



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** A visual roll call was taken.

**PRESENT:** Toni L. Watson, Chair  
Anne Henderson Vice-Chair  
Cheryl Berezny  
Rubio R. Gonzalez (arrived at 3:40 p.m.)  
Joan M. Reyes  
Daniel Rodriguez  
Wray Ryback  
Twila L. Stephens  
David J. Weldon

**ABSENT:** Ethel Gardner  
Jeanette Heitmann  
Alfonso "Al" Villanueva  
Davetta Williams

**STAFF:** Toni Navarro, Executive Director  
Angela Igrisan, Chief Clinical Officer  
Dana Barford, MHSA Projects Manager  
Chris Anzalone, Community Capacity Organizer  
Janet Lewis-Fiebiger, Program Supervisor  
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 9, 2019 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

There being no comment, Commissioner Reyes moved, and Commissioner Ryback seconded, to approve the Mental Health Commission Minutes of its Regular Meeting of July 9, 2019. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, Reyes, Rodriguez, Ryback, Stephens; Vice-Chair Henderson; and Chair Watson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Weldon. ABSENT: Board Member Liaison Gonzalez; Commissioners Gardner, Heitmann, Villanueva, and Williams.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 13, 2019 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION ADJOURNED MEETING**

There being no comment, Commissioner Reyes moved, and Commissioner Weldon seconded, to approve the Mental Health Commission Minutes of its Adjourned Regular Meeting of August 13, 2019. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, Reyes, Rodriguez, Ryback, Stephens, Weldon; and Chair Watson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Vice-Chair Henderson. ABSENT: Board Member Liaison Gonzalez; Commissioners Gardner, Heitmann, Villanueva, and Williams.

## **III. PRESENTATION**

### **A. "RECOVERY MOMENTS" STORY**

Nelson Algarin, stated that he served in the Marines for four years and fought in the Afghanistan war; that upon his return, he was diagnosed with PTSD; shared his struggles and story of recovery and that he had joined the Courageous Minds Speakers Bureau to talk about his story to show what it is like for veterans transitioning from military to civilian life; that there is hope for those veterans that are currently struggling with PTSD; that there is help available; and that there are those who are willing to help them with their fight. He also indicated that he has earned an Associate's Degree and a Bachelor's Degree; that he applied and was hired as a Clinical Wellness Advocate for Tri-City; that he is happy working here; and that he is looking forward to working many years for Tri-City.

Executive Director Navarro shared that today there was a great Stakeholders meeting which was well represented by the various city and community groups from the three cities, and that also in attendance were former clients and stakeholders, as well as three Commissioners. She noted that Nelson Algarin is a great asset to Tri-City because as a veteran, he can communicate well with other clients who are veterans; that he also can train staff to communicate more effectively with clients who are veterans; and that he is a perfect example of recovery and Tri-City's peer employment.

At 3:40 p.m., Governing Board Member Liaison Rubio Gonzalez arrived at the meeting.

Chris Anzalone, Tri-City's Community Capacity Organizer, introduced Susan of Casa Colinas, and indicated that she works with children with disabilities and that she is aware of the struggles that families go through; therefore, she applied and was given a Community Wellbeing Grant; that the grant will focus on providing support to the siblings because so much of the parents resources are dedicated to the children with disabilities. He noted that she also had provided family support groups so that the parents can focus on themselves.

Susan stated that the first grant received was to provide support to the parents and described the program; she noted that this lead to apply for a second grant to provide support to the siblings and discussed the program indicating that it also focuses on teaching siblings on being advocates for themselves and being able to express that they also have needs without feeling guilt; and also discussed the current activities to prepare transitional youth into adulthood.

Commissioner Reyes inquired if there had been a consideration to include the families of those who are terminally ill. Susan indicated that she knows that there is also a need for those families; however, because her area is working with children with disabilities, then the focus was on the family of those children.

Executive Director Navarro stated that the Community Wellbeing Grant program is a signature program at Tri-City and that there was no other county with a similar program until the LA County implemented one last year.

#### B. CURRENT STATE LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH

Executive Director Navarro stated that she was going to provide two bills updates; and talked about Assembly Bill 1352 which specifically relates to Mental Health Boards (Commissions) functioning in the State and its role. She pointed out that Tri-City's Mental Health Commission learned at their last meeting that the local Mental Health Boards/Commissions were created under WIC statutes and as a requirement of all the Mental Health Plans; that this new legislation clarifies its role in its advisory capacity in helping the Governing Board to better understand the MSHA plan, and noted that on September 27th a final decision will be made by the Governor. She then explained that the Commission originally was to oversee all Mental Health Plans, including MHSA and realignment, and that AB 1352 clarifies that the Commission will oversee only MHSA, in which the Commission is currently taking an active role and is involved in the community planning process. She further explained that Tri-City staff presents the annual plan, and this year the three-year plan, to the Commission and Governing Board for approval; therefore, now Tri-City also has to provide an annual report of written explanations to the Commission and the Governing Board for any substantial changes or recommendations by the Commission that are not included in the final plan to demonstrate how the agency is operating and functioning. She then talked about Senate Bill 10, the Peer Certification legislation, which has made it to the Governor's desk and it looks like on October 1, 2019, California will be the 50th State in the union to have a Peer Certification Program that will offer training to persons with lived experience and also certification to work. She noted that Tri-City's Wellness Advocates will be given the opportunity to participate in the Peer Certification Program to receive a Certificate, similarly to the manner in which a drug counselor receives certification and not a license; and that staff is very excited and gearing up for it.

Commission Reyes inquired if the Peer Certification was the same as NAMI's Peer-to-Peer Program.

Executive Director replied that the Peer Certification will have some components of the Peer-to-Peer program; however, the Peer Certification is a program at the State level and there will be a committee in the Department of Health Care Services that will specify what the classes will be and the courses required, as well as which accredited bodies will be given the authority to sign off on those classes; and that the Peer Certification will be issued by the State of California. She further explained that obtaining a Peer Certification by Tri-City Wellness Advocates, their services can be refunded by Medi-Cal, noting that Tri-City does not get refunded for their services because currently they are not billable.

Chief Clinical Officer Igrisan stated that Tri-City staff is in really good shape for Peer Certification, noting that staff has been training and getting ready for this and nobody is starting from scratch.

Program Supervisor Janet Lewis-Fiebiger added that it also shows the value of the person with lived experience and that they represent that recovery is possible.



#### **IV. SELECTION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE STRATEGIES TO IMPACT MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS DISPARITIES IN CULTURALLY DIVERSE GROUPS**

JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos reported that at its last meeting, the Mental Health Commission selected three goals for its Members for Fiscal Year 2019-20 and one of the three goals was 'to impact disparities in mental health access for culturally diverse groups, by hosting two community events throughout the year'; accordingly, the Commission decided to create an Ad Hoc Committee to manage and implement this goal.

Executive Director Navarro stated that the Ad Hoc Committee will be assisted by staff once they decide what two events to host by June 30, 2020.

Governing Board Member Liaison Gonzalez nominated Commissioners Ethel Gardner and Al Villanueva to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee.

Commissioners Wray Ryback, Joan M. Reyes, Daniel Rodriguez, and Chair Toni Watson volunteered to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee.

There being no further comment, Vice-Chair Henderson moved, and Governing Board Member Liaison Gonzalez seconded, to appoint to the Ad Hoc Committee to oversee strategies to impact mental health access disparities in culturally diverse groups, Commissioners Joan M. Reyes, Daniel Rodriguez, Wray Ryback, and Chair Toni Watson; as well as Commissioners Ethel Gardner and Al Villanueva, if they choose to accept. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Berezny, Gonzalez, Reyes, Rodriguez, Ryback, Stephens, Weldon; Vice-Chair Henderson; and Chair Watson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Gardner, Heitmann, Villanueva, and Williams.

#### **V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Navarro reported that the annual Pomona Christmas Parade will take place on December 14th, and expressed excitement for once again Tri-City staff being able to participate, and invited the Commissioners to attend. She also reported that Measure H implementation funds are finally available and full acceptance by Pomona City Council will take place next week, allowing Tri-City to hire four navigators that will work specifically with the police departments in the three cities to house homeless individuals and get them into services from the three cities. She also reported that she had a telephone conversation with the Daily Bulletin about the homeless issues in the City of Pomona and that the reporter had requested to go on a ride-along with Tri-City staff to see how the program works, noting that this will be a great opportunity to help the public understand the complex nature of the homeless issues and how much effort it takes to get someone to trust and accept help. She then stated that Tri-City had received a Work Order through the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and as a result, Tri-City will be hiring two part-time Wellness Advocates to work in the Housing Division to help people maintain housing stability; that they will be working with persons who are not completely set in everything they need in housing; that Tri-City will receive up to a maximum of 20 referrals at-a-time of persons with complex medical and/or mental health issues that are housed in our area; that Tri-City will be their case manager; and expressed satisfaction for being awarded the contract by LADHCS.

### **COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Vice-Chair Henderson distributed a flyer about the Second Pomona Community Summit on Early Childhood Wellbeing, and encouraged people to attend and see the presentation to find out what areas we need help on. Executive Director Navarro stated that Tri-City's Navigator Supervisor is part of Pomona's Promise and will be in attendance.

Commissioner Reyes stated that David & Margaret have a store and its profits benefit the kids aging out; and also distributed information about the assessment center they have.

Executive Director Navarro discussed some of the topics that were discussed today at the stakeholder meetings such as employment support for kids aging out to help them gain skills that help combat so many issues, including homeless.

Governing Board Member Liaison Gonzalez announced that there will be a music concert for mental health awareness and suicide prevention on October 19th. Executive Director Navarro stated that Tri-City would love to be part of this event, noting that Tri-City has staff trained on suicide prevention 'safe talk' and that at the state level, the website [suicideispreventable.org](http://suicideispreventable.org), is a fabulous website.

Chair Watson indicated that the federal government is trying to change the suicide prevention hotline to a three digit number, similarly to the 911 emergency number.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

MHSA Projects Manager Dana Barford thanked those Commissioners that attended the Stakeholders meeting today; introduced Tri-City's new Innovations Coordinator Toni Robinson and talked about her skills and professional background.

Executive Director Navarro thanked Projects Manager Barford for doing a great job in taking care of the Innovation Plan during the past twelve months in which Tri-City has been without an Innovations Coordinator.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:27 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of September 10, 2019 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



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Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk