



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
MARCH 10, 2015 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 3:31 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1717 N. Indian Hill Blvd. # B, Claremont, California.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Whitlock called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL A visual roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Sylvia Whitlock, Ph.D., Chair
Toni L. Watson, Vice-Chair
Betsy MacLaren, Secretary
Cheryl Berezny
Donald R. Perez
Davetta Williams

ABSENT: Arny Bloom
Paul Capraro
Ashley Nielsen, MSW
Twila L. Stephens

STAFF: Toni Navarro, Executive Director
Donald Pruyn, Housing Project Manager
Jennifer Phang, Marriage & Family Therapist I, Adult FSP Program
Miriam Hita, Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist I, Housing Division
Caroline Kennedy, Prog. Supervisor I, FSP Program, Child & Fam. Serv.
Monica Valencia, Community Navigator
Gamaliel Polanco, Wellness Center Manager
Mica Olmos, Executive Assistant

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 10, 2015 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

There being no comments, Commissioner MacLaren moved, and Vice-Chair Watson seconded, to approve the Minutes of February 10, 2015. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, MacLaren, Perez, and Williams; Vice-Chair Watson; and Chair Whitlock. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Bloom, Capraro, Nielsen and Stephens.

II. PRESENTATION

Executive Director Navarro introduced Tri-City staff members that were in attendance representing the Tri-Housing Division, the Wellness Center, the Adult and Child and Family Clinical Services, and Community Navigators to talk about and illustrate how staff impact, interact, and affect the entire Tri-City's system of care.

Jennifer Phang, Marriage & Family Therapist I Intern, Adult FSP Program as well as a Supervisor Coordinator for the P2P Counseling Program, stated that staff was going to talk about how the Tri-City integrated system of care, which is founded on Tri-City's core values, had evolved and that one particular case was going to be discussed due to all the resources associated with it.

Caroline Kennedy, Program Supervisor I, FSP Program, Child and Family, stated that Tri-City received a referral from a 12 year old girl who was chronically homeless, had an on-going pattern of receiving services, and also was refusing to attend school; that her family consisted of her mother and an older sibling, noting that the mother had her own physical and mental health issues, who was living in a motel and was facing challenges in making decisions; and discussed how the Adult FSP team got involved, indicating that at the beginning the mother was very resistant and staff had to use their imagination and creativity to engage the client.

Miriam Hita, Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist I in the Housing Division, stated that with Tri-City's help, the mother received Shelter Plus Care from the City of Pomona; and after she graduated from services from the clinical team, the mother would still meet with the housing division staff at least once a month; discussed the various issues the mother was facing with the landlord and the Pomona Housing Authority; explained that as part of the Landlords' project is building relationships with the landlords, and as such, issues were being resolved through Tri-City's housing division. Sadly, the mother passed away due to her cancer and staff wanted to be there for the daughter, now 16 years old, to help her cope with her current situation; therefore, the Wellness Center was asked to provide the needed services.

Gamaliel Polanco, Wellness Center Manager, indicated the Wellness Center is available to anyone to participate in the various activities taking place; however, if there are no services in place, and staff cannot find a place in the community to refer someone, then the Wellness Center will offer one-one support to the individuals that might be in need, which is what staff did in this particular situation; unfortunately, the daughter never followed-up. Nevertheless, the Wellness Center continued on its efforts to help and contacted the Navigators to find a grief and loss group for children in the community.

Monica Valencia, Community Navigator, indicated that she reached out to the Kennedy Austin Foundation who indicated that they did not have a grieving group for children; however, to refer to them the 16 year old girl and that they would accommodate her.

Program Supervisor Kennedy indicated that unfortunately the daughter did not follow up with the services; however, the great thing is that staff was ready and available to help even after the mother had passed away.

Therapist Intern Phang stated that it was a positive outcome because the daughter was able to utilize the tools Tri-City staff taught her to move forward and be open and honest about her feelings and be able to ask for help, noting that both sisters had moved out of town. As a team, staff discovered that it was very important to improve the follow-up after a client's discharge; being able to connect and check-in to confirm that clients are utilizing the tools they have learned; that clients are following up with the referrals; and that clients are being able to manage their daily life.

A list of referrals and resources about the services that Tri-City offers was distributed to the Commission.

Wellness Center Manager Polanco stated that Tri-City has such a comprehensive system of care which makes it a lot easier to connect all services such as housing, the support groups, the medical, the treatment, noting that Tri-City has all these services in-house. Lastly, he stated that it is great being able to intervene in timely manner because Tri-City has the resources available.

Discussion ensued regarding the family dynamic of the mother and her two daughters.

The Commission thanked Tri-City staff for everything they do.

III. REPORTS

Executive Director Navarro reminded the Commission that the Joint Meeting with the Governing Board will take place on Wednesday, May 20th at 4:45 p.m. in the Garey Building and, thereafter, the MHSA Annual Public Hearing at Taylor Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Housing Manager Pruyn provided a supporting housing update and stated that the Cedars Springs Project in La Verne is under construction; that the West Holt Family Apartments by the Related Companies is moving forward with the construction; that the Clifford Beers Project on East Holt was successful in obtaining its MHSA Loan by the CalHFA, had applied for its Tax Credit Financing, and that will find out if they are successful in six weeks; that the two offers to purchase the parking lot and church building adjacent to Wellness center have been verbally accepted and Tri-City is currently waiting for the sales contract and the building plans from the owner to ensure the improvements are in compliance with building codes; that staff continues to look for housing in the City of Claremont and discussed the different attempts to secure a location, however were not successful; and that the City of Pomona, the PUSD, and Tri-City have been working together to resolve the easements issue, and when done, it will be of great benefit to the three parties involved, noting that they have agreed to split the property appraisal cost, and that the question remains whether or not the City will charge Tri-City for the property.

Commissioner Perez inquired what would be a better option in connection with housing in the City of Claremont.

Executive Director Navarro replied that the Governing Board wants to purchase existing property and make improvements to the property.

Discussion ensued regarding the ideal situation to acquire property and different purchasing options with available funding.

Commissioner Perez further inquired if the housing will be exclusively for the use of veterans. Housing Manager Pryun replied in the negative, noting that the Board wanted housing for the general mentally ill population of which some veterans are components of this population and will be encouraged to participate, noting that the City of Claremont is pursuing veterans' housing separate from what Tri-City is doing.

Executive Director Navarro stated that the City of Claremont initially had some ideas but is no longer considering them; however, they helped Tri-City staff identify those veterans that can be served through Tri-City clinical services, as it is a requirement for MHSA housing services to be a Tri-City client. In addition, staff has been evaluating possible training that will help reach out and better identify the veterans' underserved population. Lastly, she announced that there is a date for the focus group with the Pomona Veteran's group.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Williams thanked Tri-City for its financial support given to the CHAP program.

Commissioner Perez thanked everyone involved in addressing veteran's issues.

Vice-Chair Watson said that she is glad that Green Ribbon Week is coming up and that she really enjoyed participating in the courageous minds at the Western University.

Executive Director Navarro invited the Commission to join Tri-City staff on Thursday, March 19th at 11:45 am at Second and Gibbs at Western University in downtown Pomona, for 'Green on the Scene', wearing green and dance to the "Happy" song. Also, some local restaurants are offering 20% discount for those that wear anything green.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:37 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of March 10, 2015 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on **Tuesday, April 14, 2015**, in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard #B, Claremont, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, Executive Assistant