



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION February 11, 2025 – 3:30 P.M.

The Mental Health Commission meeting was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 3:38 p.m. in the MHSA Administration Building located at 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.

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

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

PRESENT: Anne Henderson, Chair
Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair
Clarence D. Cernal
Ethel Gardner
Frank Guzman
Laura Mundy
Danette E. Wilkerson

ABSENT: Carolyn Cockrell, GB Member Liaison
Sandra Christensen
Mildred Garcia
Janet R. Roy
Toni L. Watson

STAFF

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 18, 2024 GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR JOINT MEETING

There being no comment, Commissioner Guzman moved, and Commissioner Mundy seconded, to approve the Minutes from the December 18, 2024 Governing Board and Mental Health Commission Regular Joint Meeting. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Cernal, Gardner, Guzman, Mundy, and Wilkerson; Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: GB Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Christensen, Garcia, Roy, and Watson.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 15, 2025, GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

There being no comment, Commissioner Cernal moved, and Vice-Chair Ryback seconded, to approve the Minutes from the January 15, 2025 Governing Board and Mental Health Commission Special Joint Meeting. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Cernal, Gardner, Guzman, Mundy, and Wilkerson; Vice-Chair Ryback; and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: GB Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Christensen, Garcia, Roy, and Watson.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT

Executive Director Placide stated February was Black History Month and acknowledged the resilience, strength, and perseverance of Black communities throughout history. He then reported that during the Community Forum Stakeholder Meeting held on January 29, 2025, a total of seventy-three attendees were given the option to vote on the six concepts selected by both the Mental Health Commission and the Governing Board during its joint meeting held last month regarding the BHSa and reversion items, and provided the following order of importance as decided by the voters:

1. Purchase existing building to create Homeless Bridge Housing (OC Model)
2. Developing an Internship, Residency, and Training Department at Tri-City Mental Health Authority
3. Scattered Site Housing
4. Purchase existing building to create a Drop-In Center and PSH for 25 adults (Riverside Model)
5. Purchase existing building - Combine with an Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program (LA Model)
6. Expand FSP - Tri-City Mental Health Authority's Homeless Outreach Multi-Disciplinary Team (HOT-MDT)

Vice-Chair Ryback commended the turn out of the Stakeholder Meeting, commenting on the good engagement.

Commissioner Wilkerson inquired if the approval was to move forward with all six projects. Executive Director Placide stated the next steps will be presenting the stakeholders vote to the Governing Board for review and approval, then move forward with the Stakeholder Process with plans. Commissioner Wilkerson further inquired if only one project would be presented to the Board. Executive Director Placide stated all six projects will be presented in order of priority, noting that fiscal feasibility will be also taken into consideration.

Commissioner Mundy clarified the items are listed in priority order, but execution will be dependent on feasibility.

Vice-Chair Ryback asked what the percentage of votes that each proposed project received. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated that percentages were not calculated; however, reported that Item #1 received ten votes; Item #2 received six votes; Item #3 received four votes; Item #4 received three votes; Item #5 received two votes; and that Item #6 received zero votes.

Commissioner Mundy clarified every attendee that chose to vote received only one vote.

Commissioner Guzman sought clarification regarding the voting online during the stakeholder meeting, noting that he was not able to figure out if he had joined the meeting or not. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford explained that on-line attendees were also allowed to vote. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria recommended for future meetings asking a test question to online attendees to confirm the platform was working.

Sara Rodriguez, MHSA Programs Manager, confirmed the audience were asked to select the items that were their priority via Q&A, and based on their vote the order of priority was selected, noting that on-line responses were confirmed. Vice-Chair Ryback asked if attendees provided their top choice or top three choices. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated stakeholders provided their top three choices by selecting which items were their first choice and so on.

Commissioner Cernal inquired about the difference was between Items #1 and #5. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford explained that the OC Model in Item #1 is a bridge housing model providing interim shelter and life skills, allowing community members to stay up to 18 months; and that Item #5's LA Model is more of a club house serving as urgent housing for TAY 18-25, which would provide hygiene, sleep, and food for up to 16 nights and will work to identify more permanent housing. Executive Director Placide added staff will work on identifying a basis for the unserved population.

Commissioner Gardner inquired if the community members staying up to 18 months will have any requirements or accountability. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated that it is currently a skeleton program and the requirements would be decided later on, noting that the program would be adjusted based on need and it will be a collaboration with Clinical and Wellness Center staff.

Commissioner Wilkerson stressed the need for accountability, stating she heard of an issue with a facility in Pomona and inquired about the outcome. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated the facility was Hope4Home and is not TCMHA owned; however, a meeting to discuss the matter had been arranged and to also find out how TCMHA can further assist in the future.

Executive Director Placide sought additional feedback from the MHC in connection with the proposed project or the selection process in general.

Chair Henderson reminded the MHC that the Governing Board would discuss the ideas further at its next meeting and encouraged the Commissioners to attend and observe.

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford talked about the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Community Wellbeing Grants and announced that today the Information Meeting about the grants would take place and that a mandatory Bidder's Conference would be held for those that submit an Application. She encouraged the Commission to inform anyone that might be interested, especially considering government funding is unsure and the grants are assured funds.

Commissioner Wilkerson inquired if they were annual grants. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated they are annual, and individuals can apply annually, up to three years.

Commissioner Cernal asked if the grants are for established programs or new programs, and how much money is available. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated that the grants are for communities that support wellbeing so it varies, noting that the grant is worth it to apply because with guidance a community can qualify, and that grants are up to \$10,000.

Commissioner Guzman stated his organization had applied twice, and they have used the funding to start a program and launch their efforts until they obtained alternative funding, and stated that TCMHA started the seed.

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated that one of the goals of the CWB grant is to also learn how to apply for other grants.

MHSA Program Manager Rodriguez distributed flyers for the CWB grant Information Night and Bidder's Conference. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated that electronic flyers would be also distributed.

Executive Director Placide then talked about the Wellness Center activities and other programs offered to the community.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Vice-Chair Ryback reported that the Pomona Valley Hospital had started discussions about partnering with the TCMHA Mobile Crisis Care Unit.

Commissioner Gardner stated that since TCMHA has crisis procedures and was in contact with Violence Prevention in the City of Pomona, if TCMHA received notification or data of overdoses or shootings. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated TCMHA sometimes received notification, but the Mobile Crisis Care Team is partnering with all law enforcement agencies, school districts, and other agencies to figure out how to work together and receive notifications. Executive Director Placide stated the police departments all work differently and it will take time to see how the cities work.


Commissioner Cernal stated that on January 30th, the Claremont Jocelyn Center toured the Therapeutic Community Garden and gave great reviews and expressed appreciation for the tour and activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:08 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of February 11, 2025, was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk