



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

NOVEMBER 10, 2020 – 3:30 P.M.

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 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 Vice-Chair Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

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

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

ABSENT: Toni L. Watson, Chair
Ethel Gardner
Davetta Williams

STAFF: Toni Navarro, Executive Director
Rimmi Hundal, Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services
Gamaliel Polanco, Wellness Center Manager
Rocio Bedoy, Best Practices Manager
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

REGULAR BUSINESS

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 13, 2020 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

There being no comment, Commissioner Reyes, and Commissioner Stephens seconded, to approve the Minutes of the October 13, 2020 Mental Health Commission Regular Meeting. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Reyes, Stephens, Villanueva, and Weldon; Vice-Chair Henderson; and. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Ryback and Board Member Liaison Cockrell. ABSENT: Commissioners Gardner and Williams; and Chair Watson.

II. PRESENTATION

A. “RECOVERY MOMENTS” STORY

Diana stated that she arrived at Tri-City approximately eleven years ago, with a couple breaks in between; indicated that she was on her own and unaware of her mental health issues; discussed the difficulties her family faced such as homelessness, domestic violence, health issues, and losing her children to DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services); discussed her road to recovery, noting that Tri-City helped her get her children back; expressed how much she owes to Tri-City because of the support she received from everyone and for making her a person who can contribute to society, even though she has nothing to offer; and conveyed how important it is to have a safe environment and a safe space to speak, noting that this literally is life changing and life-saving.

Executive Director Navarro thanked Diana for sharing her story; and stated how wonderful it is that she has her children back, and that she is giving back to the community.

Vice-Chair Henderson also thanked Diana for sharing her story because the process that she has gone through, gives us hope for other people and it supports the work that we do.

Louie, TCG participant for approximately two years, talked about how the Therapeutic Community Garden has impacted him; he expressed appreciation for what the Wellness Center staff has done to help him with this mental health; however, somehow the gardening area is something more deeper; that when you work with your hands, you feel like you are at home and it helps you relax solve a lot of distress; that you learn to understand how life works and staff help you build self-esteem; and stated that Tri-City is doing a fantastic job.

Executive Director Navarro stated that it was such a wonderful story and thanked Louie for sharing with Tri-City today; and shared that the Governing Board had authorized the renovation of the Therapeutic Community Garden and the grand opening will take place next year around this time.

B. TRI-CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN POMONA VISION 2030: A PLANNING INITIATIVE FUNDED BY THE BALLMER GROUP

Executive Director Navarro stated that she is part of a collaborative of leaders, convened by the Fairplex, which includes Tri-City, Bright Prospects, the City of Pomona, Cal Poly Pomona, Pomona Unified School District, the Learning Center, and the Pomona Leadership Training, who came together to discuss an opportunity from the Ballmer Group, which is a philanthropy group looking to invest in LA County in development and infrastructure, noting that the Ballmers have been successful in the State of Texas, Washington, and Northern California in providing funding to communities to help them develop infrastructure across community support systems, where at the local level community organizations can thrive and create success for their children, their youth, their adults, as well as older adults. She explained that Pomona Vision 2030 is a vision for the next decade for Pomona to become a place for people to thrive, not just survive; that the group met monthly and discussed for almost a year what a community should look like from birth through to the end of life, which included having good healthcare, great education system and childcare, jobs and great employment opportunities, opportunities to attend college and vocational and professional training, easy access transportation system, affordable housing, thriving commerce, a walkable city and a city with robust services for seniors.

She added that a plan was developed and Tri-City was tasked with working with the Pomona Unified School District, to take the lead on the community wellness for the youth of Pomona, for children in the childhood phase, noting that Tri-City was granted an 18-month planning grant from the Ballmer Group in the summer of 2020.

Gamaliel Polanco, Wellness Center Manager, discussed the planning grant and stated that part of the process was to develop a timeline, both at the agency lead level and the individual agency level, and are currently working on a communications plan; that this information will be presented to the community to get involved in the planning process by eliciting anyone to either learn about the plan and/or participate in the plan; discussed the format of the forums and town hall meetings; indicated that the goal is to obtain feedback regarding what is working, to highlight strengths, and what is not working, to identify the weaknesses, in order to include and develop an infrastructure in collaboration with community partners. He added that at the individual agency level, they are going to also gather data that highlights what does a healthy and thriving child looks like in the City of Pomona, and to achieve this, they are looking at elementary grade students, therefore, Tri-City is partnering with the Pomona Unified School District (PUSD) to identify some of the gaps and strengths as it pertains specifically to the early childhood stage through administering the Child, Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment beginning in the new year; that in the interim, staff has been training Tri-City interns on how to administer the CANS; and the PUSD has also identified approximately 16 of its staff members, who will also be administering the CANS; that part of the process will include working with the technology piece to identify what are the gaps and needs of students as a result of the COVID-19 distant learning, noting that it included learning how we can use this grant, to not only plan for the future, but also to meet the immediate needs as a result of COVID and the distant learning requirement; that it is a big collaborative effort that involves many moving parts; and that at the end result of this assessment, then partners can be identified in the community that wish to step in and fill the gap as part of that project; so that the end result will be a collective impact approach that will demonstrate that if the project is funded, then Pomona will be a thriving city in 2030. He also stated that it would be great if the Commission shares the Pomona Vision 2030 information in the community.

Rocio Bedoy, Best Practices Manager, reported that all interns passed the CANS certification and are ready to administer the assessment.

Executive Director Navarro reported that she has also joined the Pomona's Promise leadership team, and started a new group in Pomona's Promise with the health and wellness subcommittee called Health Access, noting that for the first time, all the health players are at the same table; that our health piece is also then going to be impacting the larger Pomona's Promise because Pomona's promise and the collaborative that we have here in Pomona, is a model to be uplifted in this Pomona Vision 2030 grant moving forward, because those are the partners who we are going to call to fill those gaps that Gamaliel Polanco was talking about; that we hope to use the next 15 months to make a plan for all of the organizations within Pomona, which then, it will also be a model for our other two cities Claremont and La Verne.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Navarro reported that Tri-City continues with modified operations; that the Therapeutic Community Garden is conducting zoom meetings and staff had been delivering some seedlings to clients and are working together via zoom; that approximately 25% of Tri-City's workforce is in the office, which are 35 to 40 people during the week; that the majority of staff are telecommuting and meeting the needs of our clients that way; and express gladness that staff has

been able to keep themselves safe and well; that we have not had any disruptions to client care as a result of staffing issues at this point. She then announced that following this meeting at 6:00 PM, the Tri-City African-American Family Wellness Advisory Council is hosting a webinar on mental health and wellness and the African American community; that the panelists will be Dr. Seeyam Teimoori, Tri-City's Medical Director, Dr. Oluwole Olusola, Tri-City's Adult Psychiatrist, and Dr. Allen Lipscomb, Psychologist; that tomorrow night on Veterans day, the Pomona's COVID-19 Action Committee, health and wellness subcommittee, is hosting a webinar on how to stay healthy and well in the COVID-19 pandemic and flu season; that Dr. Daniel Gluckstein, the Director of Infectious Disease at Pomona Valley Hospital, will be presenting on COVID versus the flu, some myths around vaccines and flu shots; that our partners East Valley, the Director of Behavioral Health, Dr. Enriquez, and registered dietician nutritionist Jocelyn Casarez are going to be presenting the holistic approach to keeping your immune system healthy and strong; noting that the links of the webinars can be found on Tri-City's website; that on December 1st, at six o'clock, the Tri-City Executive team is going to be hosting and presenting a Tri-City Mental Health information night on Facebook live to keep our community informed as to how we have pivoted, and things have changed for us in our service delivery to let people know that we have safe ways to help them and assist them. She then shared her screen on housing rental assistance program in Pomona that Tri-City is part of, and Mary Monzon, Housing Manager, presented.

Housing Manager Monzon, reported that the City of Pomona received \$1.2 million through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act; talked about the County of Los Angeles CARES funding and its relief assistance to applicants; that the City of Pomona was able to get their own funding and explained that under the CARES Act funding, Pomona has to identify the people that were actually at immediate risk of being evicted; discussed the two different moratoriums through the CDC and the State of California in place until January, where people can be protected as long they pay 25% of their rent and sign a declaration that were impacted by the COVID pandemic; that the City was able to assist people in the meantime to pay that 25% of their rent so that they stay protected; that the City of Pomona asked community agencies to assist them in completing the applications because they were overwhelmed with the number of applications they received; that Tri-City accepted to assist with a portion of the City, the Northwest side quadrant from where you divide Gary and Holt; discussed the requirements: being a Pomona resident, adversely impacted by the pandemic, and having to be under 30% the area median income; explained the application process, pointing out that if any of the applications go to the City of Pomona, they will forward that application to the agency that oversees the quadrant where the applicant lives; shared that a good surprise is that we can do more for the applicants because while they are talking to us, we are figuring out what other resources we can provide for them such as food banks; and discussed the different information provided to applicants such as Tri-City programs, referrals, and legal information to ease their minds because a lot of people are hearing that they are going to evicted. She noted that we are now finding new landlords that are now being able to hear about Tri-City's landlord project and get connected to let them know how we can support them; she reported that staff is currently working with 42 households in helping them complete their applications; talked about the different calls already received under the program; and indicated that the City of Pomona is leaving the rental assistance program open until they exhaust the funding.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Reyes reported that she attended today representative Napolitano's round table for Veteran's day; that she has the list of the latest bills that are being worked on; and inquired if Tri-City ever works with veterans.

Executive Director Navarro replied in the affirmative and that our former Commissioner Don Perez, was a veteran and had retired recently; that he helped Tri-City establish some programming for vets at the Wellness Center; that he had hosted a webinar for Tri-City last month; that TCG works with the Cal poly Pomona Veterans Center and has veterans groups at the TCG; and that Don Perez continues to work in the Peer Mentor Program which helps veterans.

Commissioner Reyes then talked about Senate Bill 785, which is to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; discussed a pilot program under this Bill to provide veterans access to complimentary and integrated health programs; and stated that she will drop off the list of Bills at the Garey building.

Commissioner Villanueva reported that he called Commissioner Ethel Gardner and she had not returned his phone calls; and that the community navigators are working with a Vietnam veteran in Claremont, noting that he is doing fairly well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:27 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of November 10, 2020 was adjourned. The Mental Health Commission will meet next in a Regular Joint Meeting with the Governing Board to be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk