



## **MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) APRIL 8, 2025 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Mental Health Commission met in a Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 3:46 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 3:46 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  
Sandra Christensen  
Ethel Gardner  
Frank Guzman  
Danette E. Wilkerson

**ABSENT:** Clarence D. Cernal  
Mildred Garcia  
Laura Mundy  
Janet R. Roy

#### **STAFF**

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

#### **PRESENTATION**

Chair Henderson presented an Award of Recognition to outgoing Mental Health Commission members Joan Reyes and Twila Stephens for their leadership and dedicated service to Tri-City Mental Health Authority. Former Commissioner Toni Watson was also going to be recognized but she was not available to attend and receive her award in person.

At 3:49 p.m., Vice-Chair Ryback arrived at the meeting.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 11, 2025, MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

Chair Henderson opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

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

### **II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT**

Executive Director Placide reported that the City of Los Angeles has a pilot program that diverted almost 6,000 individuals with mental health symptoms and issues out of the justice system, and noted that TCMHA will be eligible to participate in this program and receive funding. He then acknowledged the cutting of 11 billion in public health grants and reminded those in advocacy groups to remain vigilant and speak publicly, noting that it will affect TCMHA's Mobile Crisis Units, Coordinated Specialty Care, Mental Health Crisis Services, and additional Crisis service which are pilot projects for youth and the community and early intervention programs. He added that the State of California might choose to eliminate direct grants, and encouraged action from individuals to make their voice heard.

## **COMMISSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Commissioner Guzman inquired if TCMHA had plans for advocacy efforts at state capital that the Commission can support. Executive Director Placide stated that TCMHA is a member of CBHDA and CalMHSA which advocate on behalf of TCMHA, and that we could do something locally to bring more awareness and reach out to local legislators. He added that a resource fair is being organized and information for representatives and senators can be provided to the community there.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joan Reyes stated that it would be beneficial to collaborate with NAMI. Executive Director Placide stated TCMHA has connected with NAMI but he is not aware what NAMI is doing regarding advocacy.

## **PUBLIC HEARING - MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA)**

### **A. OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING**

Chair Henderson announced that the Public Hearing was for the Tri-City Mental Health Authority's MHSA Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2025-26; and that the Mental Health Commission and TCMHA staff would share some of the details of the update and ask for the public's feedback, noting that TCMHA's MHSA Projects Manager Sara Rodriguez would facilitate the Public Hearing.

At 4:03 p.m., Chair Henderson declared the Public Hearing open.

**B. COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS (TIMELINE)**

Sara Rodriguez, MHSA Projects Manager, discussed the timeline of the stakeholder engagement and Community Planning Process for Fiscal Year 2025-26, which began in Fall 2024 and explained that existing TCMHA programming underwent review; that on March 7th, the draft of the Annual Update was posted for a 30-day public review and comment; then progressed to today's Public Hearing on April 8th and that a request for Governing Board approval will follow and it will be presented at its meeting of April 16th; thereafter, the Plan would be submitted to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the Behavioral Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission (BHSOAC) in May 2025, subject to Governing Board approval.

**C. PROPOSALS APPROVED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-25**

MHSA Projects Manager Rodriguez talked about the approved proposals during Fiscal Year 2024-25, and how they will progress into Fiscal Year 2025-26, specifically with PADS Phase II, an Innovation project and part of a multi-county collaboration that will begin on July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029, noting that the majority of stakeholders (87.5%) voted in support of implementing it, 0% said no, and 12.5% were unsure.

**D. TRANSFER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SUPPORT PROGRAM (CSS) FUNDS**

MHSA Projects Manager Rodriguez then discussed the transfer of CSS funds and stated that TCMHA proposes to update its Fiscal Year 2024-25 MHSA Program Annual Update to utilize existing unspent CSS funding to support the completion of the Claremont Gardens Senior Housing Project in an amount not to exceed three million dollars. She reported that the Plan Amendment was posted for a 30-day Public Comment and received no feedback; thereafter, it was then presented to the Mental Health Commission at its meeting held on November 11, 2024, and to the Governing Board at its meeting held on December 18, 2025, and it was approved and adopted. She then talked about TCMHA expanding temporary supportive housing options for TCMHA clients within the three cities, stating that the proposal is to allocate \$5.2 million dollars in CSS excess funding to support unmet needs in the community and to avoid reversion of funds. She explained that in January 2025, TCMHA approached the community to seek information regarding where they would like the funds to be distributed, noting that the community provided various recommendations and their top three priorities were: 1) purchasing an existing building and renovating it, 2) purchasing pre-existing units, and 3) increasing beds in Hope for Home shelter. She then discussed transferring \$3 million of excess funds from CSS to Workforce Education and Training (WET) and Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CFTN), dividing it evenly among the two, pointing out that the CSS Plan receives the largest portion (76%) of MHSA funding and excess funding is allowed to be transferred and reallocated to other programming.

**E. TCMHA'S MHSA ANNUAL UPDATE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

MHSA Projects Manager Rodriguez highlighted the Full Service Partnership (FSP) under the CSS Plan, is a "wrap around the entire client", and provided data regarding the number of individuals served between Fiscal Year 2022-23 to Fiscal Year 2023-24 in Older Adult and Adult noting that it increased from 265 to 520, and TAY and Children increased from 225 to 267 served. She then shared a Success Story from FSP staff of an individual that had multiple co-morbidity concerns including homelessness, substance use, healthcare needs, skills and money management; and through all levels of support gained independent living skills, obtained permanent housing, and maintained sobriety.

She then highlighted the Community Navigators program and provided data about the linkages increase from 1,371 during Fiscal Year 2022-23 to 1,888 during Fiscal Year 2023-24, noting that the highest request was for basic needs, then shelter and housing, and other category requests that included birth certificates and ID vouchers to individuals. She then shared a Success Story of an unhoused single parent and child that the Community Navigators were able to place them in a motel for one month in a motel, then linked to another crisis housing resource until they were eventually placed in Section 8 housing, noting that their circumstances changed from simply surviving to thriving. She then talked about Prevention and Early Intervention and discussed stigma reduction and suicide prevention and provided data regarding outreach and engagement and the increased distribution of promotional materials from 8,342 in Fiscal Year 2022-23 to 12,093 in Fiscal Year 2023-24 and people engaged from 1,404 to 2,462, stating that the primary clients are from Pomona at 1,047, with 556 from La Verne, and 859 in Claremont; and highlighted the various stigma reduction programs and events such as Courageous Minds, Creative Minds, Directing Change, and Green Ribbon Week. She next shared a Success Story at a Creative Minds Paint and Sip event that brings the program to small business owners and engages the community, noting that businesses have expressed wanting more events and have received an overall favorable response and have waiting lists for future events. She then provided data regarding the School Partnership Team/School Based Services Program and stated that 201 individuals received SPT interventions, with 2369 individual therapy services and only 3 crisis; and reported that individuals are gaining the desired coping skills from the services provided; and then shared a Success Story about staff working on building connections with Claremont Unified School District which resulted in an increase in referrals from every Claremont elementary school creating an overall growing TCMHA presence. She also discussed the Innovations Plan and shared an update on the PADs program, stating that by March 2024 two new team members were trained for participant sign-up; that a specialized version of the PADs platform was developed for law enforcement and hospital staff; and that a marketing subcontractor completed the project's logo and produced new branding materials to boost outreach efforts. Lastly, she provided statistics on the remaining two programs WET and CFTN, noting that WET has seen increases from 27 Service Learner Hours during Fiscal Year 2022-23 to 510 in Fiscal Year 2023-24, applications from 11 to 23, and trainings from 7 to 40, with a total of 1,189 trainings completed through Relias which is a great learning resource, and commented that it is a big commitment to be a service learner. Regarding the CFTN Plan, she reported that during Fiscal Year 2023-24 most of the 2008 parking lot expansion project was completed; that the network infrastructure was upgraded at the Wellness Center, Claremont Administration Building, and 2001 Garey MHSA Building; that the rejuvenation project for the TCG was largely completed; and that the office remodel project was completed at the MHSA Administration Office at 2001 Garey building.

#### F. MHSA FUNDING SUMMARY (FINANCIAL SUMMARY)

MHSA Projects Manager Rodriguez provided a Financial Summary and explained that the components are broken down differently and the funding percentages for CSS is 76%, PEI 19%, INN 5%, and WET and CFTN are sustained by transferring excess funding from CSS, noting that 51% of PEI funds are required to go to the 0-25 age population which is considered an underserved population and 51% of CSS funds is required to go to FSP, and provided the estimated MHSA funding, expenditures and unspent fund balances for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

G. NEXT STEPS

MHSA Projects Manager Rodriguez stated that after today's MHSA Public Hearing, the next step is for the MHC to decide whether or not to endorse the MHSA Annual Update; if endorsed, then staff will present it to the Governing Board for its approval; thereafter, then the Plan will be submitted to DHCS and BHSOAC by May 2025, if approved. Lastly, she acknowledged and thanked the staff and community involvement for their efforts and hard work and feedback.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Wilkerson stated she attended the Paint and Sip event and Courageous Minds, and offered her praise, noting that it does not happen enough. PEI Program Supervisor Lisa Naranjo stated these events were fairly new but staff have developed waiting lists, and it is expected that similar events will be held more often in the future as staff has built good relationships with business owners and are expanding to other businesses.

Vice-chair Ryback referred to the Financial Summary and inquired if the prudent reserve amount is sufficient and if there are standards that we have to adhere regarding specific amounts for prudent reserve. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated that MHSA has a certain percentage cap and BHSA has a lower cap, noting that TCMHA currently has the maximum amount allowed under prudent reserves.

I. CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING

At 4:35 p.m., Chair Henderson closed the Public Hearing.

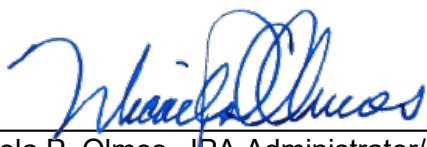
**III. DECIDE ON A RECOMMENDATION TO THE TCMHA GOVERNING BOARD ABOUT THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) ANNUAL UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26**

There being no discussion, Commissioner Wilkerson moved, and Commissioner Christensen seconded, to recommend to the TCMHA Governing Board to approve and adopt the Authority's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: GB Liaison Cockrell, Commissioners Christensen Gardner, Guzman, Wilkerson, Vice-Chair Ryback, and Chair Henderson. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Cernal, Garcia, Mundy, and Roy.

Vice-Chair Ryback acknowledged and praised staff for all the work performed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:38 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its meeting of April 8, 2025, was adjourned. The Mental Health Commission will meet next in a Regular Joint Meeting with the Governing Board to be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk