



## **MINUTES**

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

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 3:33 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 3:33 p.m.

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

**PRESENT:** Anne Henderson, Chair  
Clarence D. Cernal (joined the meeting at 3:54 p.m.)  
Nichole Perry  
Joan M. Reyes  
Twila L. Stephens  
Alfonso “Al” Villanueva  
David J. Weldon (joined the meeting at 3:39 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** Carolyn Cockrell, GB Member Liaison  
Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair  
Isabella A. Chavez  
Toni L. Watson

**STAFF:** Rimmi Hundal, Executive Director  
Liz Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer  
Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services  
Ken Riomales, Chief Information Officer  
Deborah Johnson, Children’s Program Manager  
Lisa Naranjo, MHSA Program Supervisor-PEI  
Erin Sapinoso, Program Analyst II -Grants  
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Item No. III was taken out of Order.

### **III. PRESENTATION**

#### **A. “RECOVERY MOMENTS” STORY**

Diana Robertson shared that she arrived at Tri-City’s Wellness Center in a dire situation and broken; that she suffered and struggled with her youngest daughter, which caused her to isolate because she was feeling unsafe being around anybody; and expressed gladness and gratitude

for staff at the Wellness Center who reached out to her, and for providing transportation and a safe environment, and for treating her with respect, which helped her to her recovery.

The Commission thanked Ms. Robertson for sharing her story of recover.

At 3:39 p.m., Commissioner David Weldon joined the meeting.

## **B. SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

Lisa Naranjo, MHSA Supervisor –PEI, stated that Brittany Nguyen is the organizer of all the events and activities for this month; that September is National Suicide Prevention Month and talked about the related information available on Tri-City’s website. She indicated that Suicide prevention week was from September 4th-10th; that World Suicide Prevention Day was on 9/10 across the nation; and that CalMHSA is leading the efforts of California’s Initiative ‘Know the Signs’ across California with this year’s theme ‘Thriving At All Ages’; and encouraged those who are struggling, or if they know someone is struggling with suicide thoughts, to reach out and to visit this website section. She then announced that on September 29th a Directing Change film screening, which are 30-second Public Service Announcements (PSA) on suicide prevention, will take place to honor and recognize students from the three cities schools who had video submissions last year, noting that they had done a great job and have received awards and recognition throughout the State. She also stated that in the past few years there was a lot going on and unfortunately, someone might be supporting someone who is really struggling with their mental health challenges, and should be aware of the resources all year long, including the three-digit emergency response for mental health crisis, 988, which launched on September 17th.

Discussion ensued about the PSAs on suicide prevention created by students and about the Directing Change program.

Commissioner Villanueva inquired if research shows that there have been an increase on attempted suicides. MHSA Supervisor Naranjo stated that unfortunately, there has been an increase of suicides, and not just in California, also across the nation.

Commissioner Reyes referred to the 988 Suicide and Crisis hotline and inquired if there have been any decrease in suicides. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated that within the first month of implementation, there was a forty-five percent increase in people accessing the 988 crisis hotline over the old ten-digit telephone number hotline.

At 3:54 p.m. Commissioner Clarence Cernal joined the meeting.

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

There being no comment, Commissioner Villanueva moved, and Commissioner Reyes 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: Commissioners Cernal, Perry, Reyes, Stephens, Villanueva, and Weldon; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Chavez and Watson; and Vice-Chair Ryback.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 12, 2022 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

There being no comment, Commissioner Reyes moved, and Commissioner Cernal seconded, to approve the Minutes of the July 12, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Cernal, Perry, Reyes, Stephens, Villanueva, and Weldon; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Chavez and Watson; and Vice-Chair Ryback.

## **III. PRESENTATION**

### **C. COVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORTS:**

1. CRISIS CARE MOBILE UNITS (CCMU) GRANT
2. MENTAL HEALTH STUDENT SERVICES ACT (MHSSA) GRANT

Erin Sapinoso, Program Analyst II, announced that she and Children's Programs Manager Deborah Johnson, would provide an overview of both of the Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) and Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) Grants. She stated that in March 2022, Tri-City authorized to accept the CCMU grant and received a one-time Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000) dollars Planning Grant from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to engage in a planning process, indicating that the focus of this grant was to provide mobile behavioral health crisis services to prevent and divert involvement in the criminal justice system for individuals ages twenty-five and younger. She then stated that also back in March 2022, Tri-City authorized to accept a MHSSA grant; that the State of California's Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) initially granted Tri-City \$3.8 million dollars; however, granted earlier this year an additional \$1.03 million dollars, totaling \$4.8 million from the MHSOAC; that this grant is a four-year planning and implementation Grant project for children, youth and young adults, and also to foster school and community partnerships to provide access to mental health services where they feel comfortable, such at the schools sites, noting that the three school districts and charter schools, are Tri-City's major partners for this Grant project. She stated that Tri-City contracted Consultant Octopod Solutions to facilitate community stakeholder engagement, which was required under the grants, and explained the engagement process and mentioned the target groups that participated.

Deborah Johnson, Children's Program Manager, reported that Consultant Octopod Solutions wrote a final report about the community stakeholder engagement for each of the two Grants which included finding major themes, key findings, what works and does not work, potential initiatives, and plausible next steps, noting that these reports will be posted in Tri-City's Website. She then discussed some of the themes, such as difficulty navigating the mental health system and crisis response; mental health systems and services need to be more inclusive and accessible to provide culturally competent services and response; efforts to reduce stigma and criminalization around in mental health and behavioral health crisis; and location-based and co-located peer support programs and services. Accordingly, Tri-City has been having partner meetings, continuing to collect data, and has met with other grantees, stating that discussions include assessing how the landscape/community looks, what resources there are, where gaps exist, and how to utilize these grants to help improve these findings; and shared that design of project plans are in progress with community partners and internal Tri-City staff.

Commissioner Villanueva congratulated staff for doing this good work. He then talked about his professional life working with the Department of the Youth Authority.

Discussion ensued about how information was collected during the community stakeholder engagements to get the findings for the major themes, specifically the reduction of stigma and criminalization for youth experiencing crisis.

Commissioner Villanueva inquired if any of the grant money will be used for implementation. Program Analyst Sapinoso indicated that there are two separate grants: 1) the CCMU is a \$200,000 dollars grant, which was solely for the planning process and is ending in February 2023; and 2) the MHSSA grant, which includes \$50,000 dollars to be used specifically for planning, and the balance of more than \$4 million dollars will be used for implementation over the four years of the grant project.

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria announced that staff will come back and share the progress as this further develops, noting that staff is in the hiring phase for the MHSSA part; that it has been a whole team effort; and expressed being proud of the work that our community has done under these grants.

#### **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT**

Executive Director Hundal stated that National Suicide Prevention Awareness month is so important because it honors the lives of the people who have been successful, and to recognize that it is preventable. She then referred the Commission to the list of events in her Report that Tri-City is hosting during the month of September. She also shared that Hispanic Heritage month will begin on Thursday, noting that it is a nationwide celebration that honors the cultural contributions, achievements, and identities of Hispanic and Latinx people in the United States, and that Tri-City's DEI Committee will be hosting events to celebrate. She then reported that Tri-City is well on its way of implementing a new Electronic Health Record system, noting that staff are doing very well during this difficult change with the help of the leadership team. She also reported that during the last two months she has attended several community events; has met with the City Managers of the three cities to discuss mental health and their needs, and will continue to meet on a quarterly basis; that she has future appointments with the Police Chiefs; that she attended a local NAMI meeting; and that she, Liz Renteria, and Dana Barford presented on suicide prevention and awareness to the Police Commission of Claremont, in partnership with Moms Demand Action, noting it was well received.

#### **COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Commissioner Villanueva shared that he met with Executive Director Hundal, and thanked her for answering all the questions he had, and about the Commission goals that he was not able to hear during the last meeting because his computer went dead.

Commissioner Reyes inquired about the status of the Data Notebook. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford announced that staff is ready to get started, noting that the QI department is ready to join and help with the research; that she will send an email to check schedules of Ad Hoc committee members, and start meeting and reviewing the Data Notebook, and explained that with the launch of Cerner, QI staff was busy in September.

Executive Director Hundal announced that Ken Riomales, Chief Information Officer, has given his resignation citing personal reasons, and today was his last meeting; that Brian Cesario will assume the role of a lead in the IT department until the hiring of a new director; and thanked Mr. Riomales for his service at Tri City, and stated that it was a pleasure working with him.

Chief Information Officer Riomales stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to be part of the Tri-City team, and he wished the best to the agency, the community, and the Mental Health Commission.

The Mental Health Commission thanked Chief Information Officer Riomales for all his help and services provided to Tri-City, and wished him good luck in your further endeavors.

Executive Director Hundal introduce Brian Cesario and stated that they both started their careers at Tri-City together; that Brian has gone through two EHR implementations at Tri City, has helped with a lot of big IT projects, and has been instrumental in making us move with the times.

Brian Cesario, IT Systems Administrator & Security Officer, stated that he has attended many Mental Health Commission Meetings and Governing Board Meetings as support; that looks forward to working with the Commission; and that he is happy to help keep improving things at Tri-City.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:24 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of September 13, 2022 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. via teleconference pursuant to Government Code § 54953.



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Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk