



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
APRIL 8, 2014 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 3:32 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 3:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A visual roll call was taken.

PRESENT:

Arny Bloom, Chair
Betsy MacLaren, Secretary
Paul Capraro
Ashley Nielsen, MSW
Twila L. Stephens
Davetta Williams

ABSENT:

Sylvia Whitlock, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Cheryl Berezny
Donald R. Perez
Toni L. Watson

STAFF:

Jesse H. Duff, Executive Director
Toni Navarro, LMFT, Director of Clinical Program Services
Elizabeth Owens, Manager of Best Practices
Rimmi Hundal, MHSA Manager
Dana Stein, PEI Program Coordinator
Lisa Naranjo, Community Health Trainer
Christopher Anzalone, Community Capacity Organizer
Jamie Holes, Community Capacity Organizer
Mica Olmos, Executive Assistant

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

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

II. PRESENTATION

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro distributed a copy of a Los Angeles Times Article, about how the Kelly Thomas case has prompted counties to revisit Laura's Law, and also a copy of the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5345-5349.5, known as Laura's Law. She then presented an overview of Laura's Law, stating that in 2001 Laura Wilcox and two of her colleagues, who worked for Nevada County Mental Health, were murdered by a man struggling with mental illness who was inconsistent with his treatment. Therefore, Laura Wilcox's parents campaigned to get legislation to address the fact that persons that are of high risk and who are inconsistent with treatment, should be forced to participate in treatment to minimize risk to themselves and to the public. Laura's Law's was originally passed on 2001 to end in 2008, but it was extended by Legislature to end in 2013, and again to end on December 31, 2016. She indicated that this law has been very controversial and is an obligation of the County Mental Health Plans. She then said that Laura's Law was modeled after Kendra's Law passed in 1999 in New York, which all counties in New York are required to enforce with funding available. In contrast, Laura's Law is an option for counties to adopt and there is no funding to support it. She then referred to page 7 of the WIC §5345-5349.5, noting that Laura's Law has a lot of stipulations that are similar to the Mental Health Services Act. She added that to enforce Laura's Law, requires the assistance of the court system and the public defender's office, and clarified that Tri-City's Governing Board does not oversee the court's system, rather the County Supervisors. Therefore, the counties must decide whether or not they are going to enact Laura's Law.

Commissioner Nielsen inquired which California counties are participating in Laura's Law. Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro replied that the Nevada County is the only county that has enacted Laura's Law to its fullest extent. Ms. Navarro then talked about the different views of the opponents and proponents of Laura's Law. Ms. Navarro added that in 2013, Legislature approved MHSA funding to pay for programming to address the implementation of Laura's Law, noting that a lot of counties are thinking of using their MSHA dollars to implement Laura's Law to some extent by focusing on intensive outreach and engagement to bring in persons at high risk voluntarily, and indicated that she is not aware of any county that is proposing to fully implement Laura's Law as the Legislature requires.

Executive Director Duff reiterated that Tri-City Mental Health Center does not have the authority to implement Laura's Law because it is not a Mental Health Plan nor any jurisdiction or authority over the court system or District Attorney. However, Tri-City can use MHSA funds to enhance Tri-City's outreach and engagement and also collaborate with the Los Angeles County to address those cases that Tri-City cannot impact.

Discussion ensued regarding the extent that some counties have implemented Laura's Law.

Executive Director Duff posed the question about whether the Commission would like additional information in connection with today's presentation or if they had sufficient information to advise Tri-City Delegates about Laura's Law for possible funding opportunities. There was Commission consensus that they have enough information to discuss and recommend having Tri-City more profoundly involved with more intense outreach and continuing to encourage people to get services.

The Mental Health Commission thanked Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro for her presentation.

III. REPORTS

Executive Director Duff reported that Tri-City had a very successful *Green Ribbon Week*, noting that the Daily Bulletin printed an editorial about what Tri-City was doing during *Green Ribbon Week*. He also stated the Commissioner Twila Stephens wrote a very impactful article about the perceptions of mental illness which was also published on the Daily Bulletin.

Commissioner Stephens stated that if it was not for Tri-City, she would not be where she is today.

Community Capacity Organizer Holes shared a success story that highlighted the importance of mental health awareness to raise a generation that knows that it is okay to ask for help.

MSHA Program Manager Stein reported that Tri-City's Mental Health First Aid goal was to train 1,000 individuals within the first 3-year period; however, over 2,000 have been trained.

Executive Director Duff reported that Tri-City is completing a contract amendment with the Los Angeles County for services provided to clients under Expanded Medi-Cal; that on April 7th, the West Holt Family Apartment Project received unanimous Pomona City Council approval for the Second Reading and final approval of the General Plan amendment, the zone change, and the disposition of development agreement between the City, the Housing Authority, and developer and that Related will apply for the Federal Tax Credit financing in July. He then congratulated Pomona Chief of Police Paul Capraro on his recent appointment.

Commissioner Capraro stated that his relationship with the Commission has brought training into the Police Department about people wandering on the street. He noted that the approval of the West Holt Family Apartment Project, along with a team of police officers, will address safety issues on that corridor.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Nielsen stated that she wants to learn what Tri-City is doing for outreach and engagement for all the police departments in Claremont, Pomona, and La Verne, such as training, coalitions, or community action groups.

Commissioner Capraro stated that there was a police representative from each police department from La Verne and Claremont; however, they stop participating. He added that whenever he sees the Chiefs from La Verne and Claremont, he encourages them to reestablish that relationship, noting that he is aware that Tri-City constantly outreaches to them.

Executive Director Duff stated that this item will be agendaized in the June meeting.

MHSA Manager Hundal stated that during the planning of the Supplemental Crisis Program, staff received ideas from each department and also how to work with the police.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro stated that Jamie Holes, Community Capacity Organizer, had just finished an outreach with the Claremont Police Department as part of the Stigma Reduction Project. She indicated that since January, Ms. Holes had performed seven outreach sessions.

Chair Bloom stated that the Claremont Police officers have done an excellent job working with the kids that are facing mental health problems at the Claremont Schools.

Commissioner Nielsen stated that it sounds like a lot of progress has been made but, as a social worker for the City of Claremont and working with the Police Department by training them on how to make an adult protective services report, or teaching them how to react to a crisis due to a mental illness, she is interested on what Tri-City will keep on doing to continue that progress because she sees on a daily basis that further education and training are needed. She stated that in Nebraska, only a percentage of the officers actually go to training that specifically addresses mental illness and when needed, you actually have to ask for a certain officer that had that training. Therefore, she would love to know more about the police officers academy training vs. continuing education on the job, as well as formal training.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro stated that it is great that Commissioner Nielsen brings this issue to the Commission because they are the eyes and ears in the community. Therefore, part of the presentation will include identifying ways in which community partners can also outreach to the police departments and let them know that the community is interested in their police officers engaging with Tri-City.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:36 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of April 8, 2014 was adjourned. The Mental Health Commission will meet next in a Joint Meeting with the Governing Board to be held on **Thursday, May 22 2014 at 4:45 p.m.** in the Clinical Building, 2008 N. Garey Avenue in Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, Executive Assistant