



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

**JANUARY 12, 2021 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 3:32 p.m. via teleconference pursuant to California Governor Newsom Executive Order N-25-20 wherein he suspended certain provisions of the Brown Act to allow the continuation to hold meetings without gathering in a room in an effort to minimize the spread and mitigate the effects of COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease of 2019).

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** Roll call was taken by JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos.

**PRESENT:** Toni L. Watson, Chair  
Anne Henderson, Vice-Chair  
Carolyn Cockrell, GB Member Liaison  
Joan M. Reyes  
Wray Ryback  
Twila L. Stephens  
Alfonso "Al" Villanueva  
David J. Weldon

**ABSENT:** Ethel Gardner  
Davetta Williams

**STAFF:** Toni Navarro, Executive Director  
Rimmi Hundal, Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services  
Jessica Hicks, Clinical Wellness Advocate  
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION JOINT MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2020**

There being no comment, Commissioner Ryback, and Vice-Chair Henderson seconded, to approve the Minutes of the December 16, 2020 Regular Joint Meeting of the Governing Board and Mental Health Commission. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Member Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Reyes, Ryback, Stephens, and Weldon; and Vice-Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Villanueva and Chair Watson. ABSENT: Commissioners Gardner and Williams.

## **II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION EACH ODD-NUMBERED YEAR**

JPA Administrator Clerk Olmos explained the election of officers' process; noting that there will be an election of office of Chair and office of Vice-Chair; she then asked if there were any nominations for the office of Chair.

Commissioner Villanueva nominated Vice-Chair Anne Henderson; Vice-Chair Henderson nominated Commissioner Joan Reyes; and Commissioner Stephens nominated Commissioner Wray Ryback, to serve as the Chair of the Mental Health Commission. Since the Chair office had more than one nominee, the election was carried by secret and written ballot resulting in a tie for two nominees. The motion to appoint Anne Henderson as Chair to the Mental Health Commission was carried by a coin toss.

Commissioner Villanueva then nominated Commissioner Wray Ryback; Commissioner Watson nominated Joan Reyes as Vice-Chair to the Mental Health Commission. Since the Vice-Chair office had more than one nominee, the election was carried out by secret and written ballot. The motion to appoint Wray Ryback as Vice-Chair to the Mental Health Commission was carried by the majority of the member vote.

Chair Henderson presided over the meeting.

## **III. PRESENTATION**

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

Linda Brown stated that five years ago she was in darkness, then she went to Tri-City where she received help and found her way back into the light; shared her illness struggles and pointed out that she is grateful because she did not believe anyone cared, but she was wrong; that she no longer lives afraid and feels better about herself; she said that she would recommend Tri-City to everyone that needs it; and thanked Tri-City staff for choosing this line of work.

Executive Director Navarro applauded her story of recovering; thanked her for being in today's Commission meeting and for having the courage of sharing her story; and expressed excitement for her being a champion for Tri-City in the communities of Pomona, Claremont in Laverne.

### **B. TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SUMMARY OF ACTIONS DURING 2020**

Executive Director Navarro provided a recap and recounted some of the highlights during year 2020 which was such a difficult year for so many; she acknowledged that there have been some very dark moments for several Tri-City staff members in the past 10 months due to COVID which has been relentless; she expressed gratitude and also having a more profound level of awe and respect for Tri-City staff for continuing to be putting the mission and the vision of Tri-City first, noting that they walk in their grief and they focus on their healing, but they still come to work every day and do the work that they do. She indicated that on March 19, 2020, Tri-City began modified operations due to COVID-19, and earlier that earlier that day, Tri-City's Governing Board convened a special meeting wherein they adopted a temporary telecommuting operations policy and authorized hazard pay, an additional \$3 per hour, for those employees who are essential workers which are at-risk by interacting with clients and the public.

She then reported that the IT team was remarkable in getting laptops, setting tutorials, and helped in whatever was necessary to get staff set up and to allowed them to work from home; she then acknowledged and discussed the duties of those departments, programs, and divisions who did not stop coming to work: the intensive outreach and engagement team and medication support team, the community navigators, housing, members of the wellness center, the FSP teams, and clinical outpatient teams both in child and family which are rotating in the office every week, the facilities team, and the program support team. She also indicated that when the quarantine center at the Sheraton Fairplex opened, the LACDMH was poised to come in and provide the mental health services, and Tri-City stepped up and also had staff go to the quarantine center -the navigators and at least one clinical staff- daily to help with that impact. She likewise reported that the finance department had done an amazing job of keeping Tri-City strong financially for the last several years which resulted in Tri-City entering into the pandemic strong with heavy reserves, and at the same time, the clinical teams were on track with their productivity; that Tri-City was able to pay down almost to the end its bankruptcy, noting that staff will setup a plan to make the final payment at the February or March Board meeting and everyone will be invited; that it has taken just over 12 years to pay off a very significant debt to the state, former staff and partners, and the LACDMH; expressed excitement for the money that Tri-City has been paying toward bankruptcy will now stay in-house for services because the need in our community will continue to rise. She also indicated that Tri-City turned 60 on June 22nd; that we are celebrating its 60th anniversary; that Tri-City has been providing services since 1960; discussed the ideas planned but were cancelled due to COVID, but instead Tri-City will conduct a deep community assessment and feedback led my consultants Brand Purpose; discussed the planned strategies to talk about Tri-City where it is, where is headed, what it is, and who the community wants and needs Tri-City moving forward within its role as the public mental health authority for the community over the next 10 years. She then announced that the State of California will sign a new contract with the federal government for its Medicaid here in California; that is going to look different for Medi-Cal recipients in California because it will be moving towards a more whole person care approach across County behavioral systems that may include also some payment reform and some other expectations around different programs that will implement so that we can have a statewide blanket of those programs; that more particularly, Tri-City is one of two cities in the County behavioral health system and the impact might be a little different than the counties. She then reported that Tri-City designed and developed a community intervention program called Psychiatrist Assessment Care Team (PACT) and will enter into a MOU with the City of Claremont, noting that it is a great model for our three cities and the entire County. She then indicated Tri-City had some turnover as a result of COVID, including the retirement of Chief Operations Officer Nancy Gill, and the upcoming retirement of Chief Clinical Officer Angela Igrisan on March 31st; announced that Elizabeth Renteria is the newly appointed Chief Clinical Officer and discussed her background and qualifications. She announced that the COVID vaccine is now available for healthcare workers; however, the rollout is extremely slow. Lastly, she thanked the Mental Health Commission for being so active and engaged with Tri-City this past year and that she looks forward to do more events with the Commission.

Commissioner Villanueva referred to the PACT collaboration with the Claremont Police Department and inquired if the PACT was going to be trained in crisis intervention. Executive Director Navarro replied that the PACT is Tri-City's crisis outreach and med support team, and that crisis intervention is their specialty within our agency; that the team will include a licensed psychiatric technician and a licensed therapist; noted that Tri-City already does this work as liaison with the Cities of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne; explained that the PACT collaboration means that Tri-City staff will be on-site at the Claremont PD and there will be no delays when they need us; and discussed how the psychiatry emergency team works.

#### **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Navarro discussed the governor's budget report and reported that there are some actions in support for behavioral health; that a one-time funding for behavioral health will increase next year which will help our residents of California get through this next wave of the crisis.

#### **COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Vice-Chair Ryback referred to the Commission goals from 2020, and inquired if the goals to have a quorum at all commission meetings, and also 100% participation in stakeholder meetings, were met.

Executive Director Navarro stated that the Commission met its goal of 100% participation in stakeholder meetings; and that there was only one meeting when the Commission did not have a quorum.

JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos stated that another Commission goal was to communicate when a commissioner would not be attending the meeting, and this goal was not completely met since the same members that continue to be absent, do not notify of their upcoming absence.

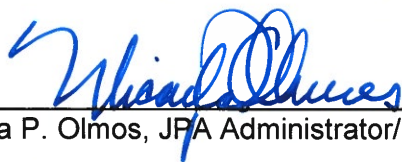
Commissioner Villanueva praised the advertising of community events, noting that they are good community service announcements by Tri-City and the staff member in charge of these announcements is doing a very good job in connecting with the Spanish speaking community in the Pomona Valley.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:27 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of January 12, 2021 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk