



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
June 10, 2014 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 4:07 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 4:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A visual roll call was taken.

PRESENT:

Arny Bloom, Chair
Betsy MacLaren, Secretary
Cheryl Berezny
Donald R. Perez
Ashley Nielsen, MSW
Toni L. Watson

ABSENT:

Sylvia Whitlock, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Paul Capraro
Twila L. Stephens
Davetta Williams

STAFF:

Jesse H. Duff, Executive Director
Toni Navarro, LMFT, Director of Clinical Program Services
Rimmi Hundal, MHSA Manager
Dana Stein, PEI Program Coordinator
Donald Pruyn, Housing Project Manager
Mica Olmos, Executive Assistant

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 22, 2014 GOVERNING BOARD & MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION JOINT MEETING AND MHSA PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Perez indicated that on Page 2, Item No 1, his vote was listed under *Ayes* and also *Abstain*; however, it should only be listed under *Abstain*. There being no further comment, Commissioner Watson moved, and Commissioner Nielsen seconded, to approve the Minutes of May 22, 2014, as amended. The motion was carried by the following vote: **AYES:** Commissioners Berezny, MacLaren, Perez, Nielsen, and Watson; and Chair Bloom. **NOES:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Commissioners Capraro, Stephens, Williams; and Vice-Chair Whitlock.

II. PRESENTATION

PEI Program Coordinator Stein distributed a list of the Community Wellbeing Grantees for Fiscal Year 2014-15 and presented an overview of the Community Wellbeing Grant Program, noting that it is part of the Community Capacity Wellness Project funded under the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Plan. She explained that the goal of the grants is to increase the capacity of communities enabling them to find and develop projects that are community driven which will help sustain and improve the mental and emotional wellbeing of their community members. She indicated that for grant purposes, a community is defined as individuals that are in relationship with each other and act together and support one another. She said that there had been three cohorts each ranging between 15 – 18 communities, and this is the fourth cohort with 15 grants that will be awarded. She then talked about the grant process indicating that it lasts about nine months, involves advertising and outreach, discussion about the program, bidders' conference, application process, and that 38 applications were submitted.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro talked about the interview and selection process of the grantees, noting that a community group may be a recipient of a grant for up to three years. She said that Community Capacity Organizer Chris Anzalone provides support on a continuous basis to all community groups that are participating. She then highlighted some of the applicants: the African American Museum of Beginnings; Cal Poly Vets; Claremont Homeless Advocacy Group; Friends of Pomona Public Library; Parenting and Me; Yes! For Schools, Pomona; and Saturday Tongan Education Program.

Commissioner Perez inquired if the community group or the sponsor applies for the grant. MHSA Manager Hundal replied that the group must be or be associated with a 501(c)3 organization to apply.

Commissioner Watson inquired the reason some groups were awarded less than the \$10,000. PEI Program Coordinator Stein explained that part of the application process is to present a budget depicting exactly how the money will be spent; therefore, they apply only for the amount that will be used.

MSHA Manager Hundal stated that the Community Wellbeing Program started four years ago and Tri-City has spent over \$400,000 in community grants.

Commissioner Perez inquired when a community group can re-apply for a grant after they have reached the 3-year maximum. MHSA Manager Hundal stated that currently there is no provision for this; however, it is something that staff could discuss if appropriate.

Commissioner Perez stated that to him the assistance goes away all of the sudden after a 3-year period.

Chair Bloom stated that the intent of the Community Wellbeing Grants is to help a group of individuals to build a community of support and continue to be sustainable after the 3-year period without the grant.

Director of Clinical Program Services Navarro shared some of the grant recipients' success stories and indicated that staff is developing a mentorship program, wherein those groups that have successfully established a community that support them will train the current grantee groups.

Executive Director Duff indicated that these grants will be submitted to the Governing Board for approval at its next regular meeting.

The Mental Health Commission thanked staff for their presentation.

III. REPORTS

Housing Project Manager Pruyn presented a permanent support housing update. He reported that the Cedar Springs Developer has received verbal notification that the project has been awarded a Federal tax credit allocation; that a November or early December closing of the construction loan is anticipated; and that it is expected that the construction of the project will begin in January of 2015. He then talked about the Park Avenue Apartment Project and said that all exterior work had been completed, as well as the interior rehabilitation of two of the eight units; and that staff is ready to award the contract for the completion of the remaining six units, noting that residents have to be relocated during this process and should be completed by October 1st. He also stated that the West Holt Apartment project by the Related Companies has been fully entitled by the City of Pomona; that there was a historical house built in 1883 located on the project site and the Shield of Faith Church will pay for the relocation of the house to a City owned lot; and that the Related Company will apply for Federal tax credits in the July funding cycle. He also reported that the East Holt Project is now in compliance with the Pomona General Plan and does not require Pomona City Council approval; that the project went through an Administrative Hearing regarding its design; that it was approved subject to a 10-day appeal process, which has expired and no appeal was filed; therefore, the project is fully entitled by the City of Pomona. Lastly, he indicated that Tri-City staff is discussing with Clifford Beers various options for the development of the Garey Avenue site.

Executive Director Duff stated that 4-6 months ago, Tri-City staff was frustrated with the issues that the housing projects were facing; now, every project has been entitled. He then thanked Don Pruyn for all the work performed with the non-profit developers, noting that these projects' deals are enormously complex and Don had been very successful. He also credited Public Outreach and Housing Manager Gilbert Saldate and Director of Clinical Program Services Toni Navarro for attending Council meetings, Commission meetings, and for outreaching to the community on behalf of Tri-City. He then talked about the parking situation at the Wellness Center and reported that Tri-City's counsel had written a letter to the parking property owner regarding Tri-City's legal rights; that the parking property owners had released Tri-City's trash bin; and that Tri-City had reached an agreement with the dentist adjacent to the Wellness Center to use its parking lot for a nominal fee when their office is closed on Wednesdays and Fridays, noting that the dentist also had given permission to place a pedestrian gate to allow access to Tri-City staff.

At 4:45 p.m., Commissioner Toni Watson left the meeting.

Executive Director Duff then talked about his retirement which he announced to the Governing Board about three months ago, noting that a search firm was retained to conduct the recruitment for his replacement. He then provided a timeline and explained the recruitment process. Lastly, he announced that Chief Financial Officer Margaret Harris will also be retiring next year; that Consultant John Ott has concluded his work with Tri-City; and that Tri-City will be hiring a full-time employee, and entering into a contract with Elizabeth Sadlon, to perform the duties that John Ott used to perform and continue with Tri-City's delegate process.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

There was no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:53 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of June 10, 2014 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on **Tuesday, July 8, 2014**, in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard #B, Claremont, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, Executive Assistant