



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 13, 2018 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 3:35 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1717 N. Indian Hill Blvd. # B, Claremont, California.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL A visual roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Toni L. Watson, Chair
Donald R. Perez, Vice-Chair
Arny Bloom
Cheryl Berezny
Rubio R. Gonzalez (arrived at 3:39 p.m.)
Anne Henderson
Twila L. Stephens
Alfonso "Al" Villanueva

ABSENT: Davetta Williams

STAFF: Toni Navarro, Executive Director
Rimmi Hundal, Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services
Gilbert Saldate, Public Outreach and Housing Manager
Mary Monzon, Housing Supervisor
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 9, 2018 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

There being no comment, Commissioner Bloom moved, and Commissioner Henderson seconded, to approve the Minutes of January 9, 2018. The motion was carried by the following vote: **AYES:** Commissioners Bloom, Berezny, and Henderson; and Chair Watson. **NOES:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Commissioners Stephens and Villanueva; and Vice-Chair Perez. **ABSENT:** Commissioner Williams and Board Liaison Gonzalez.

II. PRESENTATION

A. TRI-CITY'S HOUSING SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE

Executive Director Navarro stated that there have been many changes to the Housing Division and staff was in attendance to provide an overview of Tri-City's Housing Services Program.

Mary Monzon, Housing Supervisor, stated that Gilbert Saldate continues to be the head of the housing division and the public outreach manager; that she provides the day-to-day operations and supervises five housing division staff; and talked about the housing division staff and their duties. She then discussed Fresh Start, indicating that it is transitional supportive housing; that it is for a maximum two year residency; that there are five two-bedroom apartments available under this program which is supported by the Housing Navigator by focusing on increasing engagement in services and as a resource information, and that the treatment teams are consulted in matching roommates, regular communication to provide support to tenants, and its meetings are focused on helping find permanent housing. She then stated that the Park Avenue apartments, pointing out that it consists of eight supportive housing apartments: seven single units and one two-bedroom unit. She then discussed the Baseline residence which is located in a private lot and it is a double-family occupancy residence; that it is funded through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA); and that it is also supported by the housing navigator and treatment teams. She then talked about Parkside Family Apartments located in the City of Pomona, developed by Related California and Shield of Faith Economic Development and is currently managed by The John Stewart Company, noting that 21 units belong to Tri-City and its residents have available a community room, kitchen, multiple lounges, media room, and computer room; and that a Residential Services Coordinator provides biweekly check-ins to provide housing support and general referrals, regular communication with Clinical teams, and monthly calendar of activities. She also talked about Cedar Springs Apartments in the City of La Verne, wherein Tri-City owns 8 units; serve Transitional Age Youth (16-24); it was developed by A Community of Friends; currently managed by The John Stewart Company; provides community room with shared kitchen, multiple lounges, media room, computer room, and a Residential Services Coordinator whom provides biweekly check-ins to provide housing support and general referrals, regular communication with Clinical teams, and monthly calendar of activities; and that additional supportive groups ran through David and Margaret Youth and Family Services.

Discussion ensued regarding waiting lists for supportive housing; how TAY units will be managed; the reason a Residential Services Coordinator position was created; and that data is currently being gathered about how many people are homeless or at risk of homelessness which will be provided at a future meeting.

Executive Director Navarro reported that when MHSA started, every county was given a one-time allocation funding based on its population size to use for permanent supportive housing for its homeless population suffering from a mental illness; and that Tri-City's allocation was \$2.1 million for a population of 225,000 would have built 20 units. However, Tri-City's stakeholders determined that this amount would not be sufficient to accommodate Tri-City's homeless population suffering from a mental illness and recommended to allocate 7 million for supportive housing using unspent funds, noting that Tri-City has built to date 64 units of permanent supportive housing and was given funding only for 20 units. However, she pointed out, that with the 37 Shelter Plus Care vouchers, Tri-City actually provides 101 units of permanent supportive housing. She added that she is aware that more units are needed and that this number will be determined after a homelessness strategy plan is developed using the NPLH technical assistance funding.

Housing Supervisor Monzon then talked about the Holt Family Apartments which were developed by Clifford Beers Housing and are managed by the John Stewart Company; that Tri-City owns 25 supportive housing units and it has community room, kitchen, playground with basketball court, laundry room, and computer room; that a residential Services Coordinator provides biweekly check-ins to provide housing support and general referrals, regular communication with Clinical teams, and monthly calendar of activities. She then explained that Shelter Plus Care Tri-City has 20 vouchers through Pomona, 17 vouchers through Los Angeles County for homeless individuals with disabilities and their families which require a 25% supportive services match of the rental assistance reward; regular support to provide referrals for additional services that can provide a match; and assist with obtaining or maintaining housing.

Discussion ensued what is supportive services match and how this requirement is met for Tri-City clients.

Housing Supervisor Monzon also reported that Tri-City's Housing Division has in-house referrals for clients who are in need for housing or need help in preventing an eviction; provides a Supportive Options Group that provides weekly workshops available to all Tri-City clients, wherein housing list are distributed, they are taught money management, and linkage to the Employment Specialist or other Tri-City programming. She then talked about the Landlord Project designed to create collaboration with landlords and service providers to better serve the community; to reduce stigma; and to increase access to low-income units to support referrals, noting that an annual Housing Summit is hosted to provide the landlords and property managers free annual legal presentation of Fair Housing rules regulations and any housing law updates.

B. NO PLACE LIKE HOME LEGISLATION: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (NPLH-TA) FUNDS PROJECT UPDATE

Executive Director Navarro explained that legislation was enacted to take money from MHSA to set aside for permanent supportive housing for persons suffering mental health illnesses across the county. She noted that Tri-City's stakeholders are conscientious about recommending to set aside money for supportive housing; however, not all the counties have this support, therefore, the only way to address this issue was to enact legislation. She indicated that NPLH is under a validation process, that is, is being reviewed by the Attorney General's Office to make sure that the allocation from MHSA funding is appropriate without voter approval, noting that it is expected to be resolved by January 2019. In the interim, Tri-City was awarded \$100,000 in technical assistant funding to use to create a Tri-City wide homelessness strategy plan, to quality for approximately 1.7 million available to Tri-City for supportive housing. She added that also there will be an opportunity to apply for a competitive grant and perhaps partner with the Los Angeles County and develop a project similar to Cedar Springs. She explained that the Homelessness Strategic Plan will be created by bringing together stakeholders from each of the three cities and determine the amount of units needed, and where to build them, with an emphasis for those suffering from a mental illness who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. She also indicated that at the next Governing Board meeting, staff would request for the contract approval of consultant Elizabeth Sadlon to assist with the stakeholder process; discussed her qualifications and experience with non-profit housing and homeless issues within the Los Angeles County; talked about the stakeholder process; goals for supportive housing; and discussed homeless statistics.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Navarro stated that the next stakeholder meetings are taking place in March, and thanked those Commissioners who participated in the workgroups, for their hard work and dedication; reported that as Tri-City approaches its 10th anniversary of MHSA, are reviewing the top 10 values of Tri-City; that Innovations projects will begin in July; that in May 4th, Tri-City will be co-sponsoring a symposium in resiliency and community wellbeing with Senator Connie Leyva, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, and the Pomona Unified School District (PUSD); that Commissioner Elmer Vidaña resigned and there is a recruitment taking place to fill his vacancy.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Board Member Gonzalez reported that former Pomona Council Members Paula Lantz and John Nolte, before they left office they worked together in creating an ordinance to increase the building quality standards of rental properties in Pomona which will be presented for City Council approval in the next couple of months. He noted that he will be working in creating a moratorium on rent increases to prevent owners of rental properties from passing the cost to the renter. He also reported that John Nolte is part of a group called 'push' and they are working on writing a ballot initiative for rent control in the City of Pomona due to the recent surge in rent increases; and pointed out that there is an imbalance of renters vs. owners noting that 55% are renters in the City of Pomona. He then talked about his goal to have the City of Pomona acquire blighted motel properties and develop permanent supportive housing units there.

Executive Director Navarro stated that it is an effective and common strategy across the state to acquire blighted properties and turn them into housing.

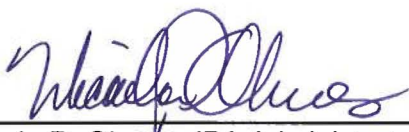
Chair Watson reported that she attended the southern region conference of the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHBC) and discussed information received and provided; noting that they were impressed with Tri-City's stakeholder process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:50 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of February 13, 2018 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, in the Administration Building, 1717 North Indian Hill Boulevard #B, Claremont, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk