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Tri-City Mental Health Authority
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Founded by Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne
in 1960



Robin Carder (La Verne), Chair
Jed Leano (Claremont), Vice-Chair
Carolyn Cockrell (La Verne), Board Member
Paula Lantz (Pomona), Board Member
John Nolte (Pomona), Board Member
Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole (Pomona), Board Member
Ronald T. Vera (Claremont), Board Member

SPECIAL MEETING

GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022

5:00 P.M.

MEETING LOCATION

There will be no in-person public meeting location. On September 16, 2021, the Legislature amended the Brown Act provisions regarding teleconferencing through Assembly Bill No. 361, codified under Government Code § 54953. Accordingly, the Governing Board will hold this public meeting via teleconference and the public seeking to observe and to address the Governing Board may participate telephonically or otherwise electronically.

To join the Governing Board special meeting click on the following link:

<https://tricitymhs-org.zoom.us/j/93126466355?pwd=RXI3NlgxRG4zQXZlaUdLTklienY2Zz09>
Passcode: 86f0HDc!

Or Telephone: 1 213 338 8477

Webinar ID: 931 2646 6355

Passcode: 91806269

Public Participation. Section 54954.3 of the Brown Act provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Governing Board on any item of interest to the public, before or during the consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Governing Board. Therefore, members of the public are invited to speak on any matter on or off the agenda.

The public can make a comment during the meeting by using the 'raised hand' feature, or by calling in, if they wish to address a particular agenda item or to make a general comment on a matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Governing Board. The Chair will call on the member of the public at the appropriate time and allow the person to provide live comment. The public can also submit a comment by writing an email to molmos@tricitymhs.org. All email messages received by 3:30 p.m. will be shared with the Governing Board before the meeting. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the Agenda. The Chair reserves the right to place limits on duration of comments.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by Tri-City Mental Health Authority to all or a majority of the Tri-City Governing Board less than 24 hours prior to this meeting, are available for public inspection at <http://www.tricitymhs.org>

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Carder calls the meeting to Order.

ROLL CALL

Board Member Cockrell, Board Member Lantz, Board Member Nolte, Board Member Ontiveros-Cole, and Board Member Vera; Vice-Chair Leano; and Chair Carder.

POSTING OF AGENDA

The Agenda is posted 24 hours prior to this special meeting on the Tri-City's website: <http://www.tricitymhs.org>

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public can make a comment during the open meeting by using the 'raised hand' feature; or by calling-in. The public can also make a comment before the meeting by writing an email to molmos@tricitymhs.org. All emails received by 3:30 p.m. will be shared with the Governing Board before the meeting. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the Agenda. The Chair reserves the right to place limits on duration of comments.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 630 AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TELECONFERENCING REQUIREMENTS DURING A PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953 (AB 361)

Recommendation: "A motion to adopt Resolution No. 630 finding and declaring that it unsafe to meet in person during the proclaimed state of emergency as a result of the continued threat of COVID-19, and authorizes the Interim Executive Director, or her designee, to continue utilizing teleconferencing accessibility to conduct the Authority's public meetings pursuant to Government Code § 54953."

ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on **Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**, via teleconference pursuant to Government Code § 54953.

MICAELA P. OLMOS
JPA ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK



**Tri-City Mental Health Authority
MONTHLY STAFF REPORT**

DATE: January 12, 2022

TO: Governing Board of Tri-City Mental Health Authority

FROM: Jesse H. Duff, Interim Executive Director

BY: Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution No. 630 Authorizing the Implementation of Teleconferencing Requirements during a Proclaimed State of Emergency Under Government Code Section 54953 (AB 361)

Summary:

On September 16, 2021, the Legislature amended the Brown Act waiving certain provisions regarding teleconferencing through Assembly Bill No. 361 (AB 361.) Accordingly, public agencies are authorized to hold its public meetings via teleconference under a proclaimed state of emergency which makes it unsafe to meet in person, provided that it allows the public, seeking to observe and to address the legislative body, to participate in real time telephonically or an internet-based service option during a virtual meeting; and the legislative body makes additional findings every 30 days in order to continue such teleconferencing pursuant to AB 361.

Background:

The Ralph M. Brown Act requires that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency be open and public and that any person may attend and participate in such meetings; and allows for legislative bodies to hold meetings by teleconference, but imposes the following requirements for doing so:

1. The public agency must give notice of each teleconference location from which a member will be participating in a public meeting.
2. Each teleconference location must be specifically identified in the meeting notice and agenda, including full address and room number.
3. Each teleconference location must be accessible to the public.
4. Members of the public must be able to address the body at each teleconference location.

On March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-29-20, suspending the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements (enumerated above) in order to address the need for public meetings during the present public health emergency (COVID-19) and allow legislative bodies to meet virtually as long as certain notice and accessibility requirements were met; and on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-8-21 continuing the suspension of the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements through September 30, 2021.

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On September 16, 2021, the State Legislature amended the Brown Act through Assembly Bill No. 361 (AB 361), codified under Government Code § 54953, waiving certain provisions of the Brown Act in order to allow local agencies to continue to meet using teleconferencing without complying with the regular teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act when a legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and it unsafe to meet in person.

In addition, Government Code section 54953 adds new procedures and clarifies the requirements for conducting remote (virtual) meetings, including the following:

- Public Comment Opportunities in Real Time – a legislative body that meets remotely pursuant to AB 361, must allow members of the public to access the meeting via a call-in option or an internet-based service option, and the agenda for the remote meeting must provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the body in real time. A legislative body cannot require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting.
- No Action During Disruptions – in the event of a disruption that prevents the local agency from broadcasting the remote meeting, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency’s control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, AB 361 prohibits the legislative body from taking any further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access is restored.
- Periodic Findings – Government Code § 54953(e)(B) requires the legislative body to hold a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risk to the health or safety of attendees.

The Governing Board must make these findings no later than 30 days after the first teleconferenced meeting is held after September 30, 2021, and must also make these findings every 30 days thereafter, in order to continue to allow teleconference accessibility for conducting public meetings (Government Code § 54953(e)(3).) AB 361 will sunset on January 1, 2024.

Tri-City Mental Health Authority (TCMHA) has already implemented the above stated requirements for conducting public meetings and is in compliance with AB 361, thus there will be no change of the currently established procedures. Teleconference accessibility is available via call-in option or through via RingCentral Webinars platform (internet-based service option) and both the telephone number and meeting link are listed on the published agenda for each meeting as well as on TCMHA’s website.

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The JPA Administrator/Clerk monitors public comment submitted via email correspondence (as published on the agenda); and designated staff monitors comment via teleconference throughout each public meeting and provides access for public comment opportunities in real time both verbally (via call-in or by using the 'raised hand' feature) and in writing (in the 'chat' option.)

Funding:

None required.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Governing Board approve and adopt Resolution No. 630 finding and declaring that it unsafe to meet in person during the proclaimed state of emergency as a result of the continued threat of COVID-19, and authorizes the Interim Executive Director, or his designee, to continue utilizing teleconferencing accessibility to conduct the Authority's public meetings pursuant to Government Code § 54953.

Attachments:

Attachment 1-A: Resolution No. 630 - DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. 630

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO IMPLEMENT TELECONFERENCING REQUIREMENTS FOR CONDUCTING PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING A PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953 (AB 361)

The Governing Board of the Tri-City Mental Health Authority does resolve as follows:

1. **Findings.** The Governing Board hereby finds and declares the following:

A. Tri-City Mental Health Authority (“Authority” or “TCMHA”) wishes to continue using teleconferencing to conduct public meetings as allowed under Government Code § 54953, since a state of emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19 still exists and continues to impact the ability of members of the Governing Board, Mental Health Commission, Tri-City staff, and public to meet safely in person.

B. The State of California and the Authority continue to follow safety measures in response to COVID-19 as ordered or recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health (DPH), California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA), and/or County of Los Angeles, as applicable, including facial coverings when required and social distancing.

C. The Authority will make these findings every 30 days in order to continue such teleconferencing pursuant to Government Code § 54953 (AB 361), which will sunset on January 1, 2024.

D. The Interim Executive Director or his designee, are authorized to continue utilizing teleconferencing accessibility to conduct public meetings, and implement teleconference requirements in compliance with AB 361 (Stats. 2021, ch. 165) and Government Code § 54953 (as amended), effective immediately.

2. **Action**

The Governing Board finds and declares that it unsafe to meet in person during the proclaimed state of emergency as a result of the continued threat of COVID-19, and authorizes the Interim Executive Director, or his designee, to continue utilizing teleconferencing accessibility to conduct the Authority’s public meetings pursuant to Government Code § 54953.

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3. Adoption

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Special Meeting of the Governing Board held on January 12, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ROBIN CARDER, CHAIR

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DAROLD PIEPER, GENERAL COUNSEL

ATTEST:
MICAELA OLMOS, RECORDING SECRETARY

By: _____

By: _____

DRAFT