



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
MARCH 11, 2014 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 3:35 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1717 N. Indian Hill Blvd. # B, Claremont, California.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bloom called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A visual roll call was taken.

PRESENT:

Arny Bloom, Chair
Sylvia Whitlock, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Betsy MacLaren, Secretary
Cheryl Berezny
Joseph M. Lyons, Ph.D.
Ashley Nielsen, MSW (arrived at 3:48 p.m.)
Donald R. Perez
Davetta Williams

ABSENT:

Paul Capraro
Twila L. Stephens
Toni L. Watson

STAFF:

Jesse H. Duff, Executive Director
Toni Navarro, LMFT, Director of Clinical Program Services
Rimmi Hundal, MHSA Manager
Janis Seiler, MHSA Program Coordinator
Luis Garcia, Program Analyst
Elva Neyoy, Community Support Worker
Christopher Scarzo, Community Support Worker
Mica Olmos, Executive Assistant

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 11, 2014 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

There being no comments, Governing Board Liaison Lyons moved, and Commissioner Berezny seconded, to approve the Minutes of February 11, 2014. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, Lyons, Perez, and Williams; and Chair Bloom. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioners MacLaren and Vice-Chair Whitlock. ABSENT: Commissioners Capraro, Nielsen, Stephens, and Watson.

II. PRESENTATION

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro stated that the California Institute of Mental Health (CiMH) is the technical support and training for the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA), which had implemented the Health Equity Leadership Initiative (HELI). She explained that this initiative is for training and promoting persons within each county to grow leadership to engage and organize those members in the community who will continue to be unfunded, underserved, and unserved in the new era of health care reform. Therefore, Tri-City, along with three other counties, is participating in this training and noted that Innovations Plan Coordinator Janis Seiler is the lead person of the project.

Janis M. Seiler, Innovations Plan Coordinator, introduced the HELI team members: Luis Garcia, Programs Analyst; Chris Scarzo, Community Support Worker; and Elva Neyoy, Community Support Worker, stating that there are two other members that were not able to attend the meeting. She then stated that there will be people that will never be served even with the Affordable Care Act in place. She explained that HELI is a pilot program designed to talk about health equity and health disparity. She then discussed how Tri-City's HELI team is training and collaborating together with the other counties with the support from CiMH. She noted that Tri-City is currently working on a strategy to engage the community and find out what they need and what they want. She indicated that, once the community learns how to access services, they will be more likely to come and receive services, reporting that there are approximately 5,800 people in the Tri-City area that could benefit from services who currently are not receiving services.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro stated that staff sees HELI fitting into the larger system of care as the link between the community and Tri-City's stakeholders, executive team, and leadership, to inform what are the needs of the unserved and underserved populations. She added that the HELI presentations of each county will become a model for the rest of the State.

At 3:48 p.m., Commission Member Ashley Nielsen arrived at the meeting.

Innovations Plan Coordinator Seiler noted that the HELI team has deadlines to meet for Tri-City's presentation about the team's aim and objectives, and that the final product is due in May.

Governing Board Liaison Lyons inquired if there had been an increase on walk-ins and where are those individuals going that do not qualify for Tri-City's programs.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro replied that the increase on walk-ins has been extraordinary and that staff continues to learn how to navigate and find the best way to help. She explained that Tri-City does not receive 2011 realignment funds; therefore, those individuals who do not qualify for Tri-City's programs are referred to Arcadia Mental Health. She noted that staff is trying to follow-up the best they can using all of Tri-City's available resources and hope that, through HELI, Tri-City will be able to reach more people in need. She added that a positive development has been that the Pomona Valley Hospital has reached out to Tri-City for help regarding training for their primary care physicians to better assist their patients with mental health illnesses.

Discussion ensued regarding who, amongst the different populations, will qualify for services and those that will never qualify and will remain uninsured.

Governing Board Liaison Lyons stated that our geographical area is well defined and diverse in many characteristics and inquired if the Los Angeles County has thought of creating smaller similar geographical areas wherein they can manage the system of care similar to Tri-City. Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro replied that they had created a health neighborhoods pilot program, and that four have already been established, to create a service area within a service area.

The Mental Health Commission thanked Janis Seiler for her presentation and the HELI team for the work done.

III. REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Duff reported that the Cities of Claremont, La Verne, and Pomona had issued a Proclamation declaring the week of March 17th *Green Ribbon Week*, which is part of Tri-City's stigma reduction program. He indicated several community activities will take place during *Green Ribbon Week* in all three cities, noting that flyers have been distributed and that staff met with the Daily Bulletin staff, who might print an article on their editorial about what Tri-City is doing during *Green Ribbon Week*. He added that staff recently presented to CalMHSA what Tri-City is doing for stigma reduction and that CalMHSA will use Tri-City efforts as an example for the rest of the counties. He then reported that Tri-City has created a speakers' bureau called "Courageous Minds" and suggested to the Commission, if they had the need for a speaker for mental health, to contact staff to arrange a presentation. He also announced that the Three-Year Integrated Plan Hearing will take place on Thursday, May 22, 2014, noting that this meeting date will take place instead of the regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

B. HOUSING PROJECT MANAGER

Executive Director Duff provided an update on the housing projects. He reported that the West Holt Family Apartment Project received unanimous Pomona City Council approval for the First Reading on January 29th; and that the Second Reading was rescheduled from March 3rd to April 7th. He noted that Related has already been approved by the CalHFA and the Department of Mental Health Services for Tri-City's MHSAs funding; and that in July, they will apply for the Federal Tax Credit financing. He stated that the Cedar Springs project has also received CalHFA and the Department of Mental Health Services and Tri-City; that has already applied for Federal Tax Credit financing, and if approved, will be ready to move forward with the construction plans. Regarding the Clifford Beers project, staff is studying the General Plan in Pomona because if approved, it might impact in a positive way the two projects that were previously denied.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Governing Board Liaison Lyons reported that there is a piece of legislation that will provide a source of revenue to municipalities to assist with low income projects, which the redevelopment dissolution eliminated. He indicated the revenue will be from an assessment of \$75 to the recording of legal documents, with the exception of residential real estate transfers. He added that the revenues will go into a fund wherein they will be distributed for qualifying projects. Lastly, he stated that he hoped to get as many agencies as possible to support the initiative.

Commissioner Nielsen apologized for her late arrival and announced that the Community Senior Services, through the Family Care Giver Support Group Program, is collecting miniature toiletries, small water bottles, and small amounts of food gift cards, to prepare give away bags for the homeless. She asked if anyone was interested in spreading the word to encourage donations and/or donating items, they can drop them off through the end of March at the Joslyn Center in Claremont.

Chair Bloom spoke about Laura's Law, designed to issue court order treatments for those that refuse treatment. Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro reported that the LAC DMH, the largest mental health department in the State of California, is not enforcing the law. She explained that the law, which is requiring mandated treatment, has been highly debated and not enforced. Discussion ensued regarding some of the pros and cons of Laura's Law.

Governing Board Liaison suggested discussing the topic in greater detail in order for the Commission to be able to advise the Governing Board on this issue.

Executive Director suggested having this item on the Commission Agenda for its next meeting. There was consensus of the Mental Health Commission to amend Laura's Law.

Commissioner Nielsen suggested incorporating to the presentation about programs available for older adults, how Tri-City is dealing with the issue of hoarding as a mental health disorder within the older adult population. Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro replied that this issue should be presented as a separate presentation item.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:37 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of March 11, 2014 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on **Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.** in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard #B, Claremont, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, Executive Assistant