



## **MINUTES**

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

**OCTOBER 11, 2022 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 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 (joined the meeting at 3:42 p.m.)  
Carolyn Cockrell, GB Member Liaison (joined the meeting at 3:41 p.m.)  
Nichole Perry  
Joan M. Reyes  
Twila L. Stephens (joined the meeting at 3:41 p.m.)  
Alfonso “Al” Villanueva  
Toni L. Watson  
David J. Weldon

**ABSENT:** Clarence D. Cernal  
Isabella A. Chavez

**STAFF:** Rimmi Hundal, Executive Director  
Liz Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer  
Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services  
Gamaliel Polanco, Wellness Center Manager  
Shawn Smith, Crisis/Medication Support Manager  
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Item No. III was taken out of Order.

#### **III. PRESENTATION**

##### **A. “RECOVERY MOMENTS” STORY**

Gamaliel Polanco, Wellness Center Manager, stated that Tri-City has an internship program for Masters’ of Social Work interns for the academic year beginning in September through May, noting that the interns get to experience community mental health work, and discussed their training; and announced that two former interns were in attendance to share their story about full time employment at Tri-City.

Stephanie Contreras, Clinical Therapist in the TCMHA Children's Outpatient Clinic, talked about her internship experience and her journey into mental health. She shared that she received her Masters' Degree of Social work from USC; that she has been providing mental health services to children; that she chose to pursue a degree in social work because she always had a desire to work in a profession specifically supporting underserved and stigmatized populations; that her internship experience was really wonderful and unique because of all the services that Tri-City has to offer; that Tri-City was her first exposure to the mental health field, noting that Tri-City put a lot of thought into the internship program, it was really structured and really well executed; that she received good exposure and hands-on experience to all the different types of settings that she could pursue with the social work degree, with therapy, and along with supervision, and just that she was really supported; that after her internship, she returned to Tri-City to work because of the support that was offered to her since she values the environment and the people that she surrounds herself with; and noted that it is amazing to be a part of an agency who really cares and wants to engage with the community and create all this change.

At 3:41 p.m. Commissioner Twila Stephens and Governing Board Liaison joined the meeting.

At 3:42 p.m. Vice-Chair Ryback joined the meeting.

Elizabeth Maciel, Clinical Therapist, in the TCMHA Children's Outpatient Clinic, shared that she received her Masters' Degree of Social work from USC; that she was one of those students who started her studies on campus and then finished the second half of her studies virtually because of the pandemic; that she wanted to work on breaking some of the intergenerational cycles about working families in the pursuit of higher education to have a better life; that she had a great internship experience and received a wealth of knowledge, noting that Tri-City has so many different departments which provided exposure to working with some of the Wellness Center groups and in the school based program, under great supervision, which she really valued because she never felt alone; that after her internship she decided to work for Tri-City because she was able to observe some of the therapists that had already been working Tri-City, and noticed that their clinical skills were very well polished and she was just inspired by the way they were providing services to the family and children which allowed her to see the transformation of how it really does change people's lives.

Executive Director Hundal thanked Clinical Therapists Maciel and Contreras for sharing their experience; and expressed that Tri-City is lucky to have them as interns and now part of our staff.

Chair Henderson thanked Clinical Therapists Maciel and Contreras for sharing their story.

## **B. OVERVIEW OF PSYCHIATRIC ASSESSMENT CARE TEAM (PACT) PROGRAM**

Shawn Smith, Crisis/Medication Support Manager, stated that he has been working for Tri-City since 2006 and has had the honor of being the program manager for several different programs, including the Psychiatric Assessment Care Team (PACT). He then introduced the team, Dr. Kim, program supervisor for the Intensive Outreach and Engagement Team (IOET); Alexia Hamel, program supervisor for the Medication Support Team; Shana Acosta, program manager for the Medication Support team; and Dominique King, psychiatric technician, who has been with Tri-City for approximately six weeks, noting that there is currently an opening for a licensed therapist. He then talked about the PACT, noting that their hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., with a dedicated office space in the Claremont Police Department and a dedicated vehicle, which helps the PACT conduct assessments and get out to the field in an expedient matter when called; that services are in line with the collaborations undertaken by LACDMH (Los Angeles County

Department of Mental Health) and other police agencies; and that Tri-City is on par with what is happening in the County, and perhaps throughout the rest of the State. He then shared his screen to show a power point presentation, and indicated that the purpose of the PACT is to efficiently respond to social and emotional mental health needs of Claremont residents and/or visitors, by using trained mental health professionals to take lead on non-violent, non-criminal calls that do not require law enforcement intervention, including in response to addressing persons who do not have a permanent residence; that the goal is to quickly facilitate entry into appropriate levels of care and services for persons they respond to in real time, and provide professional mental health support during regular Tri-City business hours, to the Claremont Police Department, noting that Tri-City offers a whole person system of care. He explained that the PACT also follows-up on persons placed on 5150 holds after hours or on weekends, to ensure no one falls through the system of care, and to coordinate with Claremont Police Department and facilitate access and increase likelihood of engagement to appropriate level of linkage support.

Commissioner Reyes inquired where persons are taken when they require a 5150 hold. Crisis/Medication Support Manager Smith replied that it would depend on the situation; for example, they might not even be able to write a 5950 hold if somebody has acute medical issues which required a 911 call, and in turn, they are taken directly to the nearest local medical facility.

Commissioner Villanueva inquired where staff was located in the Claremont Police Department. Crisis/Medication Support Manager Smith replied that Ms. King is located at CPD from 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and that he, Dr. Kim, Ms. Hamel, and Ms. Acosta are located at the adult outpatient clinic.

Discussion ensued regarding the PACT referral process and follow-up services.

Commissioner Villanueva shared that the PACT have done a lot of good work in the Barrio Park; and complimented them on their good work with the homeless population in the City of Claremont.

Chair Henderson thanked Crisis/Medication Support Manager Smith for his presentation.

At 4:00 p.m. Governing Board Liaison Cockrell left 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 Watson 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 Perry, Reyes, Stephens, Villanueva, Watson, and Weldon; Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Cernal and Chavez; and Board Member Liaison Cockrell.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

There being no comment, Commissioner Reyes moved, and Commissioner Stephens seconded, to approve the Minutes of the September 13, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Mental Health

Commission. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Perry, Reyes, Stephens, Villanueva, and Weldon; Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Watson. ABSENT: Commissioners Cernal and Chavez; and Board Member Liaison Cockrell.

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

Executive Director Hundal announced that the first week of October is dedicated to Mental Illness Awareness Week, during which staff did a lot of social media postings and social media campaign; she also shared that staff is very excited to support peers on staff as they work on becoming certified as peer specialists through the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and a statewide organization called CalMHSA (California Mental Health Authority) who are taking the lead on the trainings and the exams for the peers to become certified, noting that this will allow them to bill MediCal for the work they do; that Tri-City is in the process of recruiting for the MHSA Projects Manager position, noting that in the interim Dana Barford is continuing to do the stakeholder process. She then reported that on Saturday, seven staff members attended the gala of the local Pride Center in Pomona, including the Tri-City Governing Board Chair and Vice-Chair, and had received an award for Organizational Impact, for demonstrating leadership and service while enhancing the wellbeing of our LGBTQIA+ community, and expressed being such an honor to receive this award, and that Supervisor Hilda Solis was in attendance to give Tri-City this award; and that Senator Connie Leyva had approached her to congratulate Tri City's leadership, which means the Commission and the Governing Board for the organizational impact that Tri-City is having in our communities.

Discussion ensued regarding the work that peers provide, such as their principal role to coach and mentor people by using their own lived experience; that the Peer Certification will allow Tri-City to bill for services that the Peers are providing, which up to date, they were not allowed to do regardless that the services were being provided; and that the work done by Peers is being recognized as a specialized work because it is provided by individuals that have lived experience or individuals that have a family member with lived experience, and the certification provides professional pathways in the workforce.

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

Chair Henderson reported that she had received an email communication from CALBHBC (California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions) regarding trainings; and requested that staff forward the email to all Commissioners.

Commissioner Reyes inquired if Tri-City was collaborating with Bonita Unified School District (BUSD). Executive Director Hundal indicated that Tri-City works and collaborates with the three school districts in the three cities, not just BUSD, where Tri-City provides mental health services to its students, and also provides a lot of trainings for teachers, school staff, and parents.

Comments were shared regarding the dire situation that students are in because of lack of mental health services across the nation, not just in California, due to the behavioral health workforce shortage for several years now, long before the pandemic; however that the pandemic only intensified that shortage; and that everyone is doing their best to attract, retain, and support qualified staff to fill that gap during such a difficult period.

Commissioner Stephens announced that the City of Los Angeles is opening its Section 8 waitlist on October 17th through October 30th; and that Tri-City's Housing Department will have laptop stations and mobile hotspots set up at the Wellness Center and at the Adult Outpatient Clinic for a two-week period to help individuals apply, regardless if they are a Tri-City client or not.

Commissioner Watson announced that groups at the Wellness Center are being held hybrid, both in person and virtually, which it has been great to have the opportunity to participate from home when she has not been able to attend in person due to health issues; and expressed appreciation for the staff at the Wellness Center for holding hybrid group meetings.

Commissioner Villanueva announced that yesterday it was Indigenous Day, a Federal holiday; that during the last Commission AdHoc Committee, Dana Barford announced the new Native American liaison for Tri-City had been selected, Henri Mascorro, and that he was looking forward to working with her; that on January 1, 2023, a new law will come into effect which will not allow the local police departments detain or question people who are soliciting prostitution, and is going to have a significant impact on the communities of color, especially here in Pomona and Claremont; and discussed strategies that he is working with the community to prevent prostitution. He then asked for prayers for his mother who recently had an accident.

Chair Henderson announced that there was an article in the newspaper about the implementation of care courts and requested that staff provide more information during the next Commission meeting about how this is going to affect Tri-City.

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated that Tri-City cannot exactly do work to divert people from prostitution; that Tri-City will certainly treat people that are involved in trauma from being trafficked, noting that prostitution is human trafficking, and give people supportive services to find other ways to be protected and take care of themselves; however, that Tri-City does not have a specific program where staff goes out to divert individuals from this situation.

Commissioner Villanueva thanked Chief Clinical Officer Renteria for her comment, noting that he is aware that Tri-City deals with this problem because prostitution for most is a mental health issue.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:35 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Meeting of October 11, 2022 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. via teleconference pursuant to Government Code § 54953.



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Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk