



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
JANUARY 14, 2014 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 3:33 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1717 N. Indian Hill Blvd. # B, Claremont, California.

CALL TO ORDER Vice Chair Whitlock called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL A visual roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Sylvia Whitlock, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Cheryl Berezny
Paul Capraro (arrived at 3:38 p.m.)
Ashley Nielsen, MSW
Donald R. Perez
Twila L. Stephens
Toni L. Watson (arrived at 3:41 p.m.)
Alison Martinez, Alternate

ABSENT: Arny Bloom, Chair
Joseph M. Lyons, Ph.D.
Betsy MacLaren, Secretary
Davetta Williams

STAFF: Jesse H. Duff, Executive Director
Toni Navarro, LMFT, Director of Clinical Program Services
Christopher Anzalone, Community Capacity Organizer
Dana Stein, MHSa Program Coordinator
Mica Olmos, Executive Assistant

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 12, 2013 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

There being no comments, Commissioner Berezny moved, and Alternate Commissioner Martinez seconded, to approve the Minutes of November 12, 2013. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Alternate Commissioner Martinez; Commissioners Berezny, Nielsen, Perez; and Vice-Chair Whitlock. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Stephens. ABSENT: Commissioners Capraro, Lyons, MacLaren, Watson, and Williams; and Chair Bloom.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 18, 2013 GOVERNING BOARD / MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION JOINT MEETING

There being no comments, Commissioner Perez moved, and Alternate Commissioner Martinez seconded, to approve the Minutes of the December 18, 2013 Joint Meeting with the Governing Board. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Alternate Commissioner Martinez; Commissioners Nielsen, Perez, and Stephens. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Berezny

and Vice-Chair Whitlock. ABSENT: Commissioners Capraro, Lyons, MacLaren, Watson, and Williams; and Chair Bloom.

III. PRESENTATION

A. CHRIS ANZALONE, COMMUNITY CAPACITY ORGANIZER, PRESENTED A COMMUNITY WELLBEING GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Community Capacity Organizer Anzalone presented an overview of the Community Wellbeing Grant Program, noting that it is funded under the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Plan. He explained that the goal of the grants is to increase the capacity of communities to meet the needs of their members without providing services. He then talked about what the program has done, noting that there had been three cohorts each with 16, 18, and 15 communities respectively.

At 3:38 p.m., Commissioner Paul Capraro arrived at the meeting.

Community Capacity Organizer Anzalone continued to say that there were some lessons learned about managing the grant program and as a result now money is disbursed in increments; staff has implemented interviews as part of the application process and also conducts surveys; staff has now greater community involvement; the marketing of the grants in conjunction with informational meetings; and an increased focus on sustainability after the grant expires. He then shared some of the grant recipients' success stories.

At 3:41 p.m., Commissioner Toni Watson arrived at the meeting.

Community Capacity Organizer Anzalone then encouraged the Commission to refer to him any community group that might fit within the program and distributed flyers about the Community Wellbeing Grants and of upcoming informational meeting dates. He also explained who can apply for the grants stating that they must live or work in the Tri-City area, be or be associated with a 501(c)3 organization, or be a group of people that are in relationship with each other and act together.

Commissioner Perez inquired if the community group has to be already established. Community Capacity Organizer Anzalone replied in the negative; however, it is helpful when a group has established some type of relationship with each other. He indicated that the grant is intended for maintaining wellbeing of the members and not for providing services.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro provided an example of a community that came together to help children engage in sports activities to keep them away from gang related activities.

Executive Director Duff stated that the grants are for up to \$10,000. Community Capacity Organizer Anzalone added that a community group may be a recipient of a grant for up to three years; therefore, there is an opportunity for new groups to qualify for the grant. Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro added that the interview part of the grant application process also serves as a conduit to inform the community groups about Tri-City's system of care and, even if they are not recipients of the grant, they leave with the information about Tri-City's services and become partners in an indirect way.

Community Capacity Organizer Anzalone then talked about the support that staff provides on a continuous basis to all community groups that are participating. He indicated that learning gatherings are required and every quarter they meet to network with one another and to have an opportunity to connect and teach the groups skills about leadership, data development and data analysis which transcend the grant. He also said that the response to the grant program has been great and communities are benefiting from it.

Commissioner Perez inquired if there is oversight of the group activities. Community Capacity Organizer Anzalone replied in the affirmative, noting that he meets at least once per quarter with the groups on an individual basis to discuss how their project is moving along and to discuss their financial reporting to verify that they are meeting their obligations.

Vice-Chair Whitlock inquired if the \$10,000 is a fixed amount. Community Capacity Organizer Anzalone replied that each group can apply for up to \$10,000; however, they can choose to apply for less money. Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro added that Tri-City staff also evaluates the need for each group when reviewing the grant applications; therefore, a group can be awarded less money than what they have applied for.

Commissioner Stephens inquired that, aside from the leadership within a specific community, if it is assumed that members will come and go within that community group. Community Capacity Organizer Anzalone replied that there will always be turnover within a community group, noting that some communities are more prone to turnover than others, such as the homeless community; however, Tri-City does ask that the leadership stays consistent. He indicated that there is always an underlying structure amongst the leaders of the group and if Tri-City can promote the wellbeing within the culture and the community as a whole, then the individuals that come and go within that community will get the benefit of that wellness.

The Mental Health Commission thanked Chris Anzalone for his presentation.

III. REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Duff provided results of the RAND Corporation Study on the CalMHSA Statewide PEI Programs and an update of the Cultural Competency Plan. He stated that the State is struggling in evaluating the PEI plans and providing feedback; therefore the State will start over with this process. Once the State tells us what the new format will be, Tri-City will rewrite its Cultural Competency Plan. He then stated that the Governor had released his proposed budget and that Tri-City staff has been analyzing the report, as well as all mental health advocacy groups, California Mental Health Directors Association, CiMH, and NAMI, and have determined that the budget does not have anything that is hurtful to the mental health systems; on the contrary, the revenue for MSHA funding might increase. He then extended an invitation to the Commissioners to notify him, Toni Navarro, or Mica Olmos, if there is a subject that a Commissioner would like to discuss during a Commission Meeting whether it is additional information, or further clarification about operations is needed, so that it can be placed on the Agenda.

Commissioner Nielsen inquired how staff determines the presentations to the Commission. Executive Director Duff replied that they are selected according to what is currently taking place at Tri-City or if they are relevant current topics.

Vice-Chair Whitlock asked for a status of the Permanent Supportive Housing. Executive Director Duff reported that Tri-City, in conjunction with NAMI and other community partners, is hosting two luncheons for key community leaders about PSH. He then stated that, regarding the two denied projects on Garey and East Holt, staff is waiting from Tri-City's Attorney's opinion about whether or not the projects can be resubmitted for consideration of the City Council.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Nielsen stated that she would like to learn more about the Psychiatric Emergency Teams (PET) teams, how Tri-City works with them, and how the different emergency response systems are incorporated within the Los Angeles County.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:08 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of January 14, 2014 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on **Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.** in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard #B, Claremont, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, Executive Assistant