



## **MINUTES**

### **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION July 9, 2024 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in the Wellness Center located at 1403 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767.

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

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

#### **MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

**PRESENT:** Anne Henderson, Chair  
Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair (arrived at 3:35 p.m.)  
Carolyn Cockrell, GB Member Liaison  
Clarence D. Cernal (arrived at 3:35 p.m.)  
Sandra Christensen (arrived at 3:40 p.m.)  
Ethel Gardner  
Frank Guzman  
Laura Mundy  
Janet R. Roy (arrived at 3:35 p.m.)  
Twila L. Stephens  
Toni L. Watson  
Danette E. Wilkerson

**ABSENT:** Isabella A. Chavez  
Mildred Garcia

#### **STAFF:**

**PRESENT:** Rimmi Hundal, Executive Director  
Elizabeth Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer  
Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services  
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 15, 2024, GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION SPECIAL JOINT MEETING**

There being no discussion, Commissioner Guzman moved, and Commissioner Gardner seconded, to approve the Minutes from the May 15, 2024 Joint Meeting of the Governing Board and Mental Health Commission. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: GB Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Gardner, Guzman, Stephens, and Wilkerson; and Chair Henderson.

NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioners Mundy and Watson. ABSENT: Commissioners Cernal, Chavez, Christensen, Garcia, Roy; and Vice-Chair Ryback.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 11, 2024, MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**

There being no discussion, GB Liaison Cockrell moved, and Commissioner Wilkerson seconded, to approve the Minutes from the June 11, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: GB Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Gardner, Guzman, and Wilkerson; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioners Mundy, Stephens, and Watson. ABSENT: Commissioners Cernal, Chavez, Christensen, Garcia, and Roy; and Vice-Chair Ryback

At 3:35 p.m. Vice-Chair Wray Ryback; and Commissioners Clarence D. Cernal and Janet R. Roy arrived at the meeting.

## **III. PRESENTATION**

### **A. OVERVIEW OF 2024 HOMELESS COUNT RESULTS**

Housing Manager Monzon announced that she would explain the 2024 Homeless Count conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA); the LA County Point-in-Time Count; the results of the 2024 Homeless Count; and the Data from TCMHA Housing Referrals.

At 3:40 p.m. Commissioner Sandra Christensen arrived at the meeting.

Housing Manager Monzon reported that the demographic surveys is a collection of information within a sampled survey of those experiencing homelessness, noting that there are three types of counts: 1) a street count, a visual-only tally of everyone within shelters and is conducted by volunteers; 2) youth count, a survey-based count of unaccompanied and unsheltered youths and young families under the age of 25; and 3) shelter count, a count of everyone experiencing homelessness found in shelters and transitional housing. She then provided the 2024 Homeless Count Results for both Los Angeles County and Service Planning Area (SPA) 3, broken down into individuals, families, transitional age youth, and veterans categories, which were included information about unsheltered, sheltered, and total in both percentage and number of unhoused.

Commissioner Watson inquired what the definition of *housed* was, specifically ones living in tents or cars. Housing Manager Monzon explained that individuals living in tents and cars are counted as unhoused, and highlighted the decrease in Veterans and increase in Families.

Vice-Chair Ryback inquired if this was specific to Los Angeles County or SPA 3. Housing Manager Monzon stated it applied to both.

Commissioner Cernal inquired if there would be a breakdown in the statistics by city or if it would remain to the county and region only. Housing Manager Monzon stated in the past LAHSA provided a city breakdown; however, they stopped providing the city breakdown as of last year.

Housing Manager Monzon continued with her presentation and stated that 24% of the unhoused population report experiencing serious mental illness, and pointed out that this is a 2.1% decrease

from 2024; that serious mental illness is reported by 7.5% less unsheltered people in LA County than the previous year, a 7.8% decrease in SPA 3; that serious mental illness is reported by 15.2% more sheltered people in LA County than the previous year, a 41% decrease in SPA 3; that 27% of the unhoused population report experiencing a substance use disorder (SUD), a 10.9% decrease; that SUD is reported by 14.5% less unsheltered people in LA County than the previous year, a 2.9% increase in SPA 3; and that SUD is reported by 22.8% more sheltered people in LA County than the previous year, a 1.7% decrease in SPA 3.

Vice-Chair Ryback inquired what shelters are available. Housing Manager Monzon stated Hope-4-Home is available in Pomona; however, there are not many other options available in SPA 3.

Housing Manager Monzon stated that two hundred ninety-eight individuals were surveyed in SPA 3; and that of those surveyed, 43% were Latino, 31% were Black, African American, or African, and 29% were White; that of all of these, 54% reported economic hardship as a reason for falling into homelessness and 38% cited a weakened social network as a reason for falling into homelessness. She then provided statistics for in-house referrals for Fiscal Year 2023-24 detailing the number of referrals, FSP (Full Service Partnership), AOP (Adult Outpatient Program), Children's, and Evictions per month; and about the current housing status of referrals categorized by own/rent, living with someone, staying in a motel, homeless, and those not reported. She then talked about those that are homeless, providing a count of those that sleep in a shelter, transitional housing/sober living, outdoors, couch surfing, car, or motel paid by an agency or family member. She also talked about the statistics for referral's incomes from July 2023 to May 2024, which included no reported income, no income, and income upwards of \$3,000 monthly; and pointed out that the average rent for a two-bedroom home in LA County is \$2,498 and renters need to earn a minimum of \$48.04 an hour to afford the average rent; and that 432 out of the 510 clients referred have less than \$2,000 a month in income. She then talked about how TCMHA supports the community through various programs, noting that groups are offered that help clients understand how they can work to increase their income and how clients can identify if there are alternative options; that the *Good Tenant Curriculum* program helps clients begin to understand their rights and responsibilities in preparation of the day they get housed; that TCMHA collaborates between divisions clearly identifying clients' goals, checking on progress with clients' connections to resources, and support clients if they are connected to housing opportunities through Coordinated Entry System; and that TCMHA maintains communication with community partners by attending regular meetings to stay current on resources to share with clients.

Commissioner Roy inquired why cities are building more ride-ways for bicycle riders and what their priorities are. Housing Manager Monzon replied the cities are looking at different ways to help the population. Commissioner Roy further inquired why another shelter such as Hope-4-Home is being built. Housing Manager Monzon replied that SPA 3 includes all the cities from Pasadena to Walnut and they also need to work together to solve these problems.

Commissioner Watson commented that it is expensive to build housing for the homeless, and inquired the reason the homes are being advertised as *luxury*. Housing Manager Monzon stated that the term *luxury* is being used to reduce stigma. Commissioner Watson further commented that there should be a way to building at a low cost yet maintain a "luxury" appearance.

Commissioner Roy inquired who oversees the rent for affordable housing. Housing Manager Monzon replied that it is the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Commissioner Cernal inquired what it is being done with the count and if there are outreach programs. Housing Manager Monzon stated that count is used to create a database that allows persons to be connected to services; and that LA County offers outreach for the available services it offers.

## **B. OVERVIEW OF TCMHA STAFF AND COMMUNITY TRAININGS**

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford presented about staff training at TCMHA and explained that Relias Learning is a learning management system that TCMHA uses to complete New Hire Training, Yearly Compliance Training, and Continuing Education. She stated that TCMHA partners the Southern Counties Regional Partnership (SCRIP) which also offers trainings such as Intro to Seeking Safety, Advance Seeking Safety, Suicide Prevention, DBT training and consults, Clinical Supervisor Training, and hosts two conferences annually; and that TCMHA also obtains outside training from the Crisis Prevention Institute Training, Painted Brain, Fred Pryor, and LACDMH (Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health).

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated that training is an incentive for staff and that TCMHA maintains current licensure for clinical staff.

Community Mental Health Trainer Osorio talked about the Community Mental Health Trainings, noting that they focus on prevention and early intervention, and that they are free to the community.

Commissioner Watson inquired if the trainings are available to volunteers. Community Mental Health Trainer Osorio replied in the affirmative, pointing out that the training is available to the general public.

Commissioner Mundy inquired if the trainings are recorded. Community Mental Health Trainer Osorio replied in the negative; however, that they are offered twice annually and can be requested at specific locations or events.

Community Mental Health Trainer Osorio then provided a brief overview of the trainings offered, including Community Resiliency Model, Suicide Prevention, Mental Health First Aid, Motivational Interviewing, and Adverse Childhood Experiences; and explained the process on how to request a training request for scheduling and planning, and provided the 2024 training calendar.

Commissioner Mundy inquired if the trainings are accessible for individuals with disabilities. Community Mental Health Trainer Osorio stated that closed captioning devices are available upon request.

Commissioner Watson inquired where the trainings are held. Community Mental Health Trainer Osorio stated they are usually held at 2001 N. Garey Avenue, Wellness Center, and the La Verne Community Center.

Commissioner Wilkerson inquired if training for continuing education credits is provided. Community Mental Health Trainer Osorio responded that it is not provided at the community level.

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

Executive Director Hundal reported that TCMHA is currently offering the Student Loan Forgiveness Program in amounts up to \$7,500 dollars; that July is BIPOC Month and Minority Mental Health Month and TCMHA is talking to the community to reduce stigma. She then announced that she will be resigning from TCMHA because she had accepted a position with LACDMH; that this will be her last meeting with the MHC; and that a Special Meeting of the Governing Board will be held to discuss the appointment of an Interim or Acting Executive Director.

Discussion ensued regarding the Student Loan Forgiveness Program which is offered annually; that all employees can apply annually; and that the amount awarded is dependent on the employees' current loan balance that is verified through paperwork required with each application.

The Mental Health Commission congratulated Executive Director Hundal for her new job and expressed appreciation for her years of service to TCMHA.

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

Commissioner Watson inquired if commissioners can attend MHC meetings via Zoom. JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos replied in the affirmative, noting that per the Brown Act this is allowed with exceptions. She stated that typically the location where the commission is located must be open for the public as a meeting place for viewing and participation in the meeting; and that she will provide information on available accommodations and requirements.

Vice-Chair Ryback states the PATH Unit at Pomona Valley Hospital has reopened to treat individuals with mental health disorders; and that the grand opening will be held on August 1, 2024.

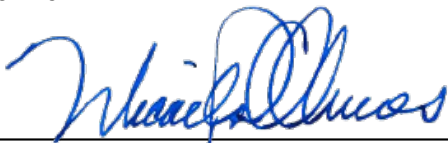
Commissioner Mundy inquired if the Mental Health Commission will be required to attend the Governing Board Special Meeting. JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos stated attendance is not required but anyone is allowed to attend; and the public can participate during Public Comment.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Henderson opens the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:50 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of July 9, 2024 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., in the Wellness Center, 1403 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk