



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION October 8, 2024 – 3:30 P.M.

The Mental Health Commission held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 3:33 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 3:33 p.m.

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

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

PRESENT: Anne Henderson, Chair
Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair
Carolyn Cockrell, GB Member Liaison
Clarence D. Cernal (at 3:57 p.m. arrived at the meeting)
Sandra Christensen
Ethel Gardner
Frank Guzman
Laura Mundy
Janet R. Roy
Twila L. Stephens
Danette E. Wilkerson

ABSENT: Mildred Garcia
Toni L. Watson

STAFF

PRESENT: Diana Acosta, Interim Executive Director
Elizabeth Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer
Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services
Sara Rodriguez, MHSA Projects Manager
Mica Olmos, JPA Clerk/Administrator

NEW BUSINESS

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 9, 2024, MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

There being no discussion, Commissioner Governing Board Liaison Cockrell moved, and Commissioner Guzman seconded, to approve the Minutes from the July 9, 2024 Mental Health Commission Special Meeting. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: GB Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Christensen, Gardner, Guzman, Mundy, Roy, Stephens, and Wilkerson;

Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Cernal, Garcia, and Watson.

II. PRESENTATION – OVERVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH STUDENT SERVICES ACT (MHSSA)

Clinical Supervisors I Markie Sterner and Octavio Hernandez talked about their roles and teams, the Mental Health Student Service Act (MHSSA) and School Partnership Team (SPT), noting that the overarching goal of both programs is to improve accessibility to mental health support for students' college age and under and their families.

Clinical Supervisor I Sterner stated that TCMHA services and explained staff have been providing support for students via the School Partnership Team and Mental Health Student Services Act; and that both programs expand on partnerships with the local schools and districts to better understand the needs of the community, create a direct path for reaching and obtaining services, resolve barriers to access, and that both the MHSSA and SPT teams provide complimentary services to students and their families.

Clinical Supervisor I Hernandez explained the role of the School Partnership Team (SPT), pointing out that it was created to be the liaison for the schools, ensuring school referrals have access to services; and that SPT also collaborate with the three local school districts to improve the overall wellbeing of the children and adolescents in the Tri-City area. He stated the SPT provides services to all K-12 schools in the Bonita (La Verne), Claremont, and Pomona Unified School Districts and School of Arts Enterprise; and that regular services by SPT Clinicians are provided in the school setting, offices, or via telehealth to help support behaviors/symptoms that affect the functioning of the students in the school setting (i.e. chronic absences, poor grades, conduct concerns).

Clinical Supervisor I Sterner then explained the MHSSA, stating that in 2023, TCMHA received the MHSSA grant to expand accessibility and services to students; and discussed the various services provided: Early intervention/prevention services for students under the age of 25, outreach events with schools and local community partners to reduce stigma and enhance mental health education, trainings for community partners and school partners, increase and maintain access to mental health services for students and their families, link to higher level of care internally as needed, link to private/other insurance sources or resources in the area, and work with school partners for continuity of care and ease of referrals.

Clinical Supervisor I Hernandez provided a summary of the joint successes of MHSSA and SPT, noting that they have eight school/district partners and visit forty-six schools; that they have increased referrals from local universities, including University of La Verne, Cal Poly Pomona, and Mt. San Antonio College; and that they are also building relationships with new schools and community partners including City of Knowledge, Pomona Pride, and Family Foothill.

Clinical Supervisor I Sterner also shared dated about the MHSSA outreach and training, and stated that from February 2024 through July 2024, the MHSSA grant allowed staff to participate in thirty-one school and community events; that at these events, staff was able to work with 783 students, 477 parents/guardians/family members, 136 school and district staff, and 186 youth servicing organizations or other community members; that some of the trainings offered are Mental Health First Aid, monthly webinars, Window Between the World trainings, which focus on stigma reduction; and that they have received 263 referrals, have conducted 140 screenings, and

have 162 active clients. She also stated that stated local partners are Justice for Youth, local colleges, and school districts with ongoing growth.

Clinical Supervisor I Hernandez talked about the success and impact of MHSSA and SPT, stating that since SPT has combined with MHSSA, they have been able to extend their student support to students up to the age of 25 and SPT clinicians have been able to provide support to students enrolled at Cal Poly Pomona, University of La Vern, and Mt. San Antonio College; that SPT now services a total of forty-three schools K-12 across the Tri-City Area, which include thirty schools in the Pomona Unified School District, seven schools in the Claremont Unified School District, and five schools in the Bonita (La Verne) Unified School District; and that there were 3,243 services provided by SPT clinicians (including individual sessions, contact SSPs, and/or other treatment team members). He then shared a client success story who was referred by his school due to his low grades during his last school year, and discussed the client's various behavioral and mental health issues that stemmed from difficulties adjusting to adulthood, prolonged grief of multiple losses in life, domestic violent, and substance use from caregivers, and his own substance use; and reported that after treatment, services, and therapeutic relationships, the client has been able to develop self-compassion, advocacy, boundary setting, self-accountability, and communication skills; that client has now graduated high school, is pursuing a nursing degree, reports having better control of emotions, has obtained his driver's license, purchased a vehicle, obtained employment, and is reconnecting with family and friends.

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated that TCMHA can offer community grants through MHSSA to expand services to community partners; and thanked staff for their efforts which have filled the pre-existing gap and provide services that help school kids have a better adulthood.

Commissioner Ether inquired about the role parents play in this program. Clinical Supervisor I Sterner responded that even though the teams service the students, parents are involved in the process through the phone or in person. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria added that the team has Keith Holder, a Parent advocate that assists in outreach.

Commissioner Guzman expressed appreciation for Pomona Pride being one of the recipients of the MHSSA grants, which serves about 200 students.

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated TCMHA is developing an MOU with Cal Poly Pomona's Media Marketing program for a campaign for youth generated ideas.

III. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT

Interim Executive Director Acosta announced that the grand re-opening of the Therapeutic Community Garden (TCG) will take place on Thursday, October 10, 2024, noting that the original TCG programs was the Urban Farming Program, but it has since expanded. She also announced that the 10th Annual Wellness Center Job Fair was scheduled for Friday, October 25th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

At 3:57 p.m., Commissioner Cernal arrived at the meeting.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Vice-Chair Ryback commented she is looking forward to the TCG re-opening.

Commissioner Wilkerson inquired if the TCG is open to the general public. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated there are programs available to the general public, but have to be registered in the program, noting that any events open to the general public are advertised on social media.

Commissioner Wilkerson stated she recently attended a Sip & Paint at the Almond House and a Amplify Voices event hosted at the Tea Leaf and creamery, both hosted by staff member Britany Nguyen, and expressed praise for the event, the individuals that shared their personal experiences, and for TCMHA's role in their journey.

Vice-Chair Ryback stated Pomona Valley Hospital's Social Service department has worked closely with TCMHA on developing a better referral program and she is optimistic for the outcome.

Commissioner Christensen inquired if the MHSSA program has directly approached IPoly High School campus. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated TCMHA has not approached them directly but connections through Cal Poly Pomona have been in contact, and added that the school will be taken into consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the audience praised the TCG classes and programs offered through TCMHA because it is a safe place to socialize while learning.

Andrea Espinoza, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator, announced that in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, an event hosted at Lopez Urban Farm would take place on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and extended an invitation to everyone to attend.

A member of the audience requested TCMHA consider more staff, more meetings, and more groups offered to the public; and expressed her gratitude for TCMHA for getting her out of her house and help her become a better mom and a member of society.

PUBLIC HEARING – MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT – (MHSA)

A. OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Henderson announced that the Public Hearing was for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation Project, Multi-County Collaborative Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs) Phase II; and that the Mental Health Commission and TCMHA staff would share some of the details of the plan and ask for the public's feedback, noting that TCMHA's MHSA Projects Manager Sara Rodriguez would facilitate the Public Hearing.

At 4:09 p.m., Chair Henderson declared the Public Hearing open.

Sarah Rodriguez, MHSA Projects Manager, provided an overview of the topics to be discussed during the Public Hearing.

Paulina Ale, MHSA Program Coordinator for Innovation Plan, explained the Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs) Phase II Innovation Project and discussed the timeline of the project, noting Phase I was approved by MHSOAC in June 2021 when five counties were a part of the project. She stated TCMHA joined the project on July 1, 2022, and Phase I is set to finish on June 30, 2025. The budget for Phase I was \$253,79 during Fiscal Year 2022-23; \$250,447 during Fiscal

Year 2023-24; and for Fiscal Year 2024-25 will be \$257,672, with a grand total of \$761,672. She then indicated that PADs is a peer-led project and explained a PAD is a legal document that outlines an individual's specific treatment preferences in the case of a future behavioral health crisis when an individual may be unable to make their own decisions; that the project is a multi-county collaborative with six counties currently participating alongside TCMHA: Shasta, Fresno, Orange, Mariposa, Contra-Costa, and Monterey; that a user-friendly and secure online tool is being developed and the priority population is Transition Aged Youth (aged 18-25) and individuals experiencing homelessness. She stated a user-friendly, universal layout is being developed. She then discussed the approval process of Phase II of the project, noting that a workgroup held in August 2024 unanimously approved PADs Phase II and that meetings with stakeholders and the community were held in September 2024 and received an 88% approval rating. She also discussed the different ways to integrate PADs including outpatient services, FSP, Mobile Crisis, Wellness Center, and community partners and agencies like law enforcement, noting that PADs is in alignment with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) and Proposition 1. She then talked about Phase I of PADs project, which started at creation of a comprehensive training curriculum for Peer Support Specialists, then development of the initial cloud-based digital PADs platform and user and beta testing. She stated Assembly Bill AB 2352 has been introduced to recognize PADs as a legal document in California; and that extensive collaboration with peers, caregivers, hospital staff, law enforcement, and service providers are ongoing through technical workgroups along with ongoing evaluations to provide insight and further enhancement. She also presented the PADs Platform Preview offering both the Participant View and Law Enforcement and First Responder View. She explained the PAD is broken into two parts, the first being the Crisis Directive when the individual is undergoing crisis, the second part is the Treatment Directive for ongoing needs. She showed the information an individual would be prompted to complete, including personal information, photos, physical features, current housing situation or common locations, veteran status, and interests. She provided an overview of PADs Phase II beginning July 1, 2025, through July 1, 2029. She highlighted the intentions of PADs Phase II, including: providing guided, humanizing, recovery based technology; focus on information sharing, PSAs, and social media; train law enforcement, hospital staff, and crisis teams on how to use the platform; test the digital PAD in use and access with law enforcement and service providers; sign-up participants for live use/integration; and focus on legislative efforts that uplift the use, access, and importance of Directives. She stated TCMHA intended to integrate PADs through outpatient services, FSP, Mobile Crisis, Wellness Center, and community partners and agencies. She also discussed the PADs benefits for first responders, stating PADs can help provide a patient's identity, treatment preferences, physician or behavioral health provider, and potential allergies, noting that they can allow Social Services staff to engage with a patient's support person and provides information to assist with ongoing care and discharge planning; that PADs can assist in reducing length of stay in the emergency department and help hospital staff understand how to keep a patient calm, inform staff of what may upset the patient, and allow staff to provide the best care. She then talked about the proposed budget for Phase II of the PADs Project, stating that the overall requested budget for TCMHA's participation over a four-year period would be \$1.5 million, broken down to \$375,000 per fiscal year. She then provided an example of how an individual would be able to obtain a PAD, indicating that individuals would be able to contact TCMHA; that the Innovation Team will accept referrals, and that Peer Support Specialists will meet with and assist individuals, pointing out that as interest grows, additional facilitators will be trained to expand outreach and opportunities for PAD creation. She then requested feedback.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governing Board Liaison Cockrell stated the PAD's project is a unique, exiting and viable tool that can help patients significantly. She also inquired if the funds used for this project are from the Innovation Plan. MHSA Projects Manager Sara Rodriguez replied in the affirmative.

Commissioner Roy stated that the project appeared to be user friendly with easy to use tools and accessibility, noting that PADs will help with response time when in crisis.

Governing Board Liaison Cockrell commented that when patients are in the Emergency Room often times spend several hours there or have not eaten, and food is not offered; therefore, she recommended to include a food feature under PADs. MHSA Projects Manager Sara Rodriguez stated that an allergy section is included in PADs; however, a feature for food was a great idea that can be discussed.

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria expressed excitement for the PADs project coming to fruition; and inquired how training of hospital staff will take place and how will the PAD work with existing treatment; and asked if there is a way to upload an existing plan so that it is integrated and become part of all the treatment that can be offered to a person during a crisis. MHSA Program Coordinator Ale stated that de-escalation goals in clinical safety plans and a PAD are similar.

Commissioner Guzman commented that paying attention to pronouns and identifiable marks was a great feature of PADs.

Commissioner Cernal inquired how it is being envisioned that law enforcement will have access to a PAD during a crisis. MHSA Program Coordinator Paulina Ale stated that this process still is being worked on, noting that the goal is to integrate PADs into their system so that police dispatchers can have access to PADs and be able to communicate with law enforcement personnel and help identify persons when in crisis and unable to provide their name.

Vice-Chair Ryback stated that having the individual's name will be key for hospital staff, noting that identification marks such as tattoos, birthmarks, etc. can be used as another way to identify patients, and that working on other identifiers such as cards or bracelets is being discussed. MHSA Program Coordinator Ale added the identifiers are part of the outreach and education in the community.

Governing Board Liaison Cockrell suggested using something like a medical alert to identify persons. MHSA Projects Manager Sara Rodriguez indicated that this is also being worked on and it is envisioned that a PAD's identification can be carried in a card, bracelet, or even a dog tag to identify person easier.

Commissioner Christensen inquired how she can have access to complete her PAD. MHSA Program Coordinator Paulina Ale indicated that the project still under development in Phase I; and that Phase II will begin after it is approved; thereafter, training and implementation will commence. Commissioner Christensen further inquired if there will be guidance when completing a PAD, and if the patients will be asked if this is what they want. MHSA Programs Coordinator Paulina Ale stated that it is anticipated that Peer Support Specialists will be designated to guide individuals through the entire process. MHSA Projects Manager Sara Rodriguez added that a PAD is intended to be filled out under full consent of the client and when not in a crisis.

Governing Board Liaison Cockrell suggested to have an IP address on phone for quick find.

C. CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING

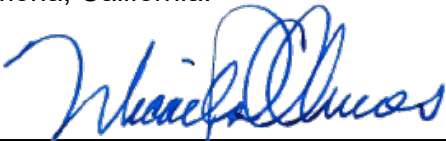
At 4:44 p.m., there being no further discussion, Governing Board Liaison Cockrell moved, and Commissioner Guzman seconded, to close the Public Hearing. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Governing Board Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Cernal, Christensen, Gardner, Guzman, Mundy, Roy, Stephens, and Wilkerson; Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Garcia and Watson.

IV. DECIDE ON A RECOMMENDATION TO THE TCMHA GOVERNING BOARD ABOUT ALLOCATING \$1,500,000.00 FUNDS FROM MHSA INNOVATION PLAN TO THE MULTI-COUNTY COLLABORATIVE PSYCHIATRIC ADVANCE DIRECTIVES (PADs) PHASE II PROJECT

There being no comment, Commissioner Christensen moved, and Commissioner Cernal seconded, to recommend to the TCMHA Governing Board to approve and adopt the Multi-County Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs) Phase II Project; and allocating MHSA Innovation Funds in the amount of \$1,500,000 for the Fiscal Years 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29 for the project. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Governing Board Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Cernal, Christensen, Gardner, Guzman, Mundy, Roy, Stephens, and Wilkerson; Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Garcia and Watson.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:47 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of October 8, 2024, was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 3:30 p.m., in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk