



## MINUTES

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD FEBRUARY 16, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Governing Board held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. its Regular Meeting Via Teleconference pursuant to Government Code § 54953, which allows the continuation to hold meetings without gathering in a room in an effort to minimize the spread and mitigate the effects of COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease of 2019).

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Leano called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** Roll call was taken by JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos.

#### GOVERNING BOARD

**PRESENT:** Jed Leano, City of Claremont, Chair  
Robin Carder, City of La Verne, Vice-Chair  
Carolyn Cockrell, City of La Verne, Board Member  
Paula Lantz, City of Pomona, Board Member  
John Nolte, City of Pomona, Board Member  
Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, City of Pomona, Board Member  
Ronald T. Vera, City of Claremont, Board Member

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF:** Jesse H. Duff, Interim Executive Director  
Darold Pieper, General Counsel  
Diana Acosta, Chief Financial Officer  
Elizabeth Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer  
Seeyam Teimoori, Medical Director  
Rimmi Hundal, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services  
Natalie Majors-Stewart, Chief Compliance Officer  
Ken Riomales, Chief Information Officer  
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

There being no comment, Vice-Chair Carder moved, and Board Member Nolte seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Nolte, Ontiveros-Cole, and Vera; Vice-Chair Carder; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.



**1. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 635 AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TELECONFERENCING REQUIREMENTS DURING A PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953 (AB 361)**

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 635 finding and declaring that it is unsafe to meet in person during the proclaimed state of emergency as a result of the continued threat of COVID-19, and authorizes the Interim Executive Director, or his designee, to continue utilizing teleconferencing accessibility to conduct the Authority’s public meetings pursuant to Government Code § 54953.”

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 19, 2022 GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting of January 19, 2022.”

**NEW BUSINESS**

**3. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 636 APPROVING A CLINICAL AFFILIATION AGREEMENT FOR STUDENT INTERNSHIPS WITH THE SIMMONS UNIVERSITY THROUGH ITS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, AND AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AND ANY AMENDMENTS THEREAFTER**

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria reported that this resolution will authorize an agreement with Simmons University which will allow Tri-City to provide a practical site and train student interns from the Master of Social Work Program, noting that they will engage in learning activities and will provide additional mental health services to the Community; that a clinical supervisor will assist them in their role and main learning objective, as well as helping them manage the case that they will work with at Tri-City Mental Health Authority. She added that this also is an opportunity to prepare the workforce that we need so desperately need at this time.

Board Member Lantz stated that she was not familiar with Simmons University and inquired where it is located. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria replied it was a private university located in Boston, Massachusetts. Governing Board Member Lantz recommended to include information in the agenda report about the universities which Tri-City will be teaming with, expressing concern about on-line universities that are being disallowed. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria that Simmons University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, and that she will include this information in future reports.

Board Member Vera commented that typically these are local students who are simply studying back east, but have lived nearby or have some understanding of Tri-City and want to have their internship through Tri-City, which is very good for us.

Chair Leano opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.



There being no further comment, Board Member Vera moved, and Board Member Ontiveros-Cole seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 636 approving a Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Simmons University, and authorizing the Interim Executive Director to execute the agreement and any amendments thereafter. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Nolte, Ontiveros-Cole, and Vera; Vice-Chair Carder; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

## **MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS**

### **4. JESSE H. DUFF, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Interim Executive Director Duff reported that after a very robust outreach program, Wendy Brown Creative Partners (WBCP) is ready to launch the recruitment, noting that she has had discussions with the Governing Board Ad Hoc Committee, as well as the other individuals on the Board; has had conversations with the executive team, and two or three key staff members that are not part of the executive team, but still play an important role at Tri-City, and several stakeholders in the community; that a draft of recruitment brochure has been circulated to Governing Board members, and this Friday is the deadline to submit any changes or suggestions; that the recruitment process will begin on February 24th and close on March 24th; that a shortlist meeting between the Board and WBCP will take place on 4/7; that 4/28 will be the first day of interviews; and it is anticipated that the Board can select a successful Candidate by May 3rd. He then reported that some of the concerns about staffing at the clinic have been mentioned before from the executive team for the past several months, pointing out that the Governing Board has already taken several steps to solve that problem; however, Tri-City is still short of clinical staff. Accordingly, staff wants to be able to retain current staff and at the same time attract more applicants to fill the vacant positions; thus, the classification and compensation study authorized by the Board approximately eighteen months ago, will be presented for approval in March which is the first phase of that classification and salary study, and noted that this will help go a long way towards solving some retention and attraction of clinical staff. He then stated that approximately one year ago Tri-City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Claremont for the Psychiatric Assessment and Care Team (PACT) Program, and explained that under this program two Tri-City staff members are stationed at the Claremont Police Department; that the program is very valuable and very successful; that because the nature of the program and its close affiliation with the Claremont Police Department memorialized in the MOU, Tri-City's additional insurance coverage is fairly expensive; that Tri-City staff, the Claremont City Manager and his team, Tri-City's attorney, and Claremont City Attorney are working through some possible solutions, and expressed hope in being able to provide good news at the March meeting. He then reported that Tri-City has been awarded a competitive grant through the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), under the American Rescue Act and will provide more information at the March meeting.

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria added that this is really great news for Tri-City, pointing out that the grant is Mental Health Student Services Act funding which will allow Tri-City, in collaboration with its community partners, to provide additional mental health services for children, youth, and young adults that are students of local schools; that the first phase is dedicated to planning; and that stakeholders are going to be involved to get their input and work together on how to best use the funds of under \$4 million over four years. She then acknowledged Debbie Johnson and Trevor Bogle for helping her with the writing of the grant.



Board Member Vera inquired if other counties are also going to receive this grant funding or just a select number of agencies. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria replied that there are other counties that will receive funding; however, the funding was competitive and not all will receive it. Board Member Vera congratulated staff.

Board Member Cockrell inquired if the support under the grant will be administered at the school sites or at Tri-City. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria indicated that the grant requires that the services are community based. Board Member Cockrell stated that she would like to be part of that process.

## **5. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT**

Chief Financial Officer Acosta reported that there is still not a lot of information regarding CalAIM other than they have asked us to provide some costs information; that finance staff is currently working on completing the MHSA budget, as well as the annual operating budget over the next couple of months.

Board Member Vera inquired if CalAIM was going to affect only the services we are providing through MediCal or also services provided through the Mental Health Services Act. Chief Financial officer Acosta replied only MediCal. Board Member Vera further inquired if she had any idea how this was going to affect Tri-City's finances and cash flow. Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated that it is a little too early to tell, noting that it will be a fee for service and indicated that the difference is that now the fee for service reimburses for costs, whereas in the future they are coming up with cost rates, on other words, a menu of fees.

Board Member Lantz referred to the capital projects listed under the Chief Financial Officer's report and expressed being surprised that there were couple of projects that were approved a year or two ago, and they are still in the planning stages and inquired about the reason it is taking so long to plan. Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated that a big part of the planning stage is getting plans approved by the City, noting that it has been a lot of 'back and forth.' Board Member Lantz then expressed concern about taking two years to plant a garden and asked staff to find out the reason for the delay and notify the Board. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied in the affirmative.

## **6. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER REPORT**

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated she wanted to continue the conversation about the staffing shortages that Tri-City is experiencing; that she wanted to discuss the actions that staff has taken at this point to continue to meet the needs of the community as much as possible; she sadly reported that Tri-City is not unique in our situation of just having an exodus from the mental health profession. She then discussed intervention services; the streamlining of some documentation processes which frees up clinical staff to dedicate more time to direct client care; centralized scheduling pilot; streamlining the intake process; revisiting and doing a complete emphasis on our team-based approach to care in coordination with all of our other services such as Wellness Center and housing; co-occurring support teams; and continuing to offer telehealth. She then stated that our current salary structure is not as competitive as other agencies and people withdraw their interest in working with us because they can do this work elsewhere with a higher salary; and expressed being encouraged with the new clinical compensation proposal that will be provided in March which will help Tri-City to be more competitive.



Board Member Cockrell inquired about funding approved by the Board for getting school loans taken care of for incoming clinicians. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Hundal stated that staff was meeting on the 28th for final decisions; that applications were going to start being accepted beginning in April, noting that the year for the loan forgiveness program will start in July, and that staff is moving as fast as they can with the limited staff available, but this has become urgent, and they are making sure that everything is in place before July begins.

#### **7. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT**

Medical Director Dr. Teimoori stated that in addition to statistic of the services provided, he included some of the many success stories in the context of whole person care and also family and trauma center care that Tri-City provides to the Community.

#### **8. RIMMI HUNDAL, DIRECTOR OF MHSA AND ETHNIC SERVICES REPORT**

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Hundal reported that this is a month to celebrate the accomplishments of Black or African American Community and Tri-City has been highlighting various Black authors, as well as Black businesses locally. She then announced that the Community Services and Supports Workgroup was taking place tomorrow, at 10 o'clock; that PEI workgroup is also meeting tomorrow at 4:00 pm; and that the Stakeholder Meeting will be held on February 24th at 5:30 pm; and explained what would be discussed at each meeting. She then said that Tri-City's loan forgiveness program is for all employees, noting that they do not have to be clinicians; that there is another loan forgiveness program for clinicians through our regional partnership with the 10 other southern counties, pointing out that this program is already taking place right now and we are accepting applications for individuals that are interested in this loan forgiveness program which is paying them up \$7,500 after one full year commitment; that the applications are being assessed by CalMHSA to keep it neutral for all the counties and to make sure that all the counties have a fair chance of this loan forgiveness Program. She then reported that Tri-City had its information night for Community Wellbeing Grants on February 1st and 29 Community Members attended; that Tri-City will be celebrating Green Ribbon Week from March 14 until 18th with the theme of #TalkToHeal which is in line with a stigma reduction campaign; that the goal is always to have zero stigma towards mental illness; that the creative minds art gallery is accepting virtual art; that it is time to have a new Innovation Plan, noting that stakeholders are talking about Psychiatric Advanced Directive (PADs), which will help educate our clients on getting a psychiatric advanced directive.

Discussion ensued regarding the approval process and requirements for Innovation Plans.

#### **9. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT**

Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart stated that we are in the process, over February and probably in through March, of administering an agency-wide safety survey and the goal of the survey is to get really critical feedback from our workforce members on their perceptions and their priorities regarding workplace safety, which will help in terms of making policies strategic planning training.



**10. KEN RIOMALES, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER REPORT**

Chief Information Officer Riomales provided an update on the Cerner implementation, noting that we are on time, on track, and doing very well; and that there has been lot of positive feedback. He then praised the HR core team, and Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart for all the work they have been doing. He then reported that he received the final report on the security audit or security assessment; that staff has begun immediate remediation for any items that have been identified as deficient or possibly requiring or needing additional improvement; that regarding CalAIM there are some technical requirements, most notably in the form of data exchange that it does need to vet out for that program, noting that staff is in active in the conversation.

Vice–Chair Carder indicated she was concerned about the security and safety assessment because there is so much confidential information on Tri-City’s site; and pointed out that she was glad that Chief Information Officer Riomales was working with other organizations for clarity.

Chair Leano opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

There being no further comment, Vice-Chair Carder moved, and Board Member Lantz seconded, to receive and file the month of February staff reports. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Nolte, Ontiveros-Cole, and Vera; Vice-Chair Carder; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

**GOVERNING BOARD COMMENTS**

Board Member Nolte expressed gratitude for the people that helped with writing a grant which the City of Pomona submitted on Friday, the CalVIP grant for violence in intervention and prevention; that it was a competitive grant; that it involves evidence based approaches to stopping homicide and shooting; that he found out about the due date late, but decided to make a push in the City to get the grant which is a matching grant; that Tri-City was able to help with matches that enabled the City of Pomona to apply for all the funding that they needed; and said it was just really moving for him and heartening to see it all come together so quickly, and added that they have a really good chance to get the funding.

Board Member Lantz thanked Board Member Nolte for getting everybody's attention after he found out about the due date, pointing out that this would not had been possible without his positive intervention.

Chair Leano thanked Interim Executive Director Duff for talking about the work that Claremont has been doing to make sure that we continue to develop the PACT Program; he expressed how critical the PACT program is to Claremont and how it is a model for interagency cooperation on the front lines of mental health issues; and said he hoped that staff can come back next month with some solutions on how to address the current issue. He then stated that there is no question that behavioral health agencies are being impacted by staffing shortages, and also just a lack of qualified applicants entering into the pool; and pointed SB 964 currently in front of the State Senate which would offer stipends to students at California public universities, who later on go on to work in behavioral health at California public health agencies, noting that it would also help accelerate programs for students who are in school right now to enter into masters programs in furtherance of work in clinical behavioral health.



**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:53 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board its meeting of February 16, 2022 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, pursuant to Government Code § 54953.



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Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk