



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular meeting on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 3:35 p.m. in MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, 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
Cheryl Berezny
Ethel Gardner
Jeanette Heitmann
Anne Henderson
Rubio R. Gonzalez
Joan M. Reyes
Daniel Rodriguez
Twila L. Stephens
Wray Ryback
Davetta Williams (arrived at 3:41 p.m.)

ABSENT: Arny Bloom
Alfonso "Al" Villanueva
David J. Weldon

STAFF: Toni Navarro, Executive Director
Rimmi Hundal, Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services
Dana Barford, MHSA Projects Manager
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 10, 2018 REGULAR MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

After a request to check on the name of a Church listed in the Minutes, Commissioner Ryback moved, and Commissioner Reyes seconded, to approve the MHC Minutes of the July 10, 2018 Regular Meeting. The motion was carried by the following vote: **AYES:** Commissioners Berezny, Gardner, Heitmann, Henderson, Reyes, Stephens, Ryback; Board Liaison Gonzalez; and Vice-Chair Perez. **NOES:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Commissioner Rodriguez; and Chair Watson. **ABSENT:** Commissioners Bloom, Villanueva, Weldon, and Williams.

With the approval from the Commission, Agenda Item No. III was taken out of Order.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Navarro announced that the Pomona's Homeless Advisory Committee will meet next week at Ganesha Park to discuss updates about the Year-Round Shelter which is opening on November 1st.

At 4:41 p.m., Commissioner Davetta Williams arrived at the meeting.

Executive Director Navarro then talked about Flex Funds, which are attached to the Full Service Partnership program, and explained that this funding allows to provide any service that people might need to help them get stable and move towards recovery and life stability; that Tri-City has increasingly used these Flex Funds to house people who are homeless or who are living in substandard conditions, sometimes on an emergency basis until staff can find a more stable housing; that currently Tri-City has only the option to house people in local motels or sober living environments; that Tri-City's Governing Board authorized giving \$357,000 annually, which is a portion of Flex funding used to house people in emergency situations, to the Year-Round Shelter in exchange for 28 beds for Tri-City clients in a contractual basis since the shelter will have an organized system of services onsite.

Discussion ensued how the shelter will operate, services provided, length of stay, and the focus of moving people into stable housing.

Executive Director Navarro continued with her report and indicated that back in May, the California Governor found a surplus of funds in the Budget and has allocated \$500 million across the State for homelessness services; and \$50 million is being given directly to County Behavioral Health Departments and the two cities jurisdictions; that the allocation for Tri-City is a one-time funding of \$100,000 to be spent by June 30, 2020 which has to be leveraged with some its own funds to increase outreach for those who are homeless, mentally ill, and maybe coming out of jails; that staff is currently in the process of writing Tri-City's Letter of Interest to be able to access this funding to expand Tri-City's Outreach and Engagement Team by hiring part-time staff to work with our local police departments and increase access to Tri-City services for those identified through their homeless outreach strategy team or emergency response teams. She then announced that the regularly scheduled Governing Board Meeting of September 19th has been rescheduled to September 24th; that Tri-City's consultant, Sadlon and Associates, will be in attendance at the Mental Health Commission meeting in October to lead a discussion on homelessness planning to create Tri-City's Strategic Homelessness Plan which is required to access No Place Like Home funding should the Initiative pass at the November 6th Election; and explained what has been done to date and what is being planned for the October 9th Commission meeting.

II. PRESENTATION REGARDING TRI-CITY'S SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP TEAM (SPT)

Executive Director Navarro introduced Tri-City's Child/Family Services Department Manager Debbie Johnson who was in attendance to present Tri-City's School Partnership Team program.

Program Manager Johnson talked about her duties and indicated that she would provide a recap of last year's school referrals and what staff is looking for next year. She stated that the School Partnership Team (SPT) was made up herself and two clinicians, one being dedicated full-time to the Pomona Unified School District and the second one working part-time for Bonita School District and for Claremont Unified School District; that the purpose of the SPT is to be the liaison for the schools and to meet with the mental health program administrators to ensure

school referrals have access to services; and discussed the partnership and collaboration with the three local school districts.

Executive Director Navarro stated that the SPT is addition to current services provided for those clients already enrolled; that the SPT is proactive by visiting schools and outreaching to those who are advised to contact Tri-City and do not follow through.

Discussion ensued about services provided for those that do not live in the Tri-City area, but attend the local school districts, such as crisis stabilization with the goal to connect them with the service provider of the area they live in.

Program Manager Johnson then explained how the SPT conducts services at the school districts, noting that SPT has met with all the school counselors to discuss the referral process.

Executive Director Navarro reported that Governor signed legislature in June that requires schools to provide twice a year extensive campaigning about mental health services and resources; that each school in California has to make available a room or site where children and parents know where to go to get information about mental health services; and that every school will have to have mental health therapist on campus for every six-hundred students.

Program Manager Johnson continued with her presentation and provided data about referrals from the three school districts; discussed the trend of referrals which continue to increase each year as Tri-City continues outreaching and connecting with the schools; talked about Tri-City's role when attending the Student Attendance Review (SAR) board meetings; and discussed the different processes that the local schools follow as protocols for referrals.

At 4:27 p.m., Commissioner Jeanette Heitmann left the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for additional staff to meet the demands of increasing services; about the cost analysis conducted to ensure viability to provide increased services and the hiring of new staff; about Tri-City's bankruptcy status; and about staff training on suicide prevention.

Program Manager Johnson discussed the recent request for services from the Claremont Unified School District and about the different needs of the three school districts.

Commissioner Reyes inquired about SB 1004. Executive Director Navarro stated that under the Mental Health Services Act (MSHA) 80% of money received is for Community Services and Support (CSS) and 20% for Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), pointing out many counties were having trouble spending their PEI funding but not Tri-City. Therefore, SB 1004 was created to specify what is needed and tell counties how to spend its PEI money; that it would have required counties to cancel programming that they had in place to do as indicated; that it would have been very restrictive and not work for people; that MSHA was created to be community driven; that counties talked to the author of SB 1004 and he changed it to allow counties to keep existing programming and that moving forward any new PEI money received will be spent on the priorities listed on SB 1004.

Commissioner Reyes recommended using volunteers to focus on outreach and to follow-up with parents about services.

Discussion ensued about current Tri-City internship program; about there not being unfunded children in the State of California for Medi-Cal program, but not everyone enrolls; about the need to conduct data to track of successful treatments or closed cases.

Executive Director Navarro talked about the upcoming stakeholder on September 25th and on October 3rd which is the same meeting but one taking place in the morning and the other one in the afternoon to accommodate different schedules; that at this meeting current programming will be evaluated to find out how they are doing and if there is extra funding available for program expansion, filling up gaps or current needs; that there is an increase in school referrals and two of Tri-City's school districts have over half of their students who do not qualify for Tri-City's traditional treatment services; therefore, Tri-City can help by creating a 'treatment light' which would provide six to eight sessions to students regardless of insurance, similar to Field Capable Services for seniors at Tri-City, but now for youth; that 'treatment light' would be time limited and it will serve to evaluate and give time to transition, noting that this is a program where Tri-City can add funding to school services in the Tri-City area through the stakeholder process.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

There was no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Barford, MHSA Projects Manager, announced that the next Stakeholder meeting will have a Spanish interpreter; encouraged the Commission to attend the meeting; stated that she would be happy to coordinate and strategize with Commissioners to have a strong presence at the meeting; and that she was open to suggestions for her to outreach.

Commissioner Reyes stated that she brought an article from the LA Times that reported the La County having a new program called 'LA found' consisting of a bracelet giving to seniors with dementia. She also asked if Commissioners can bring a can a food to each meeting to donate to 'Sowing Seeds'.

Commissioner Gardner distributed a flyer for a car wash for a fundraiser to support the family of a 12-year old who lost his life in an accident.

Commissioner Berezny requested an update regarding Tri-City's partnership with Pomona Valley Hospital during next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Ryback reported that the Path Unit at the PVH had been opened, and that staff was working closely with Tri-City in developing protocols.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:07 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of July 10, 2018 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk