



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
JULY 11, 2017 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 3:42 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 3:42 p.m.

ROLL CALL A visual roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Donald R. Perez, Vice-Chair
Arny Bloom
Cheryl Berezny
Rubio R. Gonzalez (arrived at 3:45 p.m.)
Twila L. Stephens
Elmer Vidaña
Davetta Williams

ABSENT: Anne Henderson
Alfonso "Al" Villanueva
Toni L. Watson

STAFF: Toni Navarro, Executive Director
Sonny Alino, Employment Outreach Supervisor
Michelle Mata, Family Wellbeing Supervisor
Jamie Ritchey, Community Capacity Organizer
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 13, 2017 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Berezny moved, and Commissioner Williams seconded, to approve the Minutes of June 13, 2017. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, and Williams; Vice-Chair Perez; and. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioners Bloom, Stephens, and Vidaña. ABSENT: Board Member Liaison Gonzalez; Commissioners Henderson and Villanueva; and Chair Watson.

II. PRESENTATION

A. AN OVERVIEW OF TRI-CITY'S EMPLOYMENT/VOCATIONAL SERVICES OFFERED AT THE WELLNESS CENTER

At 3:45 p.m., Rubio Gonzales arrived at the meeting.

Sonny Alino, Employment Outreach Supervisor, stated that he oversees the program that provides vocational rehabilitation and employment services to residents of the Cities of Claremont, Pomona and La Verne; that the approach is the recovery model, strength based, and to encourage community inclusion roles to continue a joint effort; and that all persons helped are referrals from Tri-City's clinical staff, various community organizations, and by word of mouth. He then explained what someone might expect when visiting the Wellness Center for employment services; the process for helping individuals with résumé preparation, job searching, job application completion, and job interview practices; as well as more in depth and focused assistance through weekly employment workshops held three times a week if there is the realization that applicants lack education, have a language barrier, are illiterate, or have legal issues. He noted that the Wellness Center serves on a monthly basis approximately 535 persons for employment services and, of those, approximately 9 job placements are achieved. He also stated that the assistance from staff does not end after someone finds a job pointing out that staff follows up with the person employed; and that if the person is no longer employed, staff finds out the reason and encourages the person to return to the Wellness Center to participate in the Effective Employee Curriculum program to help him/her retain future employment, noting that they also have monthly job fairs where local employers participate.

Discussion ensued how Tri-City staff determines if an individual is ready for work and the necessary skills required, which sometimes they possess but cannot articulate; and about the different trainings available at the Wellness Center, adult schools, and throughout the community to help an individual achieve his/her goal.

Commissioner Bloom inquired how Tri-City's will collaborate with David & Margaret since they will be offering services for foster children. Executive Director Navarro stated that it would be great if David & Margaret wished to collaborate with Tri-City and that it would depend on David & Margaret. She indicated that Tri-City hosts groups at their facilities to encourage its tenants to use Tri-City facilities; however there has not been much interest on David & Margaret's part. She then explained that Tri-City's commitment is to work in collaboration with community partners, that unfortunately it cannot do everything for everyone, and that it will not try to do everything for everyone.

Commissioner Bloom commented that, from the schools' point of view, it is helpful to know that students will be more successful if they can participate in Tri-City's job finding program, noting that schools are struggling in helping students to find jobs after they graduate; and suggested Tri-City to collaborate with the School District to find jobs for students after they graduate. Executive Director Navarro responded that Tri-City has had collaborated for the last two years with the Pomona Unified School District by hosting a hiring event and that Tri-City can certainly continue to collaborate and partner with the schools to help students find jobs after graduation.

Commissioner Stephens said that the job center provides similar services that Tri-City staff provides; however, Tri-City staff has the ability spend time one-on-one basis with job seekers and expressed appreciation for this service. She then commented that the Los Angeles County Youth Jobs (LACYJ) Program, for persons 14–24 years of age, can be beneficial for those who are just looking for work experience and personal enrichment, noting that they can work for up to 120 hours, earn some pocket change, and be able to include this work experience on a résumé.

Commissioner Perez inquired how the internet interphases with this job programming. Employment Outreach Supervisor Alino responded that the internet is used for e-mail communications, résumé preparation, as well as to look for/and receive job announcements; and mentioned some of the companies that will attend the upcoming Tri-City hiring event. Commissioner Perez further inquired if the job training included personal presentation. Employment Outreach Supervisor Alino replied in the affirmative, indicating that it is part of the Effective Employee Curriculum, including the topic of how to manage money after finding a job. Executive Navarro mentioned that staff also has in stock hygiene products, makeup, and clothing for those individuals who do not have these items to prepare for interview day.

B. AN OVERVIEW OF TRI-CITY'S ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP OFFERED AT THE WELLNESS CENTER

Executive Director Navarro spoke about the Summer Camp program indicating that it started seven years ago when Tri-City's clinical staff was looking for summer programming for clients; specifically, for specialized programs for families who did not have a lot of economic means, have children who have a lot of behavioral and emotional disabilities, and that had not been successful in other programming; consequently, the Wellness Center staff created the summer camp to accommodate these clients.

Michelle Mata, Family Wellbeing Supervisor, reported that Tri-City's Annual Summer Camp is a day camp for children who are 7 to 12 years old and reside in one of the three cities; that its duration is four weeks; that it runs from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; and that it focuses on skill building and socialization skills. She explained that the Summer Camp program had started in 2010 with only few staff and participants and that it now has grown in location, staff, and the number of students participating; pointing out that the camp has now 20 children enrolled. She also indicated that this program is headed by four Full-Time Tri-City Staff and accepts the assistance of former camp participants, College student volunteers, High School student volunteers, and community volunteers.

Executive Director Navarro explained the difference between former Summer Camp participants, who are returning as Teens volunteers, from the College students, High School students, and community volunteers which must go through the formal volunteer process that includes a background check and comprehensive training.

Family Wellbeing Supervisor Mata then discussed how the program is advertised, the Application process which includes orientations for parents and interviews with the children, as well as the timeline of the entire process. She then talked about how activities, interactions, and the learning environment are planned; noting that each week has a theme and a planned field trip which include low cost/no cost activities for parents such as weekly park outings or visits to local Police departments, fire departments, and libraries.

Executive Director Navarro commented that the entire staff at the Wellness Center is trained and ready for summer camp programming.

Discussion ensued regarding activities available for children placed on the waiting list; the various mental illnesses that the participants may suffer from and are still able to participate in the summer camp; the requirements to enroll in the program; and the procedures for the selection process of high school volunteers.

C. DISCUSS THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES PLANNED DURING JULY AS MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Jamie Ritchey, Community Capacity Organizer, distributed an infographic prepared by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) regarding mental health statistics in minorities and reported that in 2008 the US House of Representatives announced July as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in her honor. She indicated that Bebe Moore Campbell was an author, advocate, co-founder of NAMI Urban Los Angeles Chapter Inglewood, and a national spokesperson, who passed away in November 2006. She noted that this year is the first year that Tri-City will be promoting National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month and expressed excitement about anticipating the staff and community's response. She then discussed the outreach to the community partners to promote Minority Mental Health Month and planned activities.

Executive Director Navarro explained that Tri-City's emphasis on Minority Mental Health Month is to promote awareness that minority populations have the least access to services and more stigma; therefore, focusing on ways that they can reduce stigma, and at the same time acknowledging and celebrating communities to engage people in activities that create and promote mental wellness and health without stigmatizing.

Community Capacity Organizer Ritchey then stated that the two goals to achieve during Minority Mental Health month is to look at 1) the impact of mental health challenges within that minority and 2) the barriers to treatment, to figure out the correlation between the problem and the rate of seeking help. She then referred to the infographic and discussed some of the statistics and the stories it tells.

Board Member Liaison Gonzales commented that individuals often stigmatize themselves.

Community Capacity Organizer Ritchey then announced, as part of Tri-City's celebration activities during Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, a meet & greet event and a book reading by author Andrea J. Loney of her book *BunnyBear* which promotes acceptance, tolerance, and inclusion.

Executive Director Navarro shared a quote from the Surgeon General who stated that "*racial and ethnic minorities bear a greater burden from unmet mental health needs and thus suffer a greater loss to their overall health and productivity.*" pointing out that this is what research shows and that it will be posted on Tri-City's website.

Community Capacity Organizer Ritchey reported that information about Minority Mental Health Month, as well as other resource links, are also posted on Tri-City's website [room4everyone](#).

The Commission thanked staff for their presentations.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Navarro reported that Tri-City began its new fiscal year in July 1st; that California Governor Brown had approved new legislation which is beneficial to mental health services; that the MHSA Oversight and Accountability Commission was looking to take nearly 100 million from counties from PEI and Innovation funding, however, the California Behavioral

Health Directors Association (CBHDA) successfully advocated for this not to happen and this money will not be taken from counties; that CBHDA also advocated specifically for Tri-City and Berkeley not to be impacted by new legislation which will take any growth from 1991 realignment to pay for in-home support services because Tri-City is not responsible for those services and it only provides outpatient services. She also reported that Tri-City's Governing Board adopted a Resolution to allow Tri-City to submit an Application for Technical Assistance under No Place Like Home (NPLH) in the amount of \$100,000 indicating that this money will be used to hire a consultant to bring community partners, stakeholders, and Tri-City staff together to create a Tri-City wide specific Homeless Strategic Plan which is a requirement to apply for any housing funding under NPLH. She also stated that Commissioners will be asked to participate during this process of creating a Homeless Strategic Plan for the three cities.

Housing Consultant Don Pruyn reported that the Holt Family Apartments Project is back on track after the fire; that the rebuilding process has begun on those buildings that were damaged; and that it is expected to be completed in December 2017. He then stated that the Baseline Project in Claremont is on hold due to financing and commented that future housing projects will be possible with funding available under the NPLH program which can be combined with the existing 2.5 million in MHSA funds; noting that an acquisition project will be more feasible than a new development. He also indicated that the clinic easement issue is almost over since the purchase-sale contract had been signed by Tri-City and the City of Pomona; that escrow had been opened; and that the property will be used to expand the clinic parking lot and develop the new Therapeutic Community Garden.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

There was no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:07 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of July 11, 2017 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard, Suite B, Claremont, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk