



MINUTES

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

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

CALL TO ORDER Vice-Chair Ryback 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: Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair
Carolyn Cockrell, GB Member Liaison
Sandra Christensen
Ethel Gardner
Frank Guzman
Laura Mundy
Danette E. Wilkerson

ABSENT: Anne Henderson, Chair
Clarence D. Cernal
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 FEBRUARY 11, 2025, MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

There being no comment, Commissioner Guzman moved, and Commissioner Mundy seconded, to approve the Minutes from the February 11, 2025, Mental Health Commission Regular Meeting. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Commissioners Gardner, Guzman, Mundy, Wilkerson, and Vice-Chair Ryback. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: GB Liaison Cockrell; and Commissioner Christensen. ABSENT: Commissioners Cernal, Garcia, Roy, Watson; and Chair Henderson.

II. PRESENTATION – OVERVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH STUDENT SERVICES ACT (MHSSA) SUB-GRANT: ROUND 3

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria reported that the entire Grants office is made up entirely of Erin Sapinoso and it supports the mission of TCMHA by looking at funds available and talked about the grants cycle. She explained that the grants cycle starts with research, progresses towards qualification, solicitation, implementation, and finally project planning; and pointed out that the grants office is the principle contact for funding and is responsible for project planning, research, qualification, and solicitation pre-award and implementation and stewardship post-award. She then talked about the constituents: Program/Project Staff, partners and consultants, Best Practices, IT, Facilities, Administrative Support, Finance and Accounting, and the Governing Board and Mental Health Commission; and provided a list of the recent grants awarded to the community, Sub-grantees: Round 1 and Round 2, stating that it allows TCMHA to support youth in the community. She then provided key dates for Round 3, stating the application was released on February 3, 2025 and the Bidder's Conference was held on February 27, 2025, and it is expected to award contracts by June 19, 2025, and noted that the last date of sub-grantee project activities will be June 30, 2026 and the last day of TCMHA MHSSA grant project will be December 31, 2026. She also provided the eligibility requirements and stated the priority is given to school districts, schools, and nonprofits within the three cities; that the total available funding in Round 3 is \$210,000 and that estimated award amounts are \$30,000; and discussed the application checklist which is available on TCMHA's website and also Erin Sapinoso's contact information.

Vice-Chair Ryback inquired when the decisions would be made. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated June 2, 2025 and that the applications are due on March 31, 2025.

Commissioner Wilkerson inquired if the applicant had to attend the Bidder's Conference. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria replied in the negative, noting it was not a requirement.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT

Executive Director Placide began reported on the priorities set forth by Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne after his discussions with them regarding the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) transition, and enumerated those of the City of Pomona as follows:

- 1) FSP Treatment Teams (MH General and MH Housing)
- 2) Rehab Abandoned Motel(s) – Emergency Shelter, Interim Housing
- 3) Increase services with Hope for Home (Beds and Facility)
- 4) Homeless Outreach Team – Nights, Evening, Weekends team
- 5) Resource Center and/or Interim Housing for Teen Mothers & TAY
- 6) Scattered Site Housing – long history of relationships with landlords

He stated each city has allotted spots available at the Hope4Home Homeless Shelter but the capacity is not always reached, noting that the Pomona Police Department would like a triage bed for individuals that are brought in. He then discussed the issue of individuals not wanting the top bunk bed available, which is an issue across all through cities. Commissioner Mundy inquired about the reason. Executive Director Placide replied he did not know, but individuals refuse to use it.

He then talked about the following City of Claremont's priorities:

- 1) FSP Treatment Teams (MH General and MH Housing)
- 2) Crisis Outreach & Homeless Outreach Team – Nights, Evening, Weekends team
- 3) Increase in Reserved Beds/Services with Hope for Home Shelter
- 4) Emergency/Interim/Permanent Housing Site –TBA (designated property)
- 5) Additional Rental Assistance and supportive services

He then discussed the City of La Verne's priorities below and reported that it had expressed interest in integrating with HMIS. He explained that authorization may be a challenge, but the goal is to have some form of communication when an individual comes into the city and to know what kind of services they have received:

- 1) FSP Treatment Teams (MH General and MH Housing)
- 2) Supportive Services for a Coordinated MH and Homeless Response Project – Hub for dedicated Services/Treatment, Clinical Training / Collab with University of La Verne, City of La Verne, etc.
- 3) Crisis Outreach & Homeless Outreach Team – Nights, Evening, Weekends team
- 4) Increase in Reserved Beds/Services with Hope for Home Shelter
- 5) Integrated communication portal for communication with City of La Verne, Tri-City, others re: unhoused and crisis mental health services.
- 6) Increase in MH trainings for City of La Verne

He also indicated that the next steps are posting the plan for Public comment, leading up to the Public Hearing in April and then returning to the Governing Board and State for final approval.

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated information for the Public Hearing had been posted on the TCMHA website, and flyers have been distributed within the community and to the Commission.

GB Liaison Cockrell asked when the Public Hearing will be held. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated it will be held April 8, 2025. JPA Administrator/Clerk stated the Public Hearing will be held during the next regular meeting of the Mental Health Commission.

Vice-Chair Ryback asked how Home4Home has specified beds. Executive Director Placide stated the City of Pomona owns Home4Home so they have the most beds but it is offered county wide and each entity has designated slots. He stated the issue is when an individual goes to Hope4Home and states they are from a certain city, that counts as a bed; however, the Police are asking for beds to be readily available when they bring individuals. Vice-Chair Ryback suggested the emergency beds could be the top bunks. Executive Director Placide said they are hoping to improve upon the process by either creating additional or triage slots.

Commissioner Guzman inquired if TCMHA released statements regarding the work done with Hope4Home, commenting that a recent statement article was released regarding Claremont contributing money to Hope4Home, but the response was asking why Claremont was seemingly sending individuals to Pomona instead of assisting themselves; and further inquired if TCMHA could release a statement or educate the community on the process. Executive Director Placide stated it sounded like a public relations issue that TCMHA may be able to help clarify, noting that it would be beneficial to educate the public that Pomona is not taking in more homeless individuals, that instead it is assisting the surrounding areas.

Commissioner Guzman commented that the education of the community on the process would be overall beneficial. Executive Director Placide stated it is as a result of a lack of resources.

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated that H4H is a beautiful facility with many resources available to the community.

Commissioner Guzman stated that currently the perception of Hope4Home is not positive and individuals state they are not welcome. Executive Director Placide stated it is a good resource, but it may not be enough, and added that TCMHA is invested in the issue but can only serve those with a Mental Health diagnosis and that is the priority.

Commissioner Mundy inquired if there was a way to label bottom bunks to individuals with mobility issues and top bunks for others. Executive Director Placide stated he did not want to speak for Pomona and Hope4Home; however, ideas from the Commission will be forwarded to H4H.

Executive Director Placide spoke about the Media Roundup in his monthly report that covered Prop 1, and reported that California was in the middle to ending phase of applying for substance abuse certification that would allow the state to offer more services. He stated currently individuals are sent to Oregon, Arizona, or Nevada for substance abuse facilities and treatment. GB Liaison Cockrell asked if that was because facilities are less expensive in those areas. Executive Director Placide stated he did not know why California did not have more facilities available, and that the DMH did not focus on substance abuse or co-occurring disorders; however, TCMHA is looking to expand into services.

Commissioner Gardner inquired if Hope4Home tests individuals for drugs or alcohol in their system. Executive Director Placide stated he did not think individuals are tested; however, he was unsure. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated individuals cannot use drugs or alcohol on campus; however, they can use outside the facilities and come back. Executive Director Placide stated Hope4Home has a no eject/no reject policy and other than general safety concerns over weapons, there is no restrictions on admittance. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated they have a light out at 10pm policy, which is a challenge for individuals that work late.

GB Liaison Cockrell inquired how an individual gains access and how long they can stay. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated there is a reception area where individuals check in and they can stay up to 90 days, noting that staff at H4H assist the individual with employment and a more stable housing situation and will allow an individual to stay longer if needed. Executive Director Placide stated that is the reason the focus was on rehabilitating abandoned hotels to alleviate the need for housing. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated there is a transition time and the additional housing would help. Executive Director Placide stated that is where the landlord relationships would be ideal.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Guzman stated that the Pomona Pride Center will host a scholarship fundraising brunch at The Historical Society of Pomona Valley on March 29, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sara Rodriguez, MHSA Projects Manager, announced that on April 8, 2025, a Public Hearing for the MHSA will be held during the MHC meeting and encouraged everyone to review the Plan and make a comment.

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford reminded everyone it was Green Ribbon Week, and stated that ribbons, flyers, and events calendars were available to promote the event.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:21 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of March 11, 2025, was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk