



HOPE. WELLNESS. COMMUNITY.

Let's find it together.

Founded in 1960
by the residents

of Pomona,
Claremont and La
Verne.

MISSION: *By understanding the needs of consumers and families, Tri-City Mental Health Authority provides high quality, culturally competent behavioral health care treatment, prevention and education in the diverse cities of Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne.*

TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 AT 3:30 P.M.

Meeting Location: MHS Administration Building
2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767

To join the meeting on-line click on the following link:

<https://tricitymhs-org.zoom.us/j/85001123282?pwd=TSOhqrIkEYUq6lVVd-Oc-Itt4LKFaxOK.kdJoVqyNTrnUiynB>

Passcode: xm.T07sV

Public Participation. *Section 54954.3 of the Brown Act provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Mental Health Commission (MHC) on any item of interest to the public, before or during the consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Therefore, members of the public are invited to speak on any matter on or off the agenda. If the matter is an agenda item, you will be given the opportunity to address the legislative body when the matter is considered. If you wish to speak on a matter which is not on the agenda, you will be given the opportunity to do so at the Public Comment section. **No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the Agenda. The Chair reserves the right to place limits on duration of comments.***

In-person participation: raise your hand when the Chair invites the public to speak.

Online participation: you may provide audio public comment by connecting to the meeting online through the zoom link provided; and use the Raise Hand feature to request to speak.

Please note that virtual attendance is a courtesy offering and that technical difficulties shall not require that a meeting be postponed.

Written participation: you may also submit a comment by writing an email to molmos@tricitymhs.org. All email messages received by 12:30 p.m. will be shared with the Mental Health Commission before the meeting.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by Tri-City Mental Health Authority to all or a majority of the MHC less than 72 hours prior to this meeting, are available for public inspection at 1717 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Suite B, in Claremont during normal business hours.

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act, any person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to participate in a meeting should contact JPA Administrator/Clerk Mica Olmos at (909) 451-6421 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Administrative Office

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Clinical Office / Child & Family

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MHSA Administrative Office

2001 North Garey Avenue
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Wellness Center

1403 North Garey Avenue
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POSTING OF AGENDA

The Agenda is posted 72 hours prior to each meeting at the following Tri-City locations: Clinical Facility, 2008 N. Garey Avenue in Pomona; Wellness Center, 1403 N. Garey Avenue in Pomona; Royalty Offices, 1900 Royalty Drive #180/280 in Pomona; MHSA Office, 2001 N. Garey Avenue in Pomona; and on the Tri-City's website: <http://www.tricitymhs.org>

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Henderson calls the meeting to Order.

ROLL CALL

Anne Henderson – *Chair*
Wray Ryback – *Vice-Chair*
Carolyn Cockrell – GB Liaison
Clarence D. Cernal

Sandra Christensen
Mildred Garcia
Ethel Gardner
Frank Guzman

Laura Mundy
Janet R. Roy
Toni L. Watson
Danette E. Wilkerson

REGULAR BUSINESS

- I. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 18, 2024 GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR JOINT MEETING**
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 15, 2025 GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION SPECIAL JOINT MEETING**
- III. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT**

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioners are encouraged to make brief comments or request information about mental health needs, services, facilities, or special problems that may need to be placed on a future Mental Health Commission Agenda. In addition, this is an opportunity to provide reports on their activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Public may speak regarding any Tri-City Mental Health Authority related issue. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the Agenda. The Chair reserves the right to place limits on duration of comments.

Mental Health Commission – Agenda
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ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting of the **Mental Health Commission** will be held on **Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.**, in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

MICAELA P. OLMOS
JPA ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK



MINUTES

**GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
REGULAR JOINT MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Governing Board and the Mental Health Commission Regular Joint Meeting was held on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 5:01 p.m. in the MHSA Administrative Office located at 2001 North Garey Avenue, in Pomona, California.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Leano called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

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

GOVERNING BOARD

PRESENT: Jed Leano, City of Claremont, Chair
Vacant, City of Pomona, Vice-Chair
Carolyn Cockrell, City of La Verne, Board Member
Paula Lantz, City of Pomona, Board Member
Wendy Lau, City of La Verne, Board Member
Ronald T. Vera, City of Claremont, Board Member
Beverly Johnson, City of Pomona, Alternate Board Member

ABSENT: Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, City of Pomona, Board Member

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

PRESENT: Anne Henderson, Chair
Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair
Clarence D. Cernal, Commissioner
Sandra Christensen, Commissioner
Frank Guzman, Commissioner
Laura Mundy, Commissioner
Twila L. Stephens, Commissioner
Danette E. Wilkerson, Commissioner

ABSENT: Mildred Garcia, Commissioner
Ethel Gardner, Commissioner
Janet R. Roy, Commissioner
Toni L. Watson, Commissioner

STAFF

PRESENT: Ontson Placide, Executive Director
Steven Flower, General Counsel

Diana Acosta, Chief Financial Officer
Elizabeth Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer
Seeyam Teimoori, Medical Director
Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services
Natalie Majors-Stewart, Chief Compliance Officer
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

PRESENTATION

1. AN AWARD OF RECOGNITION PRESENTED TO OUTGOING GOVERNING BOARD VICE-CHAIR JOHN NOLTE, ESQ., FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SINCE JANUARY 2021

Outgoing Governing Board Vice-Chair John Nolte was in attendance and received accolades for his contributions and support of mental health and TCMHA.

Mental Health Commissioner Mundy expressed gratitude for Mr. Nolte's support in the Pomona area.

Mental Health Commissioner Guzman thanked Mr. Nolte for his active service and being an integral part of TCMHA.

Mental Health Commission Chair Henderson thanked Mr. Nolte for his service in mental health.

Board Member Lau stated it was a pleasure working with Mr. Nolte and that he is a great example to the community, noting that he has a lot to offer.

Board Member Vera thanked Mr. Nolte for his service as Vice-Chair of the Governing Board.

Board Member Cockrell praised Mr. Nolte for his humility and kindness and thanked him for always advocating for the community.

Board Member Lantz expressed gratitude for Mr. Nolte's service here with TCMHA and for the many hours of service he puts in the City of Pomona, noting that he will continue working in helping the disadvantaged and underserved because that is his passion. She added that she will continue to see him working actively, but he still will be missed.

Chair Leano stated that TCMHA Governing Board is the best board he serves on, and John Nolte was part of this Board. He then praised Mr. Nolte for his attention and focus to policy details, noting that the issues that he championed for when he was in this Board and in the City Council are not going away, and that TCMHA will still count on his leadership. Lastly, he presented an award recognizing Mr. Nolte for his service to Tri-City Mental Health Authority from January 2021 to December 2024.

John Nolte thanked the Board for its kind words, and stressed the Board's importance in this region for the great work it does around mental health; for the history and strength of the staff; the knowledge that is here at TCMHA; for the constant desire to improve, innovate, and to move with the times and stay on track with everything. He also stated that TCMHA is a great organization, which brings together the three cities; that if there is anything that we need to do here in the region

and all over the country, is to breakdown borders between entities so that there is more cooperation across city lines. Lastly, he stated that he will be following the work that TCMHA does and that he is happy to help wherever he can, noting that this is something that he really treasures.

2. OVERVIEW OF EARLY PSYCHOSIS PROGRAM

Chair Leano recognized this was the first meeting with newly appointed Executive Director Ontson Placide.

Clinical Program Supervisor Zuleta reported that the National Institute of Mental Health reports in the United States, approximately 100,000 adolescents and young people experience what is known as a first episode psychosis yearly; and that according to a 2016 assessment by the American College Health Association, 3 in 1,000 college students reported being diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Clinical Program Manager Filamore talked about the Why? of the psychosis program and explained that per the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, mental health clinicians find that individuals with first episode psychosis experience warning signs of illness during adolescence and early adulthood, the average time for an individual to seek and obtain treatment for psychosis is over a year, and research shows that early intervention leads to better outcomes for individuals experiencing psychosis.

Clinical Program Supervisor Zuleta explained that the term psychosis describes conditions that affect the mind, causing a loss of contact with reality or trouble deciding what is real and what is not; that the symptoms of psychosis make it harder or impossible for a person to know what is real, think clearly, communicate, and relate to other's feelings and emotions; and that since psychosis affects a person's mind, each person experiences it differently.

Clinical Program Manager Filamore stated that psychosis is experienced on a continuum; thus, many people experience the middle part of the spectrum, and that the concern is when the experiences impact a person's functioning. Therefore, the goal is to catch it toward the beginning or middle of the spectrum to offer intervention and support and discussed the warning signs of psychosis. She stated the start of mild psychosis symptoms may be preceded by weeks, months, or years of unusual behavior, which family members are usually the first to notice an individual thinking and acting differently, noting that these signs can be indicators of individuals that are at risk of developing a psychosis disorder; and that these individuals are identified as Clinically High Risk. She added that individuals with first degree relatives with a psychotic disorder who are experiencing mental health challenges can also be identified as Clinically High Risk.

Clinical Program Supervisor Zuleta discussed a list of early warning signs of psychosis, including increased difficulty at school or work, withdrawal from friends or family, difficulty concentrating or thinking clearly, suspiciousness or mistrust of others, changes in the way things look or sound, off thinking or behavior, emotional outbursts or lack of emotion, and poor personal hygiene. Clinical Program Manager Filamore added that these are things others may notice, not what an individual will self-report, noting that these are warning signs but do not necessarily mean that an individual will develop a disorder.

Clinical Program Manager Filamore then discussed resiliency and hope through early intervention, stating that the research produced by the National Institute of Mental Health demonstrated that coordinated specialty care treatments and supports can help prevent the full-onset of illness for high-risk persons and improve the long-term outcomes for individuals who have already experienced a first episode of psychosis. She then talked about the reasons early intervention is helpful, such as having less treatment resistance and lower risk of relapse, reduced risk of suicide, reduced disruption to work or school attendance, retention of social skills and support, decreased need for hospitalization, more rapid recovery and better prognosis, and reduced family disruptions and distress. She also explained how early psychosis treatment looks like, stating that the coordinated specialty care is evidence-based recovery oriented, and a team approach to treating early psychosis that promotes easy access to care and shared decision making among specialists, the person experiencing psychosis and family members. She then reported that Tri-City Mental Health Authority has implemented a Coordinated Specialty Care Program based on the Portland Identification and Early Referral (PIER) model, which is an evidence-based model that focuses on outreach and community education, in depth screening and assessment, supportive education and employment services, peer support, intensive case management, medication management, occupational therapy, and multifamily groups because family involvement is key.

Clinical Program Supervisor Zuleta explained who is eligible for the program, stating the program is catered to early intervention and identification, such as those individuals experiencing a first episode of psychosis within two years, individuals experiencing early warning signs of psychosis with mental health distress, individuals with a first degree relative with a psychotic disorder who are experiencing mental health challenges, ages 12 – 25, residing in Pomona, La Verna and Claremont, and with IQs over 70. She then displayed a photo of the Early Psychosis team and listed their names and positions.

Clinical Program Manager Filamore then shared 2023/24 data points, stating the team conducted three psychoeducation workshops for participant and families in both Spanish and English. She stated they also held one community outreach even for local school districts and hopes within the next year it will increase. She stated they serviced 24 individuals in the EP program, primarily in the TAY age group. She stated they closed twelve cases, ten of which were positive closures with two withdrawing from treatment.

Clinical Program Supervisor Zuleta shared success stories. The first one explained the EP team hosted an event for families to build a sense of community with 11 families participating. She said one family member has enrolled and all participants built positive bonds. She shared the next story, stating a client experienced major depressive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, PTSD, and ADHD. The client was referred to the program received services and connected to the community. The client informed staff that he felt Tri-City was a safe place. LMFT Clinical Program Manager Filamore then shared another client shared she was recently accepted to Cal State LA and gave hope that progress is possible.

She then explained that each person can do by communicating with family and the community, connection families with TCMHA, making a referral, learning about upcoming webinars, or hosting workshops, and noticing early warning signs. She then displayed the access phone line or email for referrals.

Vice-Chair Ryback inquired about what education is being done in schools. LMFT Clinical Program Manager stated the goal is to increase the frequency of community outreach. They have a 2-hour presentation and offers more in-depth information.

Christina Vera, a member of the public, inquired for a breakdown of the disorders of the ten families that did well in the family. LMFT Clinical Program Supervisor Zuleta stated bipolar disorder, major depression disorder, PTSD, unspecified psychotic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and more. LMFT Clinical Program Manager Filamore stated the goal is to treat unspecified psychotic disorder. Mrs. Vera, then asked how the two families that withdrew from the program measured their success. LMFT Clinical Program Manager Filamore felt they didn't need the offered level of support in the program. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated it was also completion of treatment goals. Mrs. Vera, then urged the team to connect with the office of disabled students in the school districts.

Commissioner Wilkerson asked what connection was done with the families that withdrew. LMFT Clinical Program Manager Filamore stated she would need to investigate the breakdown on why specifically they left. Commissioner Wilkerson inquired what happens if the clients score an IQ below 70. LMFT Clinical Program Manager Filamore stated they would be linked to a more fitting program to their needs.

Commissioner Cernal asked what future plans for outreach the team had. LMFT Clinical Program Manager Filamore stated on February 25, 2025, there will be a webinar and information will be released. She stated they are also partnering with schools to spread awareness.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024, MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Chair Henderson opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

There being no discussion, Commissioner Mundy moved, and Commissioner Christensen seconded, to approve the Minutes from the November 12, 2024 Mental Health Commission Regular Meeting. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: GB Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Cernal, Christensen, Guzman, Mundy, Stephens, and Wilkerson; Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Garcia, Gardner, Roy, and Watson.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Leano opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

There being no further comment, Board Member Lau moved, and Board Member Vera seconded to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following vote: Alternate Board Member Johnson; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Lau, and Vera; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Ontiveros-Cole.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 20, 2024, GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting of November 20, 2024.”

5. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 765 ESTABLISHING THE 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE OF THE TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 765 establishing the dates, time, and place where the Governing Board and the Mental Health Commission Meetings are held.”

6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 766 ADOPTING CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY SCHEDULE TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW HEALTH CARE WORKER MINIMUM WAGE REQUIREMENTS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 766 establishing a revised Classification and Salary Schedule for Tri-City Mental Health Authority effective January

NEW BUSINESS

7. REVIEW OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Nigro & Nigro Audit Services Partner Paul Kaymark joined the meeting virtually and provided an overview Audited Financial statements for FY ended June 30, 2024. He stated no material issues arose to be reported to the Governing Board/Management, any minor issues were discussed orally and corrected by management. He stated operating revenue had a total increase in operating revenues of 2.2 million and non-operating revenues of over \$987,000. He stated there was an increase in 2.1 million in investment earnings. He further stated expenditures did decrease. He stated there was an nearly 2 million dollar change in revenues and expenditures.

He stated cash and investments increased by 8.7 million. He stated the biggest change in the amount is the 4.8 million increases in MHSA revenues for future with a nearly 5% investment earnings.

Board Member Vera asked about the different in MHSA revenues. Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated the revenue was recognized but not necessary income and can't be recognized until an MHSA plan has been approved. Board Member Vera asked if the money is being held on in cash reserves. Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated they are not being held in cash reserves as there is a limit, they are earmarked for programs.

Board Member Vera asked if there were any other management comments. Paul Kaymark stated there was not.

Chair Leano asked if there will be further discussion on the funds. Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated all funds are accounted for and will be discussed.

There being no further comment, Board Member Vera moved, and Board Member Lau seconded, to approve and file the Authority's final issued audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2024. The motion was carried by the following vote: Alternate Board Member Johnson; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Lau, and Vera; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Ontiveros-Cole.

8. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 767 APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE MHSA ANNUAL UPDATE FY 2024-25 AUTHORIZING THE USE OF UNSPENT COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS (CSS) FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE COMPLETION OF THE CLAREMONT GARDENS SENIOR HOUSING PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000,000

Board Member Vera asked if the three million is from MHSA money. Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated it is CSS dollars. She stated it is the only plan where dollars can be used for this. Board Member Vera asked if the aggregate MHSA amount is 36.4 million. And if the CSS money is reflected in that amount. Chief Financial Officer Acosta responded in the affirmative.

General Counsel Flower said the item will be brought back in January with an updated agreement.

There being no further comment, Board Member Lantz moved, and Board Member Vera seconded to approve the adopt Resolution No. 767 authorizing the Mid-Year Update to the MHSA Annual Update FY 2024-2025 to allow the use of existing unspent CSS Funds in amount not to exceed \$3,000,000, to support the completion of the Claremont Gardens Senior Housing Project. The motion was carried by the following vote: Alternate Board Member Johnson; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Lau, and Vera; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Ontiveros-Cole.

9. STUDY SESSION ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) FUNDING

Controller Bogle and Chief Financial Officer Acosta distributed a waterfall chart to the Board and Commission displaying the funding and when it needs to be spent by. He stated the pace of money being spent isn't keeping up with the money that is being received. He explained that Prop 1 would change the funding buckets and how they can be spent. Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated the focus is on CSS programs.

Board Member Vera asked if the 5.2 million needs to be spent by 2027, when does the MHS need to approve ideas. Controller Bogle stated as soon as possible. Board Member Vera asked if the process only includes MHS approval. Controller Bogle stated it also needs to go through the stakeholder process.

Chair Leano asked if we still face reversion regardless of Prop 1. Controller Bogle stated the strategies and transfers are already included in projections.

Chair Leano asked if the cap to transfer funds has been met and if the funds can be absorbed in preexisting programs. Controller Bogle stated the maximum amount that can be transferred has been met and for the FSP programs would not absorb fast enough and would generate revenue, exacerbating the problem.

Board Member Vera stated other agencies are facing the same problem in excess funding and invited the Mental Health Commission to think of ideas for the funding. Chair Leano stated it's a good problem to have and the biggest responsibility it is figuring out how to best utilize the funding. He highlighted there are no wrong answers or ideas. Executive Director Placide advised strategic planning so whatever the funding is used for becomes a long-term investment.

Vice-Chair Ryback inquired what happened if the funding is not spent in the three-year time frame. Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated the money is then redistributed to all counties. Controller Bogle explained TCMHA would receive a fraction of the original amount.

Commissioner Cernal asked what the parameters are for spending. Controller Bogle stated they are unspent CSS dollars and must be spent within CSS.

Board Member Lantz stated she believes money should be spent on outreach, educating the community on all TCMHA's services. She also stated she believes a focus should be placed on housing, specifying purchasing housing and not construction.

Board Member Lau emphasized the need to spend the money wisely. She then asked if the funding could be used for salaries. Controller Bogle stated it can be used for staff within the CSS programs, explaining 80% of current agency-wide costs are salaries and benefits. Board Member Lau asked if the funding could be used to create incentives, trainings, and recruit new staff due to the industry-wide lack of staffing. Chair Leano expressed his support for this idea and asked if a training or residency program could be developed to draw interest in the agency. Board Member Lantz added outreach to schools both local and further away.

Chair Leano asked what is allowable within CSS. Controller Bogle stated it's hard to specifically define and TCMHA can be broader than county partners but stated he will compile a list.

Chair Leano stated when Prop 1 goes into effect, the emphasis on housing will be a priority. He stated he wanted to see TCMHA become nimbler in housing, having the freedom to purchase buildings like duplexes or single-family homes. He emphasized the agency's small size is an advantage and the Board and Staff's knowledge of the area could be used in favor.

Board Member Vera asked if the money can be used to fund other agencies. Controller Bogle stated no but he would investigate to verify.

At 6:27 p.m., Commissioner Wilkerson left the meeting.

Board Member Lau recommended emailing any ideas to TCMHA staff and reconvening for another study session to further discuss. Board Member Lantz asked if the discussing was being recorded. Controller Bogle confirmed he was taking notes.

Commissioner Stephens suggested purchasing transitional housing for individuals, especially for individuals struggling to meet the restrictive guidelines of current transitional housing. Chair Leano offered bridging the gap between transitional housing and permanent placement.

Commissioner Christensen suggested offering more training to schools, particularly general education teachers about warning signs for students.

Vice Chair Ryback suggested a community needs assessment. Chair Henderson suggested developing better relationships with the hospitals. Commissioner Guzman suggested providing a safe space for the community to share their thoughts and concerns.

Executive Director Placide stated he is honored to be a part of TCMHA. He suggested focusing on housing and treatment. Board Member Lantz supported the focus on housing, highlighting the need to bridge the gap between housing and treatment and building relationships with other supportive services. Commissioner Stephens stated the Housing Department does have relationships with supportive services but stated funding is an issue for the department. She suggested hosting groups in the community to draw and unite community partners and offering stipends or incentives to attract them.

Commissioner Guzman suggested alternate programs or trainings for clinical staff.

Controller Bogle offered a brief overview of what CSS covers, including: FSP programs, Access to Care, Transitional Age Youth, Wellness Center, Mobile Crisis Care Unit, and housing. Board Member Lau asked for a list of what can be offered within those programs. Controller Bogle stated in the future, BHSa will have its own funding bucket.

Director of MHSa & Ethnic Services Barford asked if any funding can be moved to WET. Controller Bogle stated money has already been allotted to WET. Chair Leano asked if WET included professional development. Executive Director Placide stated that is where it takes creativity in the program.

Chair Leano opened the discussion to Public Comment and asked former Board Vice-Chair John Nolte for his ideas.

John Nolte stated 7.25% of the money received can be used for capital and the rest for service. He suggested offering support services to landlords and low-income housing as a last step before homelessness. He highlighted helping people keep housing before it's lost. Commissioner Stephens stated PEI offers eviction protection and landlord programs; and that staff educates landlords on mental health services and assistance with tenants. Mr. Nolte suggested expanding outreach, suggesting a staff office the community can attend.

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria suggested in addition to housing looking into training, filling vacancies, and focusing on support and supervision and prioritizing retention. Controller Bogle stated he will look more into the budget and what can be allowed to vacancies. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated the importance of attracting people to work for TCMHA. Board Member Lantz asked if dollar amounts could be added to all mentioned ideas.

Chair Leano opened the meeting to Public Comment.

Audience Member Vera urged the Board to look at any prior ideas that had been sent to the Board and Commission but returned for revision. She also suggested RFPs to provide services through third-party providers with a focus on people who are mentally ill and not people who are feeling unwell. She then suggested reaching out to organizations that specifically deal with people who are unwell. She suggested TCMHA meet with Pomona Valley Hospital and informing the hospital of the available funding. She stressed the need for the CEO of the hospital and the executive director of TCMHA meet and discuss options. She then asked who must answer for the excess funding. Controller Bogle stated it was a delay in state tax returns, resulting in large amounts

being received consecutively. Audience Member Vera suggested informing the public of that, so they do not blame TCMHA. She suggested funding public relations. She then stressed funding ideas that are research based and not evidence based. She concluded with suggesting Executive Director Placide have an interview to familiarize the public with him.

Chair Leano closed Public Comment. He then requested continuing the study session to the January meeting and asked that a list of ideas be compiled with estimate dollar amounts to each idea. Board Member Lantz asked that staff also include their ideas. Chair Leano requested another joint meeting with the Mental Health Commission.

Executive Director Placide stated that ideas or recommendations be emailed to him and JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS

10. ONTSON PLACIDE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Placide thanked Chief Financial Officer Acosta for her service as Interim Executive Director. He stated he looks forward to getting to know everyone. He then deferred to Chief Financial Officer Acosta for the monthly staff report.

At 7:04 p.m., Commissioner Guzman left the meeting.

Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated several executives are engaged in CBHDA meetings and are regularly communicating with each other to engage in as many meetings as possible. She stated TCMHA is ensuring to remain up to date on anything new.

11. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Financial Officer Acosta thanked Controller Bogle for completion of the monthly report. She stated the Annual Audit has been completed and was presented and attention is now shifting to the report for next month's study session and reports due to the state, the MHSA Annual Revenue and Expenditure Report, MHSA Annual update, and the agency-wide budget.

She stated the five-year lease for the Royalty location is coming to an end in June 2025, she will be presenting a renewal to the board shortly.

Board Member Vera asked if this is the first year in the contract with auditing firm Nigro & Nigro and there is two years left in the contract. Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated it is a three-year contract with an option to extend up to five years.

Board Member Vera asked about the building that had previously been considered for purchase. Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated the building ultimately had insufficient parking, but other options are being considered.

Board Member Lantz expressed appreciation for the early distribution of the audit report.

12. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated the team is working to remain up to date on any CBHDA changes. She stated the Housing Team has received 263 housing referrals and most have now been placed. She stated the occupancy of TCMHA's units are currently full.

She concluded the Housing Division was invited to visit the Chris Hartmire Plaza by the Cesar Chavez Foundation and were able to see the skeleton of the building and identified where the TCMHA office will be located.

13. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Medical Director Teimoori stated education and access to Naloxone is being made available.

Board Member Vera inquired how many Psychiatrists there currently are. Medical Director Teimoori stated currently TCMHA is fully staffed.

14. DANA BARFORD, DIRECTOR OF MHSA AND ETHNIC SERVICES REPORT

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford talked about seasonal events arranged by the Community Navigators including providing hot meals, food boxes, grocery gift cards, and holiday events the community can attend. She then highlighted the holiday events that will be hosted during the holidays by the Wellness Center.

15. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT

Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart discussed the Assessment of Needs and Capacity. She stated her assessments it to prepare for BHSA by collecting demographic profiles to identify who TCMHA needs to serve. She said the assessment will take through the end of February and will consult with staff to identify staff needs to meet the needs of the community. She stated after the assessment, the programs will be redesigned and implemented.

Board Member Vera asked if the guidelines are out of draft form and if they are posted to the TCMHA website. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford replied they are in draft form but are not posted on the website, they need to go through final approval. Board Member Vera asked if the next six months will be anticipating the changes. Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart replied in the affirmative. Board Member Vera asked if there have been significant changes from what is currently being done. Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart stated there has been significant changes and that is why they are ensuring they are meeting guidelines.

GOVERNING BOARD/MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION COMMENTS

Chair Henderson stated the Data Notebook has been submitted with an extension, she stated there will be a report next month.

Vice-Chair Ryback stated Pomona Valley Hospital has a receptacle outside of the emergency department and can obtain Naloxone and testing strips for Fentanyl.

Board Member Vera stated the community needs access to care.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:23 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board and Mental Health Commission its Regular Joint Meeting of December 18, 2024, was adjourned. The Governing Board will meet next in a Special Joint Meeting with the Mental Health Commission to be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

DRAFT



MINUTES

**GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Governing Board and the Mental Health Commission Special Joint Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 5:04 p.m. in the MHSA Administrative Office located at 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Leano called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

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

GOVERNING BOARD

PRESENT: Jed Leano, City of Claremont, Chair
Lorraine Canales, City of Pomona, Board Member
Carolyn Cockrell, City of La Verne, Board Member
Paula Lantz, City of Pomona, Board Member
Ronald T. Vera, City of Claremont, Board Member
Beverly Johnson, City of Pomona, Alternate Board Member
Ken Domer, City of La Verne, Alternate Board Member

ABSENT: Wendy Lau, City of La Verne, Board Member
Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, City of Pomona, Board Member

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

PRESENT: Anne Henderson, Chair
Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair
Clarence D. Cernal, Commissioner
Sandra Christensen, Commissioner
Ethel Gardner, Commissioner
Frank Guzman, Commissioner
Laura Mundy, Commissioner (arrived at 5:07pm)
Toni L. Watson, Commissioner (virtual)
Danette E. Wilkerson, Commissioner

ABSENT: Mildred Garcia, Commissioner
Janet R. Roy, Commissioner
Twila L. Stephens, Commissioner

STAFF

PRESENT: Ontson Placide, Executive Director

Steven Flower, General Counsel
Elizabeth Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer
Seeyam Teimoori, Medical Director
Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services
Natalie Majors-Stewart, Chief Compliance Officer
Trevor Bogle, Controller
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

PRESENTATION

1. REPORT ON THE CALIFORNIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL (CBHPC) 2024 DATA NOTEBOOK: HOMELESSNESS WITHIN THE PUBLIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

MHC Chair Henderson explained that the annual Data Notebook is a performance outcome data reviewed by local boards and commissions, and its findings are reported to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC); that in addition, the Data Notebook supports TCMHA with mandates set forth under the Welfare and Institutions Code, serves as an educational resource regarding behavioral health data, and it identifies unmet needs, noting that it also provides a platform to obtain opinions and thoughts of our local Board members on specific topics, and to make recommendations. Its findings reported by CBHPC help TCMHA by serving as a behavioral health resource. She stated that an Ad Hoc Committee of the Mental Health Commission was created to work on the Data Notebook and was comprised of Chair Anne Henderson, Vice-Chair Wray Ryback, and Commissioner Dannette Wilkerson, and assisted by TCMHA staff: Projects Manager Sara Rodriguez, Program Analyst Khajan Singh Gill, and Housing Manager Mary Monzon; and indicated that this year the CBHP chose homelessness and behavioral health topic for the Data Notebook. She then explained that issues of homelessness within behavioral health are long-standing issues and that the State of California is home to the largest number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the nation, making up 31% of the nation's homeless population and 49% of the nation's unsheltered population as of 2023.

Board Member Vera inquired about the difference between homeless and unsheltered.

MHC Vice-Chair Ryback stated homeless is someone who is currently unhoused, at imminent risk of being unhoused, is homeless under federal statutes, or are victims fleeing domestic violence. She then talked about the trends seen in the Data Notebook and reported that the federal Point-in-Time Count (PIT) revealed that unsheltered, chronically homeless, those in emergency shelters, with severe mental illness, and experiencing chronic substance abuse, saw increases in 2023; whereas, unaccompanied youth (ages 18-24), unaccompanied children (ages 17 and below), and those served in transitional housing did not see increases.

Board Member Lantz stated school districts are governed by a different set of rules of homelessness.

MHC Vice-Chair Ryback stated TCMHA has done a lot of work to address homelessness by participating in countywide interagency continuum, collecting data for performance indicators, collaborating with internal and external organizations to get people referred to appropriate resources, and designating staff passionate about helping the issue, and evaluating program design and decision making to make some impact on homelessness in our community.

Commissioner Mundy inquired if TCMHA tracks an individual on their journey and interactions or if they are double counted. MHSA Projects Manager Sara Rodriguez stated TCMHA assesses a client's journey at various times. Commissioner Mundy asked if TCMHA was tracking individual outcomes or number of interactions. MHSA Projects Manager Rodriguez stated everything is taken into consideration.

Board Member Vera reiterated his question about what the difference was between unsheltered and homeless; and further inquired if the population of homeless count from the survey would generate money for TCMHA. Housing Manager Monzon stated the PIT count Homeless data included sheltered and unsheltered, and that homeless funding is allocated to surrounding counties. Chair Leano stated Measure A allocates local money entitled the Local Solutions Fund. MHC Chair Henderson added that the Local Solutions Fund is allocated to the cities.

Board Member Lantz stated her understanding of the difference between sheltered and unsheltered is counting people in shelters separately; and inquired about the CBHPC. MHSA Projects Manager Rodriguez stated the CBHPC develop the Data Notebook after selecting a topic which was derived from feedback received from the behavioral boards/commissions. Board Member Lantz further inquired if TCMHA as the Authority is considered a Behavioral Board. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated a name change from 'mental health' to 'behavioral health' is requested under Proposition 1.

Discussion ensued regarding the difference between the Tri-City Mental Health Commission (MHC) and Tri-City Mental Health Authority (TCMHA), which are not the same. The MHC is an advisory body to TCMHA, and TMHCA is similar to what is currently is being followed by the counties, noting that where it states "county", it applies to TCMHA as well; that TCMHA as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and its Governing Board oversees all areas of TCMHA; that the new law, Prop 1, is in reference to the MHC.

Board Member Canales stated that under the McKinney-Vento Act, there are certain students that are classified homeless if they're living in a home, but they're living not under their own, such as living with other relatives, and if that was included in the count. Project Manager Rodriguez replied in the negative.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Item No. 3 was pulled for discussion from the Consent Calendar.

Chair Leano opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

There being no further comment, Alternate Board Member Domer moved, and Board Member Vera seconded to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following vote: Alternate Board Members Domer and Johnson; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, and Vera; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Members Lau and Ontiveros-Cole.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 18, 2024, GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR JOINT MEETING

Recommendation: "A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board and Mental Health commission Regular Joint Meeting of December 18, 2024."

CONTINUED BUSINESS

3. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 768 APPROVING A DISPOSITION AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH RESTORE NEIGHBORHOODS, LA, INC. FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION, FINANCING, AND OPERATION OF THE CLAREMONT GARDENS SENIOR HOUSING PROJECT AT ITS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 956 W BASELINE ROAD IN CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AND TAKE OTHER RELATED ACTIONS

Board Member Vera inquired if this would be for additional funding for TCMHA to close escrow. Chair Leano responded in the negative, noting that this item was for the use of the land for the project.

Board Member Vera pointed out that there were errors in the proposal, stating it should state “TCMHA” and not “city” under Section 2.6.11 and Section 3.1. General counsel Flower stated it will be corrected and pointed out that the Resolution includes language that provides flexibility to make corrections as well as also execute other documents that may be necessary as we move forward to close escrow.

Board Member Lantz referred to the Schedule of Performance and indicated that she was confused with the order of things, and said it was her understanding that the money would be dispersed upon completion of the project. She also expressed concern that construction would not be completed upon closure of escrow, about the construction not being completed, or the building losing permits, noting that most of the dates for completion are after the close of escrow.

General Counsel Flower stated that permits cannot be pulled within a month and with ongoing funding and loan agreements, it can default under the DDA.

Board Member Lantz asked if a year from now and construction has not started if the firm still has TCMHA’s money. General Counsel Flower stated due to right of reversion under the DDA, money can be collected if they default an agreement. Board Member Vera asked if a trustee is being used. General Flower stated the arraignment has been discussed and staff was working with Genesis.

Board Member Lantz asked if a progress payment was built into the contract. General Counsel Flower replied in the negative. Board Member Lantz voiced her concern for the risk of losing the \$2.8 million dollars paid, even if the land is returned. General Counsel flower stated the money will only be paid when the work is done, noting that this is not part of the DDA but it is being agreed on.

John Perfitt, of Restore Neighborhoods, Los Angeles -RNLA (developer), stated that the No Place Like Home (NPLH) funds will be used until the end; that the money will not be pulled until permits are approved and will draw funds from other lenders first; and that all lenders will receive copies of reports; and that a 3rd Party will certify work that has been completed. He also confirmed reversion should not be a problem.

Chair Leano inquired if the schedule is done by Genesis or by a 3rd Party.

Developer Perfitt confirmed that the performance schedule, which includes entitlements, permits, lease up and construction, are done by Genesis, and within the schedule there will be milestone payments that will be made strictly upon construction and will be handled by a 3rd Party.

Board Member Vera asked if TCMHA funds will be comingled with Genesis funding, or it will be an advance to start construction. Developer John Perfitt stated some funders want their funding used first so there might be some comingling, but all lenders will be made aware. Board Member Vera asked if TCMHA has priority among all lenders. General Counsel Flower stated TCMHA will be required to subordinate to other members.

Discussion ensued regarding the risk involved and how the priority of lenders are listed in the Intercreditor Agreement approved and executed by all the lenders.

Member Lantz expressed concern about the agreement because financially it is against her better judgment; however, will support it to see the project proceed forward.

Chair Leano opened the meeting to Public Comment, and there was no public comment.

There being no further discussion, Board Member Vera moved, and Chair Leano seconded to approve Resolution No. 768 approving a Disposition and Development Agreement with RNLA for the development, construction, financing, and operation of a 15-unit of combined affordable and permanent supportive senior housing project, at its property located at 956 W. Baseline Road in Claremont, California, and authorize the Executive Director to execute the Agreement and take other related actions. The motion was carried by the following vote: Alternate Board Members Domer and Johnson; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, and Vera; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Members Lau and Ontiveros-Cole.

4. STUDY SESSION ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) FUNDING

Executive Director Placide provided an overview on the issue of reversion of Community Services and Support (CSS) dollars, and urged everyone to consider the transition from Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) according to Prop 1. He thanked Chief Clinical Officer Renteria and Director of MHSA and Ethnic Service Barford for their help in building a list of concepts, and proceeded to discuss the Statement of Purpose giving the Governing Board and Mental Health Commission concepts for approval. He also stated that despite approval on that day, the ideas still needed to go through stakeholder approval and would then return to the Governing Board for final approval.

Controller Bogle explained the projected reversion amount was expected to be between \$5.2 to \$8 million; however, with the Claremont Gardens Housing Project being approved, the new balance is \$5.2 million for spending.

Chair Leano inquired if BHSA will cause an increase in MHSA revenue. Controller Bogle replied in the negative, noting that there is a possibility of receiving less. Executive Director Placide added we are earning more, but more is also being taken.

Executive Director Placide then talked about the transition from MHSA to BHSA and the reallocation of funding. He explained that under BHSA, funding will go to Housing (30%), FSP (35%), and BHSS (35%), noting that whatever is started now must sustain itself.

Chair Leano inquired if what TCMHA is already doing is possibly housing related. Executive Director Placide stated yes but not at the level that we need to, and stated the main priority is housing and FSP; that the second priority is extended timeline projects; and the last priority is means of making sure current programs are reimagined; and directed the Board and Commission to a concept list hand out that was distributed to everyone at the meeting.

Chair Leano inquired if currently \$10 million was being spent, and if it needed to be reduced to \$6.7 million. Executive Director Placide responded in the affirmative, stating that it needs to be modified or moved to other buckets.

Vice-Chair Ryback sought clarification if the goal was to identify projects that can be completed in two years and not draw from other moneys in the future. Executive Director Placide stated the goal is expending the dollars within the next twenty-four months and continuing to add to it, noting that the difficulty is the current buckets of money through June 2026 have restrictions that require creativity the work within; and asked the Board and Commission to settle on their top two to three priority options.

Alternate Board Member Domer stated the three cities need to be made aware of additional funding that can be made available to better services provided.

Board Member Lantz inquired about purchasing existing apartment buildings, citing it avoids zoning issues, but would need people in place to assist residents. She stated that TCMHA needs a good reputation in the community and should help in dispelling the bad perception of low-income housing, pointing out that the issue with past projects was not having qualified staff providing support services on site and that led to more problems.

Executive Director Placide stated scattered sites are on the top of the priority list because it eliminates construction and improves purchasing time; noting that including supportive services also increases FSP. He recommended thinking beyond just apartment buildings like considering drop centers; and that with a comprehensive approach and creating services that build integration with community, life skills, and coaching.

Board Member Lantz stated transportation would need to be a part of the supportive housing. Executive Director Placide agreed.

Board Member Vera inquired if TCMHA is precluded from using a third-party developer. Board Member Lantz voiced her concern with using that method. Executive Director Placide stated there are models available, but the issue is funding is considered other services, and not housing.

Chair Leano asked if it was being recommended to balance the funding buckets or to spend all the funding in one category. Executive Director Placide stated the other categories still exist and are still subject to reversion. Board Member Lantz asked if the ideas drew from all categories. Executive Director Placide stated not all do.

Vice-Chair Ryback asked if there will be a large bucket of housing related expenditures that TCMHA typically does not have. Executive Director Placide replied in the affirmative, noting that to avoid reversion, we should look at future spending. Vice-Chair Ryback inquired about the plan to spend the money. Executive Director Placide stated there was no plan that is why it was brought forth for discussion; and that ideas come forward with complexities and stated the easiest route would be FSP.

Alternate Board Member Domer stated an issue is individuals that need housing but due to severe mental illness they do not know their issues. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated the expansion of FSP will require other positions that TCMHA does not currently have.

Commissioner Guzman expressed the need to increase educational components and opportunities.

At 6:31 p.m., Commissioner Guzman left the meeting.

Vice-Chair Ryback expressed interest in a patient portal where clients can access their records and engage in clinical treatments in a closer way. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria concurred, noting that BHSa means enhancing the whole aspect of care and helps clients in navigating care and is a requirement of CalAIM.

Executive Director Placide stated the list addressed permanency, triage, and community services regarding housing.

Board Member Canales stated it would be beneficial for internships to be funded as it would draw more applicants; and that there is also the need for outreach to homeless and working more closely with them. Board Member Lantz stated outreach is time consuming and is about establishing relationships. Executive Director Placide stated outreach was included on the list and commented that the City of Santa Monica has mobile psychiatric street teams that meet clients where they were. Board Member Canales stated Modesto has the program of working with the homeless to provide services and earn housing vouchers. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated part of BHSa requirement is the treatment team must do outreach and then transitions into FSP. Executive Director Placide stated he liked the pathway to being housed, while working with the client they eventually work up to permanent housing.

At 6:37 p.m., Board Member Canales left the meeting.

Alternate Board Member Domer expressed the need for alternative housing and transportation as opposed to using patrol cars.

Chair Leano inquired if the entire list could be provided at the Stake Holder meeting and thereafter, the Board and Commission would select. General Counsel Flower stated there was no legal obstacles. Executive Director Placide stated the provided numbers were just estimates.

Alternate Board Member Domer stated it is hard to come to a conclusion with large audiences, and asked if partnerships could be covered, or if it had to strictly be within La Verne, Pomona, and Claremont. Board Member Lantz stated the priority should be TCMHA clients, but the location could be outside of the three cities. Chair Leano asked if there were issues with that idea. General Counsel Flower stated it would be a case-by-case basis. Executive Director Placide said it is appropriate if the client stays within the three cities but if placed outside of, then they would need to be handed over to county care.

There being no further discussion, the Governing Board and the Mental Health Commission decided that the following items would have the most impact in the community: 1. Scattered Site Housing; 2. Purchase existing building to create Homeless Bridge Housing (OC Model); 3. Purchase existing building to create a Drop-In Center and PSH for 25 adults (Riverside Model); 4. Purchase existing building -combined with an Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program (LA

Model); 7. Developing an Internship, Residency, and Training Department at Tri-City Mental Health Authority; and 10 & 11 combined -Purchase Land/Building space for additional services.

Executive Director Placide commented he had also received excellent ideas from staff but were lower priority.

Commissioner Cernal expressed the advantage of being surrounded by educational institutions and utilizing them.

Board Member Vera expressed concern of an amount listed. Executive Director Placide stated it was a typo and that it would be corrected.

Executive Director Placide stated that staff would re-analyze dollar amounts and present them at the stake holder meeting based on the items that were selected as a priority.

Board Member Vera asked if any of the ideas required State approval. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford replied in the negative, noting that only innovation projects require State approval; and clarified that the items selected will be presented during a stakeholder meeting, then post for a 30-day public comment, then present back to the Board for final approval, noting that the majority vote is counted at the stakeholder meeting.

Board Member Vera asked how the meeting was being advertised. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford stated through social media, website, community navigators, and community meetings.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS

- 5. ONTSON PLACIDE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**
- 6. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT**
- 7. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER REPORT**
- 8. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT**
- 9. DANA BARFORD, DIRECTOR OF MHSA AND ETHNIC SERVICES REPORT**
- 10. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT**

Chair Leano stated the monthly staff reports were received and filed.

Executive Director Placide urged everyone to read his report for funding.

General Counsel Flower stated future monthly reports can be moved to Consent Calendar.

Chair Leano agreed and requested that monthly staff reports are moved to Consent Calendar.

GOVERNING BOARD/MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION COMMENTS

Vice Chair Ryback stated Pomona Valley Hospital completed its community needs assessment and resulted in behavioral health being its #2 priority.

Board Member Vera announced that this was his last meeting after serving 8 years on the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christina Vera complemented TCMHA staff, the Board, and the Commission of all the work performed during this meeting, and urged that any work done is focused on helping people who are severely mentally ill.

MHSA Projects Manager Sara Rodriguez announced that the TCMHA Community Forum would take place on January 29 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:59 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board and Mental Health Commission its joint meeting of January 15, 2025, was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk



**Tri-City Mental Health Authority
MONTHLY STAFF REPORT**

DATE: February 11, 2025
TO: Mental Health Commission of Tri-City Mental Health Authority
FROM: Ontson Placide, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Monthly Report

HONORING WELLNESS & RESILIENCE DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By Andrea Espinosa, DEI Coordinator

This month, we come together to honor the resilience, strength, and perseverance of Black communities throughout history. We also commit to elevating the importance of mental health, self-care, and support, while recognizing the unique challenges shaped by race and identity. We acknowledge that the journey toward healing and well-being can be complex and layered, but there is undeniable power in seeking help, leaning on community, and breaking the silence that too often surrounds mental health.

As we celebrate Black history, let us continue to prioritize and nurture the mental health of Black individuals—today and every day. Together, let's work toward a future where Black communities thrive in every sense, supported by the strength of mental wellness and the power of collective care.

UPDATE ON THE MHSA COMMUNITY FORUM HELD ON JANUARY 29, 2025

On January 29, 2025 a Community Forum (Stakeholder Meeting) was held to vote on six 2025-26 MHSA Plan initiatives/concepts that were proposed by the Tri-City Executive Team and then recommended by the by the Governing Board. The six concepts presented are as follows:

1. Purchase existing building to create Homeless Bridge Housing (OC Model)
2. Developing an Internship, Residency, and Training Department at Tri-City Mental Health Authority
3. Scattered Site Housing
4. Purchase existing building to create a Drop-In Center and PSH for 25 adults (Riverside Model)
5. Purchase existing building - Combine with an Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program (LA Model)
6. Expand FSP - Tri-City Mental Health Authority's Homeless Outreach Multi-Disciplinary Team (HOT-MDT)

There were a total of 51 attendees including in person and online. The concept that received the most votes was item number one referenced above which is to purchase existing building to care Homeless Bridge Housing (OC Model).

AGENDA ITEM NO. III

The next steps will include presenting the concepts to the Governing Board in February and subsequently including the concepts in an MHSA Plan, posting the MHSA Plan for a 30-day public comment period, presentation of the MHSA Plan during a Public Hearing in April and then ultimately presenting the MHSA Plan to the governing Board in April

2025-26 COMMUNITY WELLBEING GRANTS

Our Community Wellbeing Grants Program provide grants to community groups and organizations who work, serve and or support children and youth ages 0-25. Please help us spread the word to any agencies or community partners you may know of and who may be interested in applying.

We will be hosting a Grant Information Night on February 11, 2025 at 6pm via zoom, where we will offer more detailed information on the Community Wellbeing Grant. To support grant applicants with their submissions, a Bidders Conference will be held on February 25, 2025 at 6pm and February 27, 2026 at 10am via Zoom. Attendance at one of the two Bidder's meetings is required to submit a proposal for the Community Wellbeing Grant.

For more information and meeting details, please reach out to Daisy Martinez, Community Capacity Organizer, at dmartinez@tricitymhs.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Youth Movie Nights at the Tri-City Wellness Center**
 - **Every Tuesday, 6:00 PM–7:30 PM**
Tri-City Wellness Center (1403 N Garey Ave, Pomona)
 - Free and open to ages 16-25. Snacks included! For more information, contact the Tri-City Wellness Center at (909) 242-7600 or wellness@tricitymhs.org. No registration required.
 - **February 4:** Paul Blart Mall Cop
 - **February 18:** Thomas and the Magic Railroad
 - **February 25:** Mean Girls

- **Friday Movie Nights at the Tri-City Wellness Center**
 - **Every Friday, 6:00 PM–7:30 PM**
Tri-City Wellness Center (1403 N Garey Ave, Pomona)
 - Bring your friends and family, blankets and pillows! Complimentary snacks will be provided. This event is free and open for all ages to attend. For more information, contact the Tri-City Wellness Center at (909) 242-7600 or wellness@tricitymhs.org. Check out our movie lineup!
 - **February 7:** Little Giants
 - **February 14:** Little Rascals
 - **February 21:** Captain Underpants
 - **February 28:** Secret Life of Pets

- **Governing Board Regular Meeting**
 - **Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 5:00 PM**
HYBRID Zoom & In-Person: MHSA Administrative Office (2001 N Garey Ave, Pomona, CA)
 - These meetings are open to staff, clients and the general public. Agenda and meeting link will be posted 72 hours online prior to the meeting. Tri-City's Governing Board holds regularly scheduled meetings at 5:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.
 - [View agenda and meeting minutes](#)
- **Tenant Skills Workshop (2-Day Free Community Workshop)**
 - **Tuesday, February 25, 2025 & Thursday, February 27, 2025**
5:00 PM-7:00 PM
ParkTree Community Center (1450 E Holt Ave, Pomona, CA 91767)
 - This free workshop is open to all and is designed to support tenants with their housing needs. Gain practical tips and resources to access and maintain affordable housing for yourself and your family. Learn about your tenant housing rights and responsibilities; how to effectively communicate with your property manager, landlord and neighbors; maintaining a safe and clean living space; legal notices and evictions and housing resources.
 - For more information and to register, please contact Elaine Hernandez, Housing Outreach Specialist (909) 784-3035 or ehernandez@tricitymhs.org.
- **Housing Provider Hour (with Housing Rights Center)**
 - **Thursday, February 27, 2025, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM**
Tri-City Wellness Center (1403 N Garey Ave, Pomona, CA 91767)
 - This free *Lunch and Learn workshop* is open landlords, housing providers and Tri-City staff. Join us, ask questions and learn about housing rights and available resources. Gain knowledge, resources and skills you can utilize to support your clients.
 - Register today at: <https://forms.office.com/r/tvM4v8HRG8>. For more information, please contact Elaine Hernandez, Housing Outreach Specialist (909) 784-3035 or ehernandez@tricitymhs.org.
- **Finding Strength Together (Community Conversation)**
 - **Friday, February 28, 2025, 4:00 PM-5:00 PM**
Pomona Valley Pride (235 W Mission Boulevard, Pomona, CA 91766)
 - We're creating a LGBTQIA+ safe space to heal and support one another. Come chat with mental health professionals, community leaders, and faith-based organizations about coping skills, local resources, and how to better support yourself and your loved ones. You'll leave feeling reassured that there's always support and connection available. Our panelists include staff from Tri-City Mental Health, Pomona Valley Pride, and Diamond Bar United Church of Christ, all coming together as part of the Tri-City RAINBOW Wellness Collaborative.
 - No registration required. For more information contact Andrea Espinosa, DEI Coordinator, at dei@tricitymhs.org.

CLIENT, PARTICIPANTS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- **Therapeutic Community Garden Groups Available In-Person and Virtual**
If there are participants, clients and community organizations who are interested in the TCG program please feel free to refer individuals to TCG team and provide TCMH number (909) 623-6131.
- **The Wellness Center is open 10 am – 8 pm Monday through Friday**
Please view the monthly Wellness Center calendars (general, young adult and older adults) for a list of available in-person and virtual support groups and events. To participate in a virtual group, please pre-register by contacting the Wellness Center at wellness@tricitymhs.org or calling toll-free at (888) 593-4448. For more information, visit the [Wellness Center](#) webpage.