



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

JULY 12, 2022 – 3:30 P.M.

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 3:30 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 3:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Anne Henderson, Chair
Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair (joined the meeting at 3:37 p.m.)
Carolyn Cockrell, GB Member Liaison
Clarence D. Cernal
Nichole Perry
Joan M. Reyes
Twila L. Stephens
Alfonso "Al" Villanueva
Toni L. Watson
David J. Weldon

ABSENT: Isabella A. Chavez

STAFF: Rimmi Hundal, Executive Director
Liz Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer
Ken Riomales, Chief Information Officer
Dana Barford, MHSA Programs Manager
Andrea Espinosa, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

REGULAR BUSINESS

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

There being no comment, Commissioner Watson moved, and Commissioner Cernal seconded, to ask the executive director, or designee, to perform all actions necessary to implement the Brown Act provisions regarding teleconferencing in compliance with Government Code § 54953. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Member Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Cernal, Perry, Reyes, Stephens, Villanueva, Watson, and Weldon; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez; and Vice-Chair Ryback.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 14, 2022 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

There being no comment, Commissioner Reyes moved, and Commissioner Weldon seconded, to approve the Minutes of the June 14, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Member Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Cernal, Perry, Reyes, Villanueva, and Weldon; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioners Stephens and Watson. ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez; and Vice-Chair Ryback.

At 3:37 p.m. Vice-Chair Wray Ryback joined the meeting.

III. PRESENTATION – JULY IS BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC) MONTH

Executive Director Hundal reported that Tri-City has various cultural advisory councils to the executive team and the Mental Health Commission, which bring back various things that they are seeing in the Community. She added that a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator was hired, Andrea Espinosa, who is doing a good job with the advisory councils and introduced her to the Mental Health Commission.

Andrea Espinosa, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator, shared her computer screen and reported that in July we are celebrating BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Mental Health Awareness Month, formerly known as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. She then talked about Bebe Moore was an American author, journalist and teacher, and most importantly, she was also a mental health advocate who worked tirelessly to shed light on the mental health needs of black communities and other underrepresented communities. She then explained that it is no longer called minority mental health and it is now recognized as BIPOC Mental Health Awareness month because it is a more inclusive language, and focuses on the aspect of client person centered. She then talked about the different activities and webinars hosted by Tri-City, and those in partnership with Justice4Youth. She then invited everyone to share a flyer, and computer backgrounds for BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month, which can be downloaded from Tri-City's website. She also talked about the advisory councils, stating that there are currently five established and encouraged everyone to share with Community members to attend its meetings; and pointed out that staff is working on establishing our Native American Council and on reassessing the purpose of our advisory councils focusing on establishing its goals and objectives for the future, and strengthening our partnerships with the Community, with the hope that Tri-City is able to connect with more organizations and bring them to the table to hear their opinion, what are the barriers in the Community they serve, how can we better support. In addition, we also working on some outcome measures, to find if what we are doing is helping the Community, accordingly, an outcome measures survey will be distributed to participants and members during.

Commissioner Villanueva welcomed DEI Coordinator Espinosa, and inquired if this component of our program is bilingual because the largest percentage of client Tri-City serves is bilingual. He then commented on his indigenous background; about his involvement in the Chicago movement; about the history of structural racism of our country; about not assuming a victim stance during recovery because there can be no healing; about being underserved because of cultural challenges and stigma; and volunteered to assist in developing a council with the Native American Community here. He then commented that the Commission is oversight and he is looking forward

to working with compliance and he wants to learn as much as possible this next fiscal year in terms of the delivery services provided. He also indicated that Tri-City did not close on Juneteenth since it was a federal holiday and that he is sure that it will be corrected for next year. Lastly, he talked about his concerns about prostitution in the area.

Executive Director Hundal explained that Tri-City's holiday schedule is adopted by the Governing Board in the beginning of the year; thus, this year's holiday schedule had already been approved. However, it will be presented to the Governing Board so that they can approve Juneteenth to be added to the holiday list for next year.

Vice-Chair Ryback commented that staff at Pomona Valley Hospital is also very much focusing on health equity, diversity and inclusion and have a steering committee working on this issue, and expressed wanting to brainstorm some ideas in which they can partner with Tri-City's advisory councils.

Clarence Cernal inquired about the main role or responsibility of the Advisory Council. DEI Coordinator Espinosa replied that the Advisory Council is currently reviewing its purpose and mission statement; that the advisory councils were created to bring in Community members and local organizations to discuss what they are seeing in their Community and Tri-City provides a safe place for them; noting that the advisory councils also help in determining what webinars should be provided based on needs or issues currently facing each Community, and provided several examples; and stated that these advisory councils are open to all Community members. Executive Director Hundal added that they advisory councils also help staff look at Tri-City programs through a cultural lens, making sure that the programs that we have implemented work; that Tri-City is creating a safe space and provide culturally relevant services for everyone who comes for services; and discussed the various issues and things that they focus on to help staff see if there are any gaps in services, what is working, and what needs to be further explored.

Commissioner Villanueva commented that he will do his best to get some elders in the Native American community to reconsider establishing an advisory council that will address native American needs.

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

The Mental Health Commission thanked DEI Coordinator Espinosa for her presentation.

IV. REVIEW OF MHC GOALS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2021-22

Chair Henderson stated that the goals that the Commission has been working on were: 1) to have 100% quorum at all of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Mental Health Commission; 2) to impact disparities in mental health access of culturally diverse groups, as well as participating in the advisory council programs; and 3) to prepare the 2021 Data Notebook; and inquired about the status for each of these goals.

JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos reported only one meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

Discussion ensued regarding advance notification to avoid cancelling meetings; about the best way to provide notice about being absent since often times notifications are received within two hours before the meeting; that the require number to have a quorum does not change unless a

Commissioner requests a leave of absence and it is approved by the Commission; and about the importance to hold every meeting since there are agenda items that need to be approved before they are presented to the Governing Board for adoption.

Vice-Chair Ryback recommended to continue the goal to have 100% quorum at all of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Mental Health Commission, since the Commission did not actually achieve it.

Chair Henderson concurred with Vice-Chair Ryback's recommendation and added that it should also include the requirement that if a Commissioner will be absent, to let her know ahead of time, preferably right after they receive the agenda packet. She then inquired about goals 2 and 3.

Commissioner Cernal inquired if there is data regarding on how many Commissioners participate in the Advisory Council programs. Executive Director Hundal replied that she does not believe any Commissioners have participated in the advisory councils; and pointed out that Commissioners do not have to belong to a specific community to attend an advisory council meeting and learn about another Community as well, so if certain times do work for all of them.

Commissioner Reyes shared that in January 2020 the Commission had the goal to meet up with the different underserved groups, and they met at the Claremont library in January for Black History Month; however, no further meetings were held because of the global pandemic sidelined their Community outreach.

Interim Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford commented that during the pandemic Tri-City experienced loss of staff steering the advisory councils because they were assigned to take care of our Community members and provide clinical services or other roles that supported Tri-City. She added that it would be great if any Commissioners participate in the advisory councils as they are rebuilt much stronger and more intentional.

Executive Director Hundal stated that regardless of Commission not being able to do community outreach during the pandemic, the Commission continued to provide feedback, provided ideas, and always were supportive of staff in doing their job during the pandemic; and that the Data Notebook was prepared and submitted on time.

V. MHC WILL ESTABLISH ITS PRIORITY GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

Chair Henderson stated that the Commission should select its goals for next Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Discussion ensued regarding establishing the same goals from last fiscal year since some were not completed; and adding the Data Notebook, to begin in September, since there is a new one for the new fiscal year.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Cernal moved, and Commissioner Reyes seconded to established the following goals for Fiscal Year 2022-23: 1) to have 100% quorum at all of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Mental Health Commission, and required that those Commissioners that will be absent to let the JPA Administrator/Clerk know ahead of time, preferably right after they receive the agenda packet; 2) to impact disparities in mental health access of culturally diverse groups, as well as participating in the advisory council programs; and 3) to prepare the 2022 Data Notebook.

Chair Henderson opened the meeting for public comment; 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, Perry, Reyes, Stephens, Watson, and Weldon; Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez and Villanueva.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT

Executive Director Hundal encouraged everyone to attend advisory council meetings and also to help staff pass the message to Community members so that more people can join these meetings. She then provided a Cerner update, stating that staff is full training mode getting ready for the new Electronic Health Record System, in order to be prepared for CalAIM and making sure that we are staying on top of the industry. She also reported that she is meeting with community leaders and Tri-City staff to introduce herself in her new role.

Commissioner Reyes inquired how can the Commission promote the advisory councils to the greater Community. Executive Director Hundal suggested distributing the flyers, and referring people to Tri-City's website, noting that staff will create a new page on the website dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion and the advisory councils; or referring them to DEI Coordinator Espinosa who can help answer questions.

Commissioner Watson inquired when code restrictions will be lifted and be able to have meetings in person, such as the advisory councils. Executive Director Hundal explained that Tri-City still operating under OSHA guidelines for healthcare agencies, and only certain number of people can gather in person, noting however, that clinical services have never been interrupted and anybody who needs services they have continued to get it, whether in person or online.

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria added that staff is following healthcare guidelines, but Tri-City continues to offer some in person services, virtual services, and different kind of telehealth services or if people are coming to the clinic are subject to the same guidelines that you will experience at the Wellness Center.

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

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Chair Henderson said she was very pleased that Tri-City still supporting Generation Her, the group for pregnant teens and teen mothers, noting that it is very important.

Discussion ensued regarding Generation Her meetings at the Wellness Center, which have been taking place for about eight years in Pomona, also about there being various locations around southern California.

Commissioner Watson said she was very pleased for the support of Wellness Center staff for the Project Return, groups who have been meeting in person, noting that staff always ensures their safety by conducting temperature checks and making sure everyone is wearing a facemask, and for all the support she also receives from staff.

Commissioner Stephens provided housing updates in general, such as the Cities of Baldwin Park and Torrance are opening up their Section 8 wait lists, noting that these wait lists are closed for really long periods of time and when they open is for a very brief window. She also said that the City of Pomona drafted their Housing Element for 2023 to 2029; and that they are moving to the zoning update and are in the process of putting together their stakeholder list. Also, that one of our housing partners, Clifford Beers has rebranded to Holos Communities, inspired by the Greek word for all their new mission statement which talks about building holistic paths to develop communities as living ecosystems, which focuses on energy efficiency. Lastly, she reported that the Department of Public Social Services is working with other agencies to provide personal documentation, in other words they are sharing information with other agencies who need it in order to help the person, which will help streamline the process.

Interim Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford inquired about the Commissioners who will work on the Data Notebook.

Commissioner Toni Watson and Joan Reyes, volunteered to help.

Chair Henderson indicated that Commissioners Al Villanueva and Clarence Cernal, and Vice-Chair Wray Ryback, who volunteered at the last Commission meeting, along with Commissioners Toni Watson and Joan Reyes, are assigned to form an AdHoc Committee to prepare the 2022 Data Notebook.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:58 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of July 12, 2022 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, pursuant to Government Code § 54953.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk