



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 3:35 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1717 N. Indian Hill Blvd. # B, Claremont, California.

CALL TO ORDER Vice-Chair Perez called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL A visual roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Donald R. Perez, Vice-Chair
Arny Bloom
Cheryl Berezny
Rubio R. Gonzalez
Anne Henderson
Davetta Williams

ABSENT: Twila L. Stephens
Elmer Vidaña
Alfonso "Al" Villanueva
Toni L. Watson

STAFF: Toni Navarro, Executive Director
Rimmi Hundal, Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 11, 2017 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Bloom moved, and Commissioner Berezny seconded, to approve the Minutes of July 11, 2017. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, Bloom, Gonzalez, and Williams; and Vice-Chair Perez. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Henderson. ABSENT: Commissioners Stephens, Vidaña, and Villanueva; and Chair Watson.

II. PRESENTATION

A. AN OVERVIEW OF TRI-CITY'S ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) UPDATE

Executive Director Navarro announced that on October 3rd Tri-City will begin its Annual MHSA Update season and distributed the Announcement for the upcoming Stakeholder meetings which will be held in morning and afternoon to accommodate participant's schedules, noting that Tri-City remains one of the few counties, if not the only county, that has a robust Stakeholder process.

She pointed out that many of the counties have fewer meetings and less outreach and engagement of their community members, and praised Dana Barford, MHSA Projects Manager, for her efforts in maintaining the community involved in the three cities. She then explained that participants during the Stakeholder process will be introduced again to the various plans and programs within Tri-City's system of care; that they will be asked to join workgroups to review and discuss each program specifically and will hear detailed information, including data and outcomes of those programs; thereafter, there will be discussion to find out if there is any recommendation and/or changes to better address the needs of the community. She also indicated that the workgroups will begin meeting at the end of October through December; that all Stakeholders will meet in January to formalize and prepare a draft of the Annual Update for a 30-day public review; and that on May 18, 2018 the MHSA Public Hearing will take place wherein the Mental Health Commission will present the Plan to the Governing Board for its approval.

B. PLANNING OF TRI-CITY'S PERFORMANCE REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL (CMHPC)

Executive Director Navarro stated that the California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC), which was in legislation before the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), has a strong recommendation for those counties that are the Mental Health Plans, not Tri-City or Berkeley, to work with staff and the Ad-Hoc Committee under their Mental Health Commission to review and evaluate the Realignment and Outpatient Programming that were pre MHSA within the system of care of that County; to create together a performance report based on guidelines provided; and to present the report to the State with the purpose to hold the counties accountable to the public systems that they serve. She explained that when MHSA legislation was established in 2004, that annual review was built into the system and that an Annual MHSA Plan Update became a requirement for MHSA programming to ensure that there was transparency, public input, and that funds were spent according to the Plan; and that the updates of Realignment funds, which provides funding for Outpatient Children & Family Services and Outpatient Adult Services, could also be provided under the MHSA report and present it to the CMHPC. She then reported that she had had a conversation with the CMHPC who commented to her that they look forward to having Tri-City's Mental Health Commission present a performance report. She then stated that if the Commission wished and was ready to present a Report to the CMHPC this year, it would include the MHSA Three-Year Plan Update. She reiterated that the proposed performance report was not required; however, she recommended that the Commission prepare one because Tri-City is not well known and this would help Tri-City to become more visible.

C. CREATION OF AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE PLANNING AND PREPARATION OF TRI-CITY'S PERFORMANCE REPORT

Executive Director Navarro stated that those Commissioners who wished to be part of the Ad-Hoc Committee would have to be part of the MHSA Stakeholder process and attend their meetings and workgroup meetings, pointing out that becoming part of the Ad-Hoc Committee would be a great fit for those Commissioners who are currently participating in the Stakeholder process. She indicated that if the Commission wished to prepare a performance report to the CMHPC, she and the Executive Team would meet to discuss the CMHPC guidelines and the structure required for the performance report; explained the next steps for the report preparation; and stated that staff would provide the technical support.

She then posed the question if there was any Commissioner interested in participating in the Ad-Hoc Committee for the preparation of Tri-City's Performance Report to the CMHPC.

Commissioners Army Bloom and Anne Henderson volunteered to be part of the Ad-Hoc Committee. There was Mental Health Commission consensus.

Executive Director Navarro indicated she would notify the CMHPC of the Commission's decision to prepare and present the first Tri-City's Performance Report to them.

The Commission thanked staff for their presentation.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Navarro stated that the demographics reports presented are derived from open clinical cases only and do not include persons that Tri-City serves in non-formal treatment services. She then reported that Dr. Jon Sherin, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), and Mimi McKay, Deputy Director, MH, Strategic Planning of LACDMH, visited Tri-City and met with the executive team and staff from both clinical and MHSA programs to learn about what Tri-City is doing, noting that in the nine years she has been working for Tri-City, this is the first time that an LACDMH director has ever accepted an invitation to visit Tri-City. She commented that Dr. Sherin had shared that he really enjoyed his visit and that he was very impressed with what Tri-City had created.

She then talked about one of the big challenges that Tri-City has been dealing with since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) which is the high influx of clients under expanded Medi-Cal who have had spent most of their lives living with a mental illness and using substances to medicate themselves resulting on developing an addiction and going without treatment for years; and unfortunately, staff who are not trained to deal with these issues is being overwhelmed; resulting in higher staff turnover in clinical programs across the state and client engagement. She then talked about what Tri-City had implemented to help this situation, such as adding more peer support staff and providing additional training for staff. She indicated that there had been some changes also at the state level in which the federal government had been providing additional funding through drug Medi-Cal which allows substance abuse providers to go out in the field, noting that prior to July substance abuse providers could only provide treatment at their treatment site. Therefore, Tri-City's Director of Clinical Program Services Elizabeth Owens would meet with Prototypes and ask them to provide drug treatment at Tri-City's location for clients that are open in their system for drug treatment and at Tri-City for mental health treatment which will result in clients obtaining the extra help they need. She also stated that there is an opportunity for Tri-City to increase its ability to care for clients with substance abuse problems and that she will propose to Tri-City Governing Board adding two substance abuse counselors to Tri-City's system of care, and stated that these two positions are unique and are not covered under Mental Health Medi-Cal; however, they will help with clinical staff turnover and will provide extra specialized care for the client resulting in better outcome for the client. She added that Medical Director Dr. Teimoori had modified the job description of one of the psychiatrist positions to specifically recruit for a psychiatrist with more expertise and experience with clients with co-occurring disorders and who will help train staff to better deal with those clients as well.

Executive Director Navarro then announced that Housing Consultant Don Pruyn had fully retired, that Special Projects Consultant Ed Cox had also fully retired, and that former executive director Jesse Duff will be performing the duties that they used to perform for Tri-City. She then announced that Tri-City officially owns the strip of land behind Tri-City's properties at 2008 & 2018 N. Garey Avenue; therefore, staff will present to the Governing Board the parking expansion project design for their approval.

Director of MSHA and Ethics Services Hundal reported that a few staff members had been trained in the Community Resiliency Model (CRM); that Tri-City is opening this training to the community; that the first training will take place on September 18th at the MHSA Building; and explained that CRM helps individuals recognize the physiological symptoms of trauma and also provides the tools to regroup after a crisis is over. Executive Director Navarro added that CRM is an excellent PEI tool, noting that the clinical FSP teams are already seeing a reduction in their clients hospitalization because staff has been able to use the therapeutic side of the training which is the Treatment Resiliency Model; and that CRM is an additional tool that helps build the community capacity to be able to care of themselves. Executive Director Navarro then announced that the month of September is Suicide Prevention month; discussed the various activities that Tri-City will be participating in to celebrate; and that on October 9th, Tri-City will host a Gallery Reception, which coincides during Mental Health Awareness week.

Vice-Chair Perez commented that all the art gallery participants are very talented and creative and also encouraged the Commissioners to attend the reception and see their work.

Discussion ensued regarding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the support that Tri-City has implemented for this community and the appropriate resources and information that staff had been providing since its inception under the Obama Administration.

Executive Director Navarro announced that Tri-City had planned a CRM training for the staff at the Armory in Pomona as a result of a recent stabbing that occurred in the premises.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

There was no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:38 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of September 12, 2017 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard, Suite B, Claremont, California.



Micaela P. Olmqs, JPA Administrator/Clerk