



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

**MARCH 9, 2021 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 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 Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** Roll call was taken by Executive Director Navarro.

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

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

**STAFF:** Toni Navarro, Executive Director  
Rimmi Hundal, Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services  
Elizabeth Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer  
Mary Monzon, Housing Manager  
Rosemary Perich, Housing Supervisor  
Jessica Hicks, Clinical Wellness Advocate III  
Elva Neyoy, Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist I  
Lisa Naranjo, MHSA Program Supervisor-PEI  
Jamie Ritchey, Community Capacity Organizer

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**I. PRESENTATION**

**A. "RECOVERY MOMENTS" STORY**

Clinical Wellness Advocate Hicks read a letter from a client's mother wherein she thanked Tri-City for the attention her son has received, noting that before her son was a client, they were in a difficult situation; however, they feel very supported with all the tools and services they have received; she also explained their immigration status and stated 90% of their case with

immigration is based on the attention that her son needs and is receiving from Tri-City; she pointed out that the lawyer who represents them, the judge and the prosecutor in charge of her son's case were impressed with all the support and attention that Tri-City and all their staff provides without them having to pay out of pocket; that they are hopeful that everything will go in favor of her son; and expressed gratitude for Tri-City.

Vice-Chair Ryback commented that this is an encouraging story where the services of Tri-City can have an impact on someone's immigration status, noting that Tri-City is able help in so many other ways.

Discussion ensued regarding similar situations where Tri-City has been able to help other clients with their immigration status because of the services they are receiving from Tri-City; about the support that the Tri-City team gives can really help people overcome a lot of trauma; and about there being more cases where people are demonstrating that mental health assistance can change the lives in a really positive way.

Executive Director Navarro commented that she loves the whole team approach at Tri-City, and thanked everyone for the great job they perform; and stated that amazing things can be achieved when collaborating and using the multidisciplinary approach.

Housing Manager Monzon discussed the success story of Caridad, a client who reached out to Tri-City's housing team about one year and one half ago, and that with the help of the VOA (Volunteers of America) and project RoomKey, she is now housed at Parkside Family Apartments.

Caridad shared her story about being homeless for quite some time; stated that she did not know where to turn to; and expressed being joyful and grateful to finally get into a house that Tri-City has provided for her and for getting a second chance at life and being responsible.

## **B. GREEN RIBBON WEEK DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Director MHSA and Ethnic Services Hundal provided an overview of Green Ribbon Week, which is Tri-City's stigma reduction campaign, and that it helps get the community started and highlight mental health during the Mental Health Matters month that takes place in May.

Community Capacity Organizer Ritchey talked about virtual Green Ribbon Week; stated that all commissioners were going to receive a Green Ribbon background which is our virtual green ribbon that you would pin on yourself for the week, and encouraged everyone to use it; reported that this Tri-City's 7th Annual Green Ribbon Week which began in 2015 to start the conversation at reducing community stigma and combat stigma by NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard); explained that Tri-City has its own campaign in its own week because it gives Tri-City mental health control of the messaging as well as control of engaging with our own community, noting the importance to be able to link it to Tri-City values and to directly connect with our community through the campaign; stated that green is the national color of mental health awareness and symbolizes vigorous life of flourishing health; pointed out that the other piece of it, is that it gives people a place to join in the fight to end stigma and we have our Room4Everyone campaign, which is Tri-City's Mental Wellness Campaign, the umbrella that Green Ribbon Week is under and that emphasizes Tri-City's comprehensive system of care and the importance of social inclusion; she then provided data from the Mental Health America report of the state of mental health which points out the impact of COVID-19 pandemic has been enormous on people's mental health; and discussed the activities associated with Green Ribbon Week.

Executive Director Navarro added that staff picked Green Ribbon Week during the third week of March because it is St. Patrick's Day week and people would be more likely to wear a little green.

## **II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Navarro provided a comprehensive update from human resources about Tri-City's COVID-19 operations, which was also presented to Tri-City's Governing Board, and that it indicates that Tri-City is complying with the California Department of Public Health (CDC) and OSHA guidelines, noting that it was prepared by HR manager Kitha Torregano; and expressed happiness to report that overall, Tri-City had a relatively low number of folks in our workforce impacted by COVID compared to some other County partners. She also talked about the link distributed to participate in Phase 2 in our project with Brand Purpose, LLC, who is helping us do a comprehensive community review, internal review and evaluation of our mission, vision, and values to rebrand Tri-City, noting that we already have a beautiful logo that we designed approximately eight years ago and which still is very modern and very relevant.

Discussion ensued about the survey questions; about the COVID vaccine being a medical choice, and not mandated; about the importance of people are feeling supported to make the choice that they want to make; and about the strategies in place to have staff back to the office and be safe.

## **COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Vice-Chair Ryback discussed a couple of projects that she is working on, and stated that she was asked to participate in a work group, with a patient safety movement foundation to rework what they call an actionable patient safety solution which is collaborative care planning and mental health for mental health patients, but also inpatient regular medical care of patients. She then said that she was also asked to participate through HASC, Hospital Association of Southern California, in a community engagement process involving Measure J, which is a 10% set aside of County dollars for programs that seek to reduce homelessness, incarceration, and economic inequities, and she has joined the behavioral health, health, and diversion group.

Executive Director Navarro stated that Tri-City staff is available and ready to assist if there is anything that we can do to support that plan.

Commissioner Reyes inquired if there are some guidelines for police officers to follow-up with people who need assistance when the severely mentally ill can pull themselves together and appear rather normal during the moment when they arrive.

Executive Director Navarro stated that Tri-City recently was approved by its Governing Board and the Claremont City Council to partner with the Claremont Police Department (CPD) on a new program called PACT, Psychiatric Assessment Care Team, which calls for Tri-City to have two staff members stationed Monday through Friday at the CPD, and will drive along the CPD with calls that are potentially more emotional crisis or social service type, so that there is an immediate mental health response.

Discussion ensued how Tri-City is currently assisting the La Verne and Pomona Police Departments; and about 5150 law which is on the side of protecting the civil rights of individuals.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Hundal encouraged everyone to get the green ribbon message out through social medial.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:26 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of March 9, 2021 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

  
Antonette Navarro, Executive Director