TRI·CITY Mental Health

Founded in 1960 by the residents of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne.

www.tricitymha.ca.gov

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026, AT 3:30 P.M.
BHSA ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
2001 NORTH GAREY AVENUE, POMONA, CA 91767

To join the meeting on-line clink on the following link:
https://tricitymhs-org.zoom.us/j/85922283194?pwd=OZzJgul2G0dM2aO3e93aa9RfsdkPLn.1
Passcode: xm.T07sV

Public Participation. *Section 54954.3 of the Brown Act provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) 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 Governing Board. 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 Behavioral Health Commission 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 sazzam@tricitymha.ca.gov. All email messages received by 12:30 p.m. will be shared with the Behavioral 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 BHC 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 Trainee Sara Azzam at (909) 451-6429 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Administrative Office
1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard, Suite B
Claremont, CA 91711
Phone (909) 623-6131
Fax (909) 623-4073

Clinical Office / Adult
2008 North Garey Avenue
Pomona, CA 91767
Phone (909) 623-6131
Fax (909) 865-9281

Clinical Office / Child & Fam
1900 Royalty Drive, Suite 180
Pomona, CA 91767
Phone (909) 766-7340
Fax (909) 865-0730

BHSA Administrative Office
2001 North Garey Avenue
Pomona, CA 91767
Phone (909) 623-6131
Fax (909) 326-4690

Wellness Center
1403 North Garey Avenue
Pomona, CA 91767
Phone (909) 242-7600
Fax (909) 242-7691

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Henderson calls the meeting to Order.

ROLL CALL

Anne Henderson – *Chair*	Sandra Christensen	Janet R. Roy
Wray Ryback – *Vice-Chair*	Kyoni Cummings	Christina Vera
Sandra Grajeda – *GB Liaison*	Mildred Garcia	Hansley C. Wang
Aaron Baker	Frank Guzman	Danette E. Wilkerson
Clarence D. Cernal	Laura Mundy	

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 TCMHA's website: http://www.tricitymha.ca.gov

REGULAR BUSINESS

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2026, REGULAR MEETING OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

II. PRESENTATION –

i. OVERVIEW OF TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY'S ACCESS TO CARE (ATC) PROGRAM

III. ONTSON PLACIDE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioners are encouraged to make brief comments or request information about Behavioral Health needs, services, facilities, or special problems that may need to be placed on a future Behavioral 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.

ADJOURNMENT

The Behavioral Health Commission will meet next in a Regular Joint Meeting of the Governing Board and Behavioral Health Commission to be held on **Wednesday, December 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



ONTSON PLACIDE, MA, LMFT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
October 13, 2026 – 3:30 P.M.

The Mental Health Commission Regular Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in the MHSA Administrative Office located at 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

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

ROLL CALL Roll call was taken by JPA Administrator/Clerk Trainee Assistant Azzam.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

PRESENT: Anne Henderson, Chair
Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair
Sandra Grajeda, GB Member Liaison
Aaron Baker (arrived at 3:47 p.m.)
Clarence D. Cernal (arrived at 3:54 p.m.)
Sandra Christensen
Kyoni Cummings
Laura Mundy
Janet R. Roy
Hansley Wang (arrived at 3:40 p.m.)
Danette E. Wilkerson

ABSENT: Mildred Garcia
Frank Guzman
Christina Vera

STAFF

PRESENT: Ontson Placide, Executive Director
Sara Azzam, JPA Administrator/Clerk Trainee Assistant

REGULAR BUSINESS

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Commissioner Sandra Christensen clarified that the organization referenced in the previous meeting minutes was Hoodies for Heroes, not Hoodies for Homeless. JPA Administrator/Clerk Trainee Azzam noted that the previously approved minutes would not be amended; however, the correction would be reflected in the current meeting record.

Chair Henderson opened the meeting to Public Comment; there was none.

DRAFT

There being no discussion or public comment, Commissioner Mundy moved, and GB Liaison Grajeda seconded, to approve the Minutes from the July 14, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: GB Liaison Grajeda; Commissioner Christensen, Cummings, Mundy, Roy, and Wilkerson; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Vice-Chair Ryback. ABSENT: Commissioners Baker, Cernal, Garcia, Guzman, Wang, and Vera.

II. PRESENTATION -- OVERVIEW OF THE TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY'S PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)

Deputy Chief Clinical Officer Johnson introduced Clinical Program Manager Carrie Filamor, Clinical Supervisor Octavio Hernandez, and School-Based Program Supervisor Susana Maldonado, who provided an overview of Tri-City's School-Based Services and Behavioral Health Student Services Act programs. The presentation addressed program goals, school and community partnerships, referral pathways, whole-person care, and future services following the conclusion of BHSSA grant funding.

School-Based Program Supervisor Maldonado reviewed the School-Based Services program goals and shared a success story demonstrating how outreach and cross-campus collaboration had strengthened relationships, increased awareness of Tri-City's services, and resulted in student referrals.

At 3:40 p.m., Commissioner Wang arrived to the meeting.

Clinical Supervisor Hernandez reviewed the BHSSA program and its future direction. Clinical Program Manager Filamor explained that although BHSSA grant funding is ending, the team will continue accepting referrals and connecting students and families with appropriate services based on their needs. The program will transition toward direct specialty mental health services while continuing collaborative meetings, tabling, workshops, wellness activities, and person- and family-centered care.

School-Based Program Supervisor Maldonado shared an additional program success story. Deputy Chief Clinical Officer Johnson emphasized the importance of using creative approaches to reach students, noting that although Mt. San Antonio College is outside Tri-City's three member cities, the college serves students who live within Tri-City's jurisdiction. She stated that staff accept referrals and connect students with appropriate services. Clinical Program Manager Filamor added that students are increasingly learning about Tri-City through word-of-mouth outreach.

At 3:47 p.m., Commissioner Baker arrived to the meeting.

Clinical Supervisor Hernandez outlined priorities for the next year, including collaboration between BHSSA and School Partnership Teams. He reported that staff had met with California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and appreciated opportunities to participate in campus tabling events, which have helped Tri-City maintain a presence on campus.

Commissioner Wilkerson asked what constitutes a referral. Clinical Program Manager Filamor explained that a referral creates a pathway for a student to receive additional support and confirmed that the individual is informed before being referred. Deputy Chief Clinical Officer

Johnson added that the referral form contains an attestation confirming that the individual has been notified. Clinical Supervisor Hernandez stated that staff encourage warm handoffs and include families in discussions about available support. School-Based Program Supervisor Maldonado added that connecting with families is an important component of collaboration. Deputy Chief Clinical Officer Johnson noted that clients are provided with staff telephone numbers so they know who will be contacting them, and Clinical Program Manager Filamor emphasized that the team's community presence helps clients and families become familiar with Tri-City.

Commissioner Wang asked how schools would connect students with services beyond newsletters and other partnership communications. Clinical Program Manager Filamor discussed the "Be Kind to Your Mind" campaign, youth-friendly flyers, common messaging, school materials, and social media outreach. Deputy Chief Clinical Officer Johnson added that staff participate in tabling events and school campaigns whenever invited and remain available to collaborate on strategies for reaching students. She noted that prior student feedback had helped make outreach more accessible and youth friendly. Clinical Supervisor Hernandez added that wellness events, services, and campaigns collectively increase awareness and may help identify students who need additional support.

At 3:54 p.m., Commissioner Cernal arrived to the meeting.

Commissioner Roy asked whether services were available to children younger than college age and whether assistance extended to needs such as clothing or transportation. Deputy Chief Clinical Officer Johnson explained that Tri-City responds to inquiries involving individuals of all ages, works with each local school district, and provides a whole-system-of-care approach. She noted that staff coordinate with Community Navigators and school partners, including the Pomona Unified School District Family Resource Center, to connect families with resources that Tri-City does not provide directly. Clinical Program Manager Filamor added that when nonclinical needs are identified, staff involve Community Navigators to help ensure the student and family receive support. Clinical Supervisor Hernandez shared an example in which Tri-City provided housing resource information for University of La Verne students experiencing homelessness, even though the matter did not result in a direct referral to Tri-City.

Vice-Chair Ryback asked how School-Based Services would change under BHSA. Deputy Chief Clinical Officer Johnson explained that BHSSA grant funding had enabled Tri-City to establish stronger school partnerships and develop its referral program. As the grant concludes, referrals will be managed more internally, while tabling and outreach activities will be coordinated with Direct Link, Community Navigators, and other programs. She stated that the goal is for school districts to experience minimal disruption. Clinical Program Manager Filamor added that school partners are being encouraged to continue submitting referrals so students and families can receive appropriate assistance.

GB Liaison Grajeda asked how the term "student" was defined, including whether graduate students were eligible. Chief Program Officer Renteria explained that the BHSSA grant application established an age limit of 25. The presentation similarly identified direct services and linkages for students and families up to age 25. Chief Program Officer Renteria added that BHSSA had also allowed Tri-City to fund community-based grant programs and reported that the agency was beginning its fourth round of subgrants to community partners.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT

Executive Director Placide provided an update on the agency's continued transition to Behavioral Health Services (BHS), noting that the BHS designation allows Tri-City to expand the populations it serves while maintaining its core services. He reported that significant work continues in recruitment, program development, organizational structure, and substance use disorder services. He also noted that Tri-City is working with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health on a new contract.

Executive Director Placide provided an update on housing projects, reporting that the St. Ambrose project, now named Honeycrest, was approved by the Governing Board and had entered construction. He stated that an official groundbreaking was scheduled for November 16 at 10:00 a.m. at 830 Bonita Avenue in Claremont. The development will include 59 units, with Tri-City contributing funding toward 29 units and having exclusive access to 12 units.

Vice-Chair Ryback asked about affordability requirements for the housing project. Executive Director Placide explained that the project is part of Permanent Supportive Housing and that rental requirements and voucher eligibility are based on established income and poverty-level guidelines, including Section 8 and other affordability requirements. Chief Program Officer Renteria added that these eligibility and affordability standards are established externally and are based on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requirements.

Executive Director Placide also provided updates on additional housing projects, including the Pomona Tiny Homes Project and the Baseline Project. Commissioner Cernal asked whether the Baseline Project was for seniors and referenced Claremont Place. Executive Director Placide confirmed both points and stated that the agency continues working toward its housing and program expansion goals.

Vice-Chair Ryback also asked about an herbal product being sold as an over-the-counter supplement. Executive Director Placide explained that the product is available as a supplement but that certain components are being abused. He encouraged attention to the related legislative matter.

INFORMATION ITEM

IV. SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 LACK OF QUORUM MEMORANDUM

JPA Administrator/Clerk Trainee Azzam explained that the memorandum documenting the cancellation of the September 8, 2026 Behavioral Health Commission Regular Meeting due to a lack of quorum was presented for receipt and filing. She clarified that no Commission action was taken on September 8 and that the memorandum was provided for record-keeping and informational purposes only.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Cernal reported that Claremont hosted its National Night Out event in August and thanked Tri-City for its participation and support. Commissioner Cernal also expressed appreciation to Community Mental Health Trainer Paul Osorio for the classes offered to community members.

DRAFT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wellness Center Manager Gamliel Polanco announced that a Job Fair would be held at the Wellness Center on October 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He reported that approximately 19 employers were expected to participate and encouraged Commissioners to share the event information with the community.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:17 p.m., on consensus of the Behavioral Health Commission, its meeting of October 13, 2026, was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission will be held on **Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.**, in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

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Ontson Placide, MA, LMFT
Executive Director

DRAFT

PRESENTATION – OVERVIEW OF TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY'S ACCESS TO CARE (ATC) PROGRAM

Presenters:

Nicole Lobato, PhD, Clinical Program Manager
Elise Scheetz, LMFT, LPCC, Clinical Supervisor
Jasmin Hermosillo-Valdez, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor

Tri-City Mental Health Authority
MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

DATE: **November 10, 2026**

TO: **Behavioral Health Commission of Tri-City Mental Health Authority**

FROM: **Ontson Placide, Executive Director**

SUBJECT: **Executive Director's Monthly Report**

I. MHSA to BHSA PLANNING

Since the July 1, 2026 launch of Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) implementation, Tri-City Mental Health Authority continues to advance its multi-year transformation efforts focused on expanding service capacity, strengthening organizational infrastructure, and preparing the agency for long-term growth.

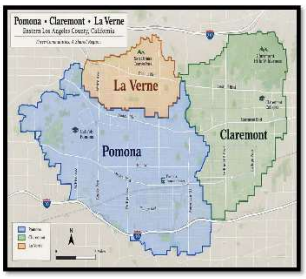
While there are no significant changes to the overall BHSA Transformation Plan to report during this month, implementation activities remain active and continue to move forward. Current efforts are centered on workforce expansion and recruitment, development of new programs and service lines, and the operational infrastructure necessary to support expanded access to behavioral health services. Ongoing work also includes the continued development and refinement of policies, procedures, clinical workflows, quality assurance processes, and regulatory requirements associated with BHSA implementation.

As part of this next phase of implementation, Tri-City has engaged a consulting firm to provide consulting support in organizing and advancing the BHSA Transformation Plan. This work is intended to establish a more structured implementation and accountability process, including clearer identification of priorities, timelines, responsibilities, dependencies, and progress measures across the various BHSA initiatives. The goal is to provide leadership and program teams with a coordinated framework for monitoring implementation, identifying barriers, and maintaining accountability as multiple programs, positions, and operational systems are developed concurrently.

For the Commission's information, staff has also included the Tri-City Services Infographic, which provides a visual overview of Tri-City's expanding continuum of care and demonstrates how BHSA-funded programs, Medi-Cal specialty mental health services, substance use disorder services, housing, crisis services, and other initiatives are intended to function within an integrated service system serving Claremont, La Verne, and Pomona.

The infographic is intended to give the Commission a broader view of how the individual programs and initiatives being developed through the transformation effort fit together across Tri-City's overall continuum of care

Who and What is Tri-City Mental Health Authority – A Joint Powers Authority



How Tri-City MHA Works as a JPA
In 1960 - The cities of Claremont, La Verne, and Pomona came together to build a single, streamlined mental health/social service system:

Independent JPA structure: Tri-City MHA is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) formed by member cities, operating as an independent public entity. Under the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), it can contract directly with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to design and implement locally governed behavioral health services.

Dual funding/contracting role: While operating independently for BHSA-funded services, Tri-City MHA also maintains a separate contractual relationship with Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) to provide Medi-Cal specialty mental health services.

County as Mental Health Plan (MHP): LA County DMH serves as the designated Mental Health Plan (MHP) for the State Medi-Cal system, meaning Tri-City's Medi-Cal services must be delivered under the County's authority, oversight, and reimbursement structure, even as Tri-City MHA retains autonomy for BHSA programs.

TRI·CITY Mental Health

Behavioral Health Continuum of Care

Who Serves Whom - and How It Works in Our Community
Claremont | Pomona | La Verne

MILD
Everyday stress, life transitions, relationship or work challenges

MODERATE
Persistent emotional or behavioral concerns; outpatient counseling needs

HIGHER MODERATE
Greater functional impact, higher risk, or more intensive treatment needs

SEVERE & COMPLEX
Serious mental illness, crisis risk, and ongoing intensive support needs

INCREASING INTENSITY OF NEED →

COMMUNITY / PRIVATE / NON-PROFIT PROVIDERS

- Grant/Non- Medi-Cal Community-based counseling and wellness
- Private therapists and group practices
- Private insurance, self-pay, and applicable managed-care benefits

TRI-CITY & THE PUBLIC SAFETY NET

- Jurisdictional Authority for local specialty mental health and coordinated supports – through CA Dept of Health Care Services and (DHCS) for Behavioral heal Services Act Programming (BHSA), and LA County DMH's Specialty Mental Health System
- Serves eligible residents with significant or complex needs

Right Care, Right Level
Services are matched to a person's level of need.

Clear Roles
Community and private providers support mild to moderate needs.

Tri-City's Role
The designated Medi-Cal safety net provider for higher-level, moderate to severe behavioral health needs in Claremont, Pomona, and La Verne.



II. NATIONAL & STATEWIDE UPDATES IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Democrats pledge to quickly reverse changes to Medicaid, restore ACA subsidies - Red Lake Nation News
Democrats pledge to quickly reverse changes to Medicaid, restore ACA subsidies

AFTER RECORD REDUCTIONS IN HOMELESSNESS: *Governor Newsom announces opening of first Prop 1-funded behavioral health facility***- *Click Here***

Mayors of some of California's larger cities gathered together at Riverside City Hall on Friday, Oct. 30, to collectively press for continued state support for homeless programs and other city needs. *"We set out to restore HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention) funding, and we've accomplished that," Riverside Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson, chair of the bipartisan Big City Mayors coalition, said at the meeting. "But restoring HHAP funding was just the beginning … This summit is about turning that collective strength into action: identifying the issues our cities cannot solve alone and working directly with the governor and legislature to advance meaningful, statewide solutions -* ***Big-City Mayors Meet in Riverside, Press for Lasting Homelessness Funding, Treatment Reforms***

Gen Z Are Terrified Of Getting Things Wrong. Here's Why- *Young people today aren't just anxious about failure, they're experiencing it at levels their parents never did. And the data now proves it. A recent study published in Psychological Bulletin in May 2026, co-authored by Dr Thomas Curran, Associate Professor of Social Psychology at the London School of Economics (LSE), analyzed data from 307 studies involving more than 82,000 university students across the UK, US and Canada between 1989 and 2024. The findings are striking: "perfectionistic concerns" encompassing fear of failure, excessive concern over mistakes, indecisiveness and anxiety about being negatively judged, have increased substantially over 35 years, with a sharp acceleration since the early 2000s.* ***Huffington Post***

END OF REPORT