Tri-City in the youth component, HYPE, of the Gente Organizada Group, which includes the City of Pomona Mayor, PUSD, and the Justice4Youth coming together to look at, and address ways that we can improve diversion programs to help youth stay out of justice involvement.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Rimmi Hundal reported that she was going to present to the Mental Health Commission an Amendment to the MHSA Annual update of MHSA Fiscal Year 2021-22 for approval, asking to transfer funds in the amount of 1.3 million from CSS; noted that it has gone through the stakeholder process; and apologized for miscalculating the time when the 30-day public comment ended; and that it will be placed in the next month's agenda.

Executive Director Navarro provided a COVID-19 update, reporting that staff began to come into the office a minimum of one day a week beginning on August 1st, and that staff are doing well and getting adjusted to going back to the office, while maintaining all the needed precautions as mandated by CalOSHA as we continue to endure this pandemic; that COVID-19 Delta variant has been problematic, but staff still are on track to increase two days a week in the office beginning October 1st; that management continues to monitor the situation with the variants and with the regulations from Cal OSHA.

Discussion ensued regarding COVID-19 vaccine mandates and who are required to get vaccinated under the mandate; and about the reopening of all of programs within the Wellness center while meeting the CalOSHA limits which mandates to maintain a 6 feet distance regardless if folks are vaccinated.

Executive Director Navarro then reported that the Mental Health Commission, the Governing Board, and all volunteers are what we call service learners at Tri-City Mental Health, are covered under the public health order from August 5th, which means that in order to be onsite in our facilities, folks have to either be fully vaccinated by September 30th, or have to test and demonstrate a negative COVID test three days prior to entering the building; and noted that the next Commission meeting on October 14th might have to be held in person since the Governor's Executive Order allowing public meetings held virtually without the restrictions under the Brown Act is set to end on September 30th; and that if we have to meet in person, the Commissioners will be required to show their vaccination cards, or proof of negative testing within three days before being able attend the meeting.

JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos reported that Assembly Bill 361 is on the floor to extend the moratorium of some of the requirements under the Brown Act for teleconferencing and continue to have virtual meetings.

Executive Director Navarro then reported that three new Commissioners will be appointed by Tri-City's Governing Board, and that at the request from the Commission, staff focused on Transition Age Youth (TAY) representation, noting that at least one of the Commissioners is between the ages of 18 and 25, and the other two Commissioners are affiliated with TAY in different ways. She also reported that that new Section 8 vouchers are coming through as a result of funding from the federal government to our area in Pomona; that as of last week, 15% of Tri-City's wait list for housing was taken care of by 20 vouchers from LA County and in the Pomona area; and that another 10 people will be getting housing with these vouchers; that she was happy to report that some of our clients have benefited from the funds that are starting to begin to flow to landlords to take care of back rent; and expressed gladness for Tri-City being part of the program in Pomona that is helping people stay housed and making sure that landlords get their rents so that they too can to continue to thrive and provide housing to people in Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne.

Discussion ensued regarding the process for landlords to receive payment for back rent, which can also apply on behalf of their tenants; however, if tenants choose to not move forward with their portion to prove that they had a COVID hardship, then at the end of the moratorium landlords will be able to take tenants to small claims court for unpaid rents.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Watson reported that she had had various therapists at Tri-City; that the last therapist was leaving the next day after their meeting and someone was going to contact her; however, she has not heard back from another therapist and asked that this be addressed. Executive Director Navarro apologized for the situation and thanked Commissioner Watson for bringing this matter to her attention, noting that we are having hiring and staff workforce issues across the country and in particular in California; that the clinical team is looking at how to do more with less, and revamping the way that we provide services and how we provide services; and that this has nothing to do with not getting a call back and will look into what happened.

Commissioner Villanueva stated he wanted to talk about accountability and security issues at the Clifford Housing Apartments; that he has 32 years of experience with mental health juvenile corrections; that after he retired, he continued to work in the mental health community in Claremont for the homeless; expressed concern about issues occurring at the Clifford Housing Apartment complex; and discussed gang activity, crime, and prostitution in that area. Executive Director Navarro discussed public information about someone being apprehended by Pomona

police at the apartment complex who did not live there; that Tri-City purchased 25 of 50 units and that the whole apartment building is owned by Clifford beers; that it is a public housing for people that live in the City of Pomona and that Tri-City has no authority over; that any issues are reported to the property management or to the Pomona Police Department; and that she will continue to advocate for those clients living in the Tri-City units.

Discussion ensued regarding how the Clifford Apartments are managed; about Tri-City's responsibility to only those housed in Tri-City's 25 units if they allowed Tri-City's assistance; about the PACT team and its purpose which is not criminal involvement; and about Unite Us outreach referral management system and how the referrals work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:04 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of September 14, 2021 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. via teleconference* due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*If AB-361 (Open meetings: state and local agencies: teleconferences) is not adopted, then the Board will meet in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk