



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION  
MARCH 8, 2016 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 3:32 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1717 N. Indian Hill Blvd. # B, Claremont, California.

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Whitlock called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** A visual roll call was taken.

**PRESENT:** Sylvia Whitlock, Ph.D., Chair  
Toni L. Watson, Vice-Chair (arrived at 3:47 p.m.)  
Cheryl Berezny  
Arny Bloom  
Chuck Leeb, Ph.D.  
Michael Olivieri  
Donald R. Perez  
Davetta Williams

**ABSENT:** Twila L. Stephens

**STAFF:** Toni Navarro, Executive Director  
Rimmi Hundal, Director of MSHA and Ethnic Services  
Mica Olmos, Executive Assistant

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 12, 2016 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**

There being no comment, Commissioner Perez moved, and Governing Board Liaison Leeb seconded, to approve the Minutes of the Mental Health Commission Meeting of January 12, 2016. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, Bloom, Leeb, Olivieri, Perez, and Williams; and Chair Whitlock. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Stephens and Vice-Chair Watson.

**II. PRESENTATION**

Dana Barford, MSHA Projects Coordinator, provided an update of the Stakeholders' workgroup meetings designed for the review and planning process of MSHA programs. She explained that the Stakeholders are made up of community members, professionals in Mental Health, and Tri-City staff, who meet to discuss different projects and programs, and that based on their review make suggestions that will meet the current needs in the community; that in turn, the Executive Team reviews the recommendations to determine if there will be funding available to implement them.

She then stated that there will be four main recommendations to be presented to the Governing Board for its approval at the annual MSHA Public Hearing in May: 1) to use \$230,000 of unspent funds, that is excess funding from increased revenue available for one-time spending and not for on-going programming, from the Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan to purchase seven vehicles which will provide transportation for clients, assist with community outreach and engagement, and to support MSHA housing and maintenance needs; 2) to allocate \$43,000 annually to the Prevention and Early Intervention Program (PEI) Plan to increase the hours of a Peer Mentoring part-time position to a full-time position who will have clinical background and be able to assist with the administration of the PEI programming; 3) to allocate a one-time funding of \$500,000 from CSS unspent funds to Capital Facilities and Technology Needs (CFTN) Plan to establish a permanent garden and the construction of an outdoor structure for the Therapeutic Community Garden (TCG) program, and any remaining funds to be held in CFTN for future project needs.

At 3:47 p.m. Vice-Chair Toni L. Watson arrived at the meeting.

Chair Whitlock inquired if there was a site already selected for TCG. Executive Director Navarro replied in the affirmative, noting that it was at 2018 N. Garey Avenue, the property adjacent to the Clinic located on 2008 N. Garey. She added that the outdoor structure will allow TCG participants to gather during inclement weather and also for the use of other programs such as FSP, Peer mentor group, and staff training.

Commissioner Perez inquired if there was an estimate of how much the garden will cost. Executive Director Navarro stated that two years ago a contractor prepared a preliminary plan/design; however, it was very lavish, too elaborate, and had many features that were not required of the project which resulted at a cost estimate of \$400,000; she then explained that Tri-City staff estimates that it will actually cost approximately \$250,000 to redo the soil and the land, build pathways, a garden plot, and an outdoor structure; noting that rest of the money will sit on the CFTN plan for future use.

MSHA Projects Coordinator Barford continued with her presentation and stated that the Stakeholders' fourth recommendation was to allocate \$450,000 one-time funding from CSS unspent funds to the Workforce, Education, and Training (WET) Plan to support on-going training for staff and volunteers, noting that specialized training will be required due to the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid payment reform, as well as specialized Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for local law enforcement personnel which is a state-wide intervention model for first responders.

Commissioner Olivieri stated that training is really expensive for police departments, noting that it was due to the back-filled differential pay when officers are attending the training and not for the cost of the class or instructor. He then inquired if the proposed funding to be allocated will be only for the cost of the course.

Executive Director Navarro stated that Stakeholders were recommending to allocate \$50,000 for the CIT training, which is more than the cost for the trainer and, if funding is approved by the Governing Board, she will then meet with all three police departments to discuss the CIT training that Tri-City is proposing to offer, and that at that time she will be able to determine the actual cost for each department.

She further stated that the required specialized training for staff is the result of health reform in connection with treatment services which are now focusing on value-based care vs. quantity-based care. Therefore, the training is costly that needs to be provided to Tri-City staff regarding outcomes measures, pre-imposed measures, and the evidence-based treatments that staff is providing. She then indicated that the money currently in WET is set to end on June 2017; therefore, this additional allocation will extend the funds to 2019.

MSHA Projects Coordinator Barford reminded everyone that the annual MSHA Public Hearing will take place on May 18th at the Palomares Community Center in Pomona.

Commissioner Bloom stated that last year money was allocated for Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training and that he noted that there was not any money being allocated for next year to continue to support any of these efforts. Rimmi Hundal replied in the affirmative, indicating that MHFA training will continue to take place until the one-time \$50,000 allocated funding is exhausted, which is near its end. Commissioner Bloom then inquired if the Stakeholders ever considered support for continuing MHFA trainings.

Executive Director Navarro stated that the funding for the Stakeholders recommendations are unspent funds under CCS and cannot be allocated to PEI; that the workgroups decided to allocate the funds currently in the PEI budget to the Peer Mentoring Staff; that during the Stakeholders meetings when all the programs were being reviewed, there was no motion to continue MHFA nor there were any advocates present; and that next year MHFA can be considered again if the stakeholders decide to implement it again.

Jamie Ritchie, Community Capacity Organizer, discussed the planned activities during Green Ribbon Week taking place during March 13-19, 2016 and distributed an information sheet about Green Ribbon Week and why it is important. She noted that it is the third annual Green Ribbon Week and this year community outreach efforts have expanded through partnerships with local schools and their youth leadership committees who will promote activities that will be held at school campuses. She then talked about different events taking place, such as restaurants offering discounts for those that wear a green ribbon; and invited the Commission to attend Green Ribbon Week Party on March 17th at the Palomares Community Center. She then announced that there will be a new project called "Tales from Tri-City" which involves audio recording two individuals who are in a significant relationship, interviewing each other through the lens of mental illness and recovery, using four questions provided by staff and noted that the project will be show cased at Tri-City's website and during Mental Health month in May.

### **III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Navarro stated that MSHA was created to develop prevention and early intervention as well as treatment, noting that State-wide the funding under PEI is smaller than supportive services; and that Legislature allows CSS excess funding to be allocated to CFTN and WET, Innovations Plans, but not to PEI which makes it difficult for new and on-going programs under PEI. However, that PEI as part of Tri-City's system of care has accomplished its mission of community capacity building in all three cities; and that a program manager assigned to the TCG team will research how services can be billable to Medical because not all participants are from PEI, noting that there are participants from other programs using TCG as part of their recovery; therefore, staff is hoping to bring more money to PEI as staff wishes to implement programs that are important to the community such as MHFA.

She then reported that she will attend the Claremont Council meeting and will present about what Tri-City is doing particularly highlighting permanent supportive housing, and noted that Board of Supervisors Hilda Solis will be present for the installation of the New Mayor. She then reported that she met with the three City Managers to provide a Tri-City update; and that she was also invited to talk at a community stakeholder presentation for Assembly Member Chris Holden, by his aide Mathew Lyons because he had heard all the great things that Tri-City has been doing.

Don Pruyn, Housing Project Manager, announced that the Parkside Family Apartments is having its grand opening on March 31st, noting that by the end of April all the 21 MHSA units will be filled; that the Cedar Springs project is near completion and that an opening date has not yet been scheduled; that the Clifford Beers Housing project is moving forward and will be breaking ground within the next three weeks; that the Claremont project is currently under rehabilitation which is expected to be completed by the end of March, and it is anticipated that the families will move in on May 1st; and that in connection with the Clinic easement, staff still waiting for the PUSD's bureaucracy to move forward.

Executive Director Navarro announced that the cold weather shelter at the Armory in Pomona has been extended to March 31st, adding two more weeks to their services.

Discussion ensued regarding homelessness and the requirements for MHSA units.

#### **COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

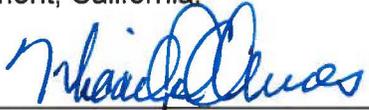
There was no public comment.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steven Wakimoto announced that the 5th Annual Disabilities Conference will take at the Westin Hotel in Pasadena on March 18th – 19th.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:29 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of March 8, 2016 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on **Tuesday, April 12, 2016**, in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard #B, Claremont, California.

  
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Micaela P. Olmos, Executive Assistant