



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 9, 2021 – 3:30 P.M.

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 3:34 p.m. via teleconference pursuant to Government Code § 54953, which allows 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 3:34 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Anne Henderson, Chair
Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair
Carolyn Cockrell, GB Member Liaison
Clarence D. Cernal (joined at 3:42 p.m.)
Isabella A. Chavez
Nichole Perry
Joan M. Reyes
Toni L. Watson
David J. Weldon

ABSENT: Twila L. Stephens
Alfonso "Al" Villanueva

STAFF: Toni Navarro, Executive Director
Liz Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer
Rimmi Hundal, Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk
Amanda Colt, MHSA Program Coordinator-INN,
Daisy Martinez, Community Capacity Organizer
Richard Franco, Community Navigator
Bruce Truong, Community Navigator,
Clanisha Johnson, Clinical Wellness Advocate,
Naomi Hall, Clinical Wellness Advocate III

REGULAR BUSINESS

- I. **ADMINISTER AN OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION CLARENCE D. CERNAL, ISABELLA A. CHAVEZ, AND NICHOLE PERRY**

JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos administered an Oath of Allegiance to new Commissioners Isabella A. Chavez and Nichole Perry.

Discussion ensued regarding what would be role of the Commissioners as disaster workers, noting that Tri-City's Emergency Action Plan will be distributed to the Commission when finalized.

I. APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT TELECONFERENCING REQUIREMENTS DURING A PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY UNDER AB 361 (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953)

Commissioner Watson moved, and Commissioner Reyes seconded, asking staff to perform all actions necessary to implement the Brown Act provisions regarding teleconferencing in compliance with Government Code § 54953.

Chair Henderson opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

There being no comment, the motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Member Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Cernal, Chavez, Perry, Reyes, Watson, and Weldon; Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Stephens and Villanueva.

At 3:42 p.m., Commissioner Clarence D. Cernal joined the virtual meeting, and JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos administered his Oath of Allegiance at the request of Chair Henderson.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Vice-Chair Ryback moved, and Commissioner Reyes seconded, to approve the Minutes of the September 14, 2021 Mental Health Commission Regular Meeting.

Chair Henderson opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

There being no comment, the motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Member Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Cernal, Chavez, Perry, Reyes, Watson, and Weldon; Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Stephens and Villanueva.

III. APPROVAL TO RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNING BOARD TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENT TO MHSA ANNUAL UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Hundal reported that the Amendment to the MHSA Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2021-22 was posted for a 30-day public comment period, beginning Friday, August 13th, 2021 until September 14th, 2021, noting that no comment was received. She explained that the Community Supports and Services Plan receives 76% of MHSA funding which is the largest portion; and that it allows the transfer of funds to prudent reserves, Capital Facilities and Technology Needs (CFTN), and Workforce Education and Training (WET) programs; and that this creates the sustainability of the CFTN and WET plans since each received only a one-time allocation at the time of approval. She stated that staff was recommending that the Mental Health Commission approve recommending to the Governing Board to adopt the Amendment of to the MHSA Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2021-22, transferring funds in the amount of \$1.3 million, noting that \$400,000 will be allocated to CFTN and \$900,000 allocated to WET as the stakeholders recommended.

Executive Director Navarro explained how these funds will be used which includes building out office space under the CFTN Plan and the \$900,000 under WET Plan will include the ability for Tri-City to create an in-house loan forgiveness program for retention and recruitment enhancement tool.

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Hundal added that under the WET Plan, also two positions will be created, one to work in increasing our social media and website presence; and the second position will be of a Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator, who will continue the work that we have started.

Discussion ensued regarding how the two positions created were going to be funded moving forward, which will be accomplished by asking the stakeholders every year to allocate any excess of funds from the CSS Plan to the WET Plan to fund this ongoing to make sure that Tri-City's behavioral health workforce remains robust and that the infrastructure is solid; that this funding will be sufficient for two years; that the loan forgiveness program was going to be modeled after the state program; that no CSS programming will be affected since these are excess funding; and that the transfer will also prevent from having reversion of funds to the State.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Watson moved, and Commissioner Reyes seconded, to approve recommending to the Governing Board to approve the Amendment to the MHSA Annual Update For Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Chair Henderson opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

There being no further comment, the motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Member Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Cernal, Chavez, Perry, Reyes, Watson, and Weldon; Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Stephens and Villanueva.

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated that it is a tough recruiting environment right now for behavioral health staff across the nation, but particularly in California; therefore, she expressed appreciation for the Mental Health Commission support of this endeavor, noting that this will serve to get some more people interested in the good work that we do at Tri-City and retain the staff that we already have.

IV. PRESENTATION - TRI-CITY'S CULTURAL INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY COUNCIL (CIDC)

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Hundal provided a history and the purpose of the CIDC which is to help reduce mental health disparities and support the development of appropriate services for the community; that it is an advisory body to the Mental Health Commission and the Executive Team; and that it is made up from both staff and community members.

Clanisha Johnson, Clinical Wellness Advocate, and Chair to the African American Family Wellness Advisory Council (AAFWAC), stated that Naomi Hall is the Co-Chair of AAFWAC. She then talk about what is mental health in black America; and shared information and statistics from NAMI and the American Psychiatric Association. She discussed that being treated or perceived as less than because of the color of your skin, can be stressful and even traumatizing; and members of the black community face structural challenges in assessing the care and treatment they need. She also talked about resources and support that are currently available.

Daisy Martinez, Community Capacity Organizer, and Co-Chair of ¡Adelante! Latino and Hispanic Wellness Advisory Council, provided a presentation about the Hispanic, Latino community, noting that they face a lot of unique challenges that can make accessing mental health services or care a little bit more difficult; and provided statistics about common mental disorders and treatment each year which show that only 5.5% of psychologists can provide services in Spanish.

Richard Franco, Community Navigator, and Co-Chair of ¡Adelante! talked about the barriers that keep the Hispanic and Latino communities from accessing and receiving the support that they need, which is stigma access to care, immigration status, machismo, lack of insurance, and misdiagnosis; and indicated when and how the council meets.

Vice-Chair Ryback inquired how much community involvement was in the side of the advisory councils. Community Navigator Franco replied that there is a good amount, and pointed out that ¡Adelante! just had its first webinar run by Dr. James Garcia, a professor the University of La Verne who discussed the term Latinx, where it comes from, why it is necessary, and why it is inclusive; and also discussed other community members from LACDMH and CalPoly Pomona, and residents from the three cities.

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Hundal added that the major goal is to understand the culture and then to be able to provide culturally relevant services, which is what we strive to do.

Bruce Truong, Community Navigator, and Chair of the Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Wellness Advisory Council, stated that the common theme that we have been working on the past few months is the approach to mental health with our service providers and our community members in AAPI. He then discussed that learning of the things that we feel is fundamental to providing services to our AAPI community members, such empathy, and discussed some of the cultural views from various members from China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Philippines, India, Cambodia regarding what mental health is to them.

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Hundal stated that we are here to believe in the client; help them move forward in their treatment process; and to educate our community members as well as our clinicians, that we are not here to judge anyone nor to challenge somebody's beliefs.

Executive Director Navarro added that epigenetic research shows that post-traumatic slave syndrome is the trauma they experienced as a result of structural racism; that we need to help our staff understand that generational trauma is not a result of something inherent in that culture or the values of that community, but rather that there is a system that was imposed upon them which creates that imbalance.

Amanda Colt, MHSA Program Coordinator-INN, and Chair of the RAINBOW-Resiliency Allies Identity Nurturing Building equity Open for all Wellness- (LGBTQ+) Wellness Advisory Council, stated that this council is little bit different than the other councils because they talk about sexual orientation or how you identify yourself, rather than focusing on ethnicity. She explained that they do not have cultural identifiers when it comes to mental health, rather they focus on how does mental health actually affect LGBTQ individuals as a result of all the bullying, harassment, rejection, hate speech or violence that they experience; and discussed their coping mechanism such as substance abuse because they might not have a support system. She then talked about the TAY advisory council, Tri-City's newest advisory council, which will serve to bring together that Transition Aged Youth of 16 to 20 five-year olds within Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne to talk about how we can improve and just how we can better serve that community.

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Hundal expressed gratitude and privilege to work with these talented individuals, stating that it is her honor to be a part of their team.

Vice-Chair Ryback thanked all presenters for a job well done and for the great information provided. She then stated that she was interested in the BEAM (Black, Emotional, and Mental Health) resources for a clinical setting or a primary urgent care setting, and inquired if this is something that we use at Tri-City. Naomi Hall, Clinical Wellness Advocate III, and Co-Chair to AAFWAC, replied in the negative and stated that she discovered it when she was researching to expand ways to help the African-American communities at Tri-City, and she believes it is also used in clinical settings.

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria indicated that is really more than just a program, that it is a design from inception from the way the building is configured all the way down to the specific treatment that is offered. She thanked Naomi for her preliminary research, noting that it is a goal for us to get more into a culture specific care and the intersectionality because there are members of multiple communities; and that it makes sense because it would be addressing the needs of everyone that walks through the door.

Executive Director Navarro commented that Naomi is one step ahead of us because this is exactly what the advisory councils will be for, which is to present quarterly about what are we talking about, what are we learning in our communities, and what we would bring to the chief clinical officer and her team in terms of building more culturally responsive care models that we can adapt to bring forward in the care of our diverse population here at Tri-City. She then thanked the Commission for approving to recommend to the Governing Board the approval of the MHSA update Amendment because the next step is to hire a full-time person who will take it to the next level and connect the advisory councils, ethnic services, and clinical service teams.

Commissioner Reyes inquired about the status of the Native American council and of the older population council. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Hundal replied that staff have not yet formed the councils, but staff is being educated on how to work with the native American population; and that when the new DEI Coordinator is hired, will assist forming the councils.

Commissioner Cernal commented that there were amazing presentations and inquired if there was a general calendar of the meetings which can be shared with the Commission; and how are we spreading the word to our community about the councils. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Hundal replied that she will add the meeting times to the existing CDC flyer and distribute to the Commission and encouraged the Commission to spread the word by inviting people to come to those meetings.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria reported that Tri-City was awarded some planning money for enhancing mobile crisis services for youth in our community, and described the goals and objectives of the process. She also reported that there is an exciting opportunity for funding that will be made available to the mental health services for students act, which is also a tiered approach to providing services in the community, and Tri-City will be applying for additional funding through that act, which would enable Tri-City to work closely with its school district partners and provide services to under resourced families and children that need services.

Discussion ensued regarding the funding sources and about how the services will look like to prevent law enforcement involvement.

Executive Director Navarro announced that this was her last Tri-City Mental Health Commission meeting as she had accepted the position of Director of County Behavioral Health in Santa Barbara County; and that her last day with Tri-City is December 8th. She said that she was born and raised there, as were her parents, her grandparents and her entire family is there. She shared that because of her mother's health failing, she applied to get a job closer to her. She also stated that being Executive Director for Tri-City, is literally the best job in county behavioral health in California because of the amazing team, amazing programs, and amazingly connected and responsive Mental Health Commission and Governing Board. She indicated she will miss everyone tremendously and thanked the Mental Health Commission for their leadership and their governance.

Vice-Chair Ryback congratulated Executive Director Navarro, wished her good luck, and stated that it is great that she will be back with her family.

Commissioner Reyes told Executive Director Navarro that she will be missed.

Chair Henderson thanked Executive Director Navarro for everything that she has done for Tri-City and for the community over the years.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Vice-Chair Ryback commented that she senses that there is not much community participation in our meetings lately, and inquired if there was something that we could do to encourage more participation from our community.

Executive Director Navarro stated that staff had been discussing that there is a lot of zoom fatigue, since there has been also a decline in stakeholder participation. She pointed out that Directors are currently doing also the job of managers and supervisors, however, when there are new hires community participation is a priority.

Vice-Chair Ryback thanked executive director for explanation and expressed appreciation for any work that staff can do moving forward. She then welcomed the new Commissioners and suggested that during the next meeting, all Commissioners introduce themselves so that existing Commissioners can learn about the new members, and in turn, new members could just get a sense of who they are as well.

Commissioner Reyes, inquired if the Commission meetings can be taken "on the road" and be held in other venues throughout the three cities to encourage public participation. JPA Administrator/Clerk replied that we are required to schedule annually the date, time, and place where the meetings are held, which are set by January.

Chair Henderson stated that she has been involved with Pomona's Promise and appreciates the work that Tri-City has done on the health access group within Pomona's Promise, noting that there is a lot of work going into the effort for 'All Children Thrive' grant and stated that she hopes Tri-City continues providing support.

Executive Director Navarro indicated that she discussed with various Directors regarding which meetings they are going to take, and definitely Tri-City will continue to stay connected to promote Pomona's Promise and the Health Access Committee.


Commissioner Watson reported that today she facilitated the creativity connections at the Wellness Center, which was the first time in person, and expressed appreciation for staff screening for temperature, noting that she is glad to be back in person after 20 months.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:17 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of November 9, 2021 was adjourned. The Mental Health Commission will meet next in a Regular Joint Meeting with the Governing Board to be held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk