



MINUTES

GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR JOINT MEETING

December 17, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.

The Regular Joint Meeting of Governing Board and the Mental Health Commission was held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 5:02 p.m. in the MHSA Administrative Office located at 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Leano called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

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

GOVERNING BOARD

PRESENT: Jed Leano, City of Claremont, Chair
Wendy Lau, City of La Verne, Vice-Chair
Lorraine Canales, City of Pomona, Board Member
Sandra Grajeda, City of Claremont, Board Member
Paula Lantz, City of Pomona, Board Member
Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, City of Pomona, Board Member

ABSENT: None.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

PRESENT: Anne Henderson, Chair
Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair
Clarence D. Cernal, Commissioner
Sandra Christensen, Commissioner
Frank Guzman, Commissioner (arrived at 5:07 p.m.)
Laura Mundy, Commissioner

ABSENT: Mildred Garcia, Commissioner
Ethel Gardner, Commissioner
Janet R. Roy, Commissioner
Danette E. Wilkerson, Commissioner

STAFF

PRESENT: Ontson Placide, Executive Director
Steven Flower, General Counsel
Diana Acosta, Chief Financial Officer
Elizabeth Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer
Seeyam Teimoori, Medical Director

Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services
Natalie Majors-Stewart, Chief Compliance Officer
Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

PRESENTATION

➤ **ADVANCING PSYCHIATRIC ADVANCE DIRECTIVES (PADS) IN CALIFORNIA**

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford, and Project Director Kiran Sahota presented the second-quarter report.

At 5:07 p.m., Commissioner Guzman arrived at the meeting.

Project Director Sahota provided an overview of the history of Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs), noting that for 30 years patients have had the ability and rights to make advanced medical decisions. In 2023, the first legislation supporting PADs was received and described that PADs were tools for self-determination that allows individuals to take control, advocate for themselves, make informed choices, and become more inclined to comply with medication and seek medical care. She explained that PADs are intended to be completed before a behavioral crisis occurs; that when created during a period of clear mental capacity, PADs give individuals the opportunity to identify supportive measures and express preferences for care and medication. She noted that PADs are legal directives owned by the individual and cannot be shared without consent, and stated that there are two types of PADs: 1) Instructive PADs, which provide treatment instructions; and 2) Proxy PADs, which designate a durable power of attorney. She explained that in California, individuals may choose one or both options and the process is entirely voluntary; and that therapists or family members cannot remove or add information. She reported that PADs is a multi-county project that began with Phase I which focused on creating a digital registry, standardizing language, and developing a single PAD template. Accomplishments included building the registry, conducting training, beta testing the platform, securing legislation, creating professional access, completing branding, and evaluating technical outcomes. Beta testers expressed enthusiasm, noting that the process helped them learn more about themselves. She then discussed Phase II which began in July 2025, with counties taking three months to onboard and starting implementation in October. The project partnered with SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) and generated nationwide conversations, with additional partnerships under consideration. Current efforts include educating law enforcement and hospitals, with all three local cities actively participating, with the goal to align with individual preferences to reduce arrests and incarcerations. She added that social media campaigns are underway, and by February 2026, all crisis teams in participating counties will be trained, and law enforcement training is scheduled for April 2026, followed by hospital training.

Project Director Sahota then showed a video currently posted on PADs website (padsca.gov) that explains PADs use, purpose, and how to create one. Lastly, she expressed appreciation to TCMHA for its support and participation.

Board Member Lantz inquired about the reason for Alameda County participating in Phase II, but not in Phase I. Project Director Sahota explained that all counties were given the opportunity to join during Phase I; however, some counties chose not to participate, while others requested to join when Phase I was underway, and these were asked to wait until Phase II.

Vice-Chair Lau inquired whether law enforcement would be able to search for an individual in the PAD database during a behavioral crisis; and if PADs can be changed at any time and whether two signatures are required for each update; and how the signer's identity is verified when updating a PAD. Project Director Sahota replied that dispatch and law enforcement are being trained to ask about PADs, and will be provided guidance on asking relevant questions if a PAD is not available, noting that access to a PAD requires the individual's consent. She also confirmed that PADs can be updated at any time, and two signatures are required; that by 2030, digital notarization will be available, and that verification apps used by DMV and government agencies will be utilized to confirm digital signatures. MHC Vice-Chair Ryback added that regular medical advance directives require a notarization or two witnesses. Project Director Sahota stated that PADs follow the same process when a durable power of attorney is included.

➤ **REPORT ON THE CALIFORNIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL (CBHPC) 2025 DATA NOTEBOOK: WELLNESS AND RECOVERY CENTERS IN CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

Commissioner Clarence Cernal provided an overview of the Data Notebook, describing it as an educational resource that contains statewide information and serves as a collaboration tool, noting that the notebook was designed to highlight key data, spotlight important trends, and showcase agency activities on this year's topic that focused on Wellness and Recovery Centers. He explained that a MHC Ad Hoc Committee was formed, consisting of Commissioners Cernal and Wilkerson, including TCMHA staff members Sara Rodriguez, MHSA Projects Manager, and Gamaliel Polanco, Wellness Center Manager. He reported that the committee reviewed data, completed the required survey, and prepared the presentation for the Governing Board and Commission. He then explained that the designation of Wellness and Recovery Centers is to support individuals dealing with mental illness and substance use disorders (SUD). He then talked about the role of Wellness Centers, emphasizing their importance in community-based recovery efforts. He indicated that the Tri-City Mental Health Authority (TCMHA) Wellness Center was highlighted as being rooted in the recovery model and described as the "heart and soul of TCMHA", characterized as a gathering place—a space for healing, connection, and support, and a welcoming community resource offering transportation services and conducting satisfaction surveys. He then provided an overview of services provided at the Wellness Center which included arts and crafts activities, Transitional Age Youth (TAY) programs, senior services, employment workshops, and anger management classes. He also provided information regarding considerations that were discussed regarding the historical context of Wellness and Recovery Centers which the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) first examined their role and potential in 2011. Now, more than a decade later, the current Data Notebook has revisited this concept in light of changing policy landscapes, evolving community needs, and local program developments. Lastly, he stated that the CBHPC will synthesize county responses and publish a comprehensive report which will be available at the CBHPC website, along with previous Data Notebook reports.

Board Member Canales asked how TCMHA Wellness Center services could reach individuals in the community, particularly those who were unhoused. WC Manager Polanco explained that the center functioned as an outreach hub but did not have a dedicated outreach team; however, it TCMHA maintained an outreach team that provided assistance. He explained the Wellness Center operated from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and engaged in outreach through community events, which included significant interaction with unhoused individuals.

Board Member Canales then inquired about services for veterans. WC Manager Polanco stated that the Wellness Center actively sought to engage veterans and approached services with the philosophy of filling gaps where community resources were lacking' and if services were already available elsewhere, the center focused on connecting individuals to those resources, noting that veterans were often more receptive to interacting with other veterans rather than individuals who were simply empathetic.

Board Member Canales also asked whether the center continued to collaborate with the Pomona Unified School District (PUSD). WC Manager Polanco replied in the affirmative and added that the center tailored partnerships to meet community needs, and partnered with any organization willing to collaborate, including Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), Transitional Age Committee (TAC), and school districts.

Discussion ensued how unhoused individuals are engaged when they came to the Wellness Center since it is not a treatment facility but a social engagement hub that provides resource connections, which links individuals to treatment teams; and offered job fairs, computer labs, and resume-writing assistance for those seeking housing and employment.

Board Member Ontiveros-Cole expressed concern about the increase in mental illness among unhoused individuals and emphasized the need for current statistics. MHSA Projects Manager Rodriguez committed to providing data from the Point-in-Time (PiT) count, noting that with the passage of Proposition 1, housing and support for unhoused and at-risk individuals had become a higher priority, and planning efforts were underway to address previous gaps in services.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 11, 2025 MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

General Counsel Flower announced that Board Member Lantz would abstain from voting on Agenda Item No. 12 due to a potential conflict of interest as she is a member of the Los Angeles County Continuum of Care Board.

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

There being no further comment, Board Member Grajeda moved, and Board Member Canales seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following vote: Board

Members Canales, Grajeda, Lantz, and Ontiveros-Cole; Vice-Chair Lau; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 17, 2025 GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting of November 17, 2025.”

3. ONTSON PLACIDE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT

Recommendation: “A motion to receive and file.”

4. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER MONTHLY REPORT

Recommendation: “A motion to receive and file.”

5. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER MONTHLY REPORT

Recommendation: “A motion to receive and file.”

6. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT

Recommendation: “A motion to receive and file.”

7. DANA BARFORD, DIRECTOR OF MHSA AND ETHNIC SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

Recommendation: “A motion to receive and file.”

8. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER MONTHLY REPORT

Recommendation: “A motion to receive and file.”

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 827 APPROVING THE NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CALPERS RETIREMENT CONTRACT TO INCLUDE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES’ PENSION REFORM ACT (PEPRA) LANGUAGE

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 827 approving the Notice of Intention to Approve an Amendment to the contract between TCMHA and CalPERS to include PEPRA language.”

10. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 828 STABLISHING THE 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE OF THE TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 828 establishing the dates, time, and place where the Governing Board and the Mental Health Commission Meetings are held.”

11. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 829 APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF KNOWLEDGE SCHOOL FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 829 approving an Agreement regarding mental health services with the City of Knowledge School.”

12. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 830 APPROVING THE SUBCONTRACTOR AGREEMENT FOR THE HUD CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LACDA); AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AND ANY AMENDMENTS THEREAFTER

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 830 Authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Subcontractor Agreement No. CA0800L9D002416 with LACDA for the HUD Continuum of Care Program, and any amendments thereafter, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.”

NEW BUSINESS

13. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 831 AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF \$1,000,000 FROM ITS CAPITAL FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS (CFTN) PLAN FUNDS FOR TENANT IMPROVEMENTS AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Chief Financial Officer Acosta presented a proposal for tenant improvements to a new office space intended to accommodate staff and incorporate necessary technology upgrades. Commissioner Guzman inquired whether computer improvements were separate from the proposed budget. Chief Financial Officer Acosta explained that these improvements were included within the overall allocation of one million dollars. Commissioner Cernal inquired if improvements were for current facilities; and Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied in the negative, noting that the improvements were for new offices.

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

There being no further comment, Vice-Chair Lau moved, and Board Member Canales seconded, to approve Resolution No. 831 authorizing the expenditure of CFTN Funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 for tenant improvements and technology infrastructure. The motion was carried by the following vote: Board Members Canales, Grajeda, Lantz, and Ontiveros-Cole; Vice-Chair Lau; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

14. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 832 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH 1902 ROYALTY DRIVE, LLC FOR OFFICE SPACE, INCLUDING TENANT IMPROVEMENTS, LOCATED AT 1902 ROYALTY DRIVE IN POMONA, CALIFORNIA

Chief Financial Officer Acosta reported that lease for four offices are located at 1902 Royalty Drive, the sister building of 1900 Royalty Drive in Pomona where the TCMHA children’s clinic is located. She indicated that the proposed improvements for these suites would be funded through the just approved CFTN Plan allocation.

Board Member Lantz asked whether there were plans to purchase the building. Chief Financial Officer Acosta explained that an attempt had been made to purchase the property; however, the owner, who also owned an adjacent building, was not offering it for sale at this time, noting that the location was an excellent fit for the organization.

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

There being no further comment, Board Member Grajeda moved, and Vice-Chair Lau seconded, to approve Resolution No. 832 authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute Lease Agreements with 1902 Royalty Drive, LLC for office space. The motion was carried by the following vote: Board Members Canales, Grajeda, Lantz, and Ontiveros-Cole; Vice-Chair Lau; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

15. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 833 AWARDING A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT TO CENTRESCAPES, INC FOR MAINTAINANCE LANDSCAPE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,779, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2029, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND TWO ADDITIONAL YEARS, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

Chief Financial Officer Acosta reported that four TCMHA's buildings require landscape maintenance services, that an RFP was issued, and proposals from three different companies were received, noting that the review process focused on identifying the best option to meet operational needs and accommodate future growth, and staff was recommending to award the contract to Centrescapes, Inc. for three years, with an option to extend an additional two years.

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

There being no further comment, Vice-Chair Lau moved, and Board Member Ontiveros-Cole seconded, to approve Resolution No. 833 awarding the Agreement for Maintenance Landscape Services to Centrescapes, Inc., and authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Three-Year Agreement with Centrescapes, beginning January 1, 2026, in the amount of \$75,779, with an option to extend two additional years, totaling \$130,165 for five years. The motion was carried by the following vote: Board Members Canales, Grajeda, Lantz, and Ontiveros-Cole; Vice-Chair Lau; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

16. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 834 APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH EXECUTIVE LINGUISTICS AGENCY, INC. FOR LANGUAGE TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES

JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos informed the Board about SB707, which expands the Brown Act requirements for how meetings are conducted, and will require improved language access to be implemented by July 2026. She then recommended having additional translating and interpreting services currently available as there will be an increase of these services, noting that TCMHA currently has a contract with Language Line, but staff would like to have an additional option. She stated that TCMHA had previously worked with Executive Linguistics; however, the contract had expired, and indicated that translating and interpreting services were fee-based and the agreement could be canceled at any time giving a 30-day notice.

Vice-Chair Ryback inquired whether the language services were intended for clients or for meetings; if Language Line would remain the main resource and if the new vendor would serve as a backup; and if staff had explored other providers. JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos clarified that the services applied to anything requiring interpretation or translating services; that Executive Linguistic would provide staff with additional options; and that interpreters must be certified, noting that continuing with this vendor would be the best solution since TCMHA had worked with them in the past.

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

There being no further comment, Board Member Lantz moved, and Board Member Ontiveros-Cole seconded, to approve Resolution No. 834 approving an agreement with Executive Linguistics Agency, Inc. for language translation and interpretation services. The motion was carried by the following vote: Board Members Canales, Grajeda, Lantz, and Ontiveros-Cole; Vice-Chair Lau; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

17. ELECTION OF GOVERNING BOARD LIAISON TO THE TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION AFTER A VACANCY EXISTS

JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos reported that former Governing Board Member Carolyn Cockrell was the City of La Verne community representative, and also the Governing Board Liaison to the Mental Health Commission (MHC), a position required under WIC (California Welfare and Institutions Code) and incorporated into the MHC Bylaws, to increase bilateral communication between the Board and MHC. She explained that since a vacancy exists, the Board should appoint a new liaison. Executive Director Placide added that Cockrell had also met the requirement of being an educator and expressed a preference for selecting someone with an education background, if possible.

Discussion ensued about the MHC membership requirements.

Chair Leano nominated Board Member Grajeda to be the Board liaison to the MHC, and Board Member Lantz seconded the nomination.

Vice-Chair Lau inquired if the liaison position was required to be filled today before the Governing Board vacancy. JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos responded that it was not required; however, noted that a new member would not have GB experience compared to Board Member Grajeda. Vice-Chair Lau then inquired if the recruitment deadline to apply for the MHC vacancy was December 15th. JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos confirmed that the application period had closed but would reopen if necessary.

Commissioner Cernal inquired whether the recruitment could remain open indefinitely. JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos explained that a recruitment is conducted only when vacancies exist, and is extended until the vacancy is filled.

Vice-Chair Lau reminded the Board to be mindful of age considerations for youth applicants during the Commissioner selection process since the appointment term is for three years.

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

There being no further comment, the motion to designate Board Member Sandra Grajeda as the Governing Board Liaison to the Tri-City Mental Health Commission, was carried by the following vote: Board Members Canales, Grajeda, Lantz, and Ontiveros-Cole; Vice-Chair Lau; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

GOVERNING BOARD / MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION COMMENTS

Board Member Canales announced that a meeting was scheduled for January 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in Claremont, to address concerns about unhoused individuals along Foothill Boulevard and related safety issues, noting that she hoped TCMHA would assist in addressing these concerns. Executive Director Placide confirmed that TCMHA had already met with all three cities and was planning to attend said meeting. Board Member Grajeda inquired if the meeting would be public; and Executive Director Placide stated that it would be operational in nature, involving key stakeholders from the three cities to develop a coordinated plan.

Chair Leano spoke about the broader challenges surrounding homelessness, noting that many issues stemmed from federal government actions at HUD and a lack of state investment, and pointed out that the Los Angeles County was contracting its budget by \$200 million, which would significantly impact services. He then emphasized that homelessness had always been part of TCMHA's work, but given current budget realities, it had become an elevated priority. He then urged the Board to consider how TCMHA should position itself over the next two to five years, anticipating new responsibilities and shifting priorities, stressing the importance of being proactive rather than reactive and setting the organization up for success in the face of these changes.

Board Member Lantz shared updates from the Los Angeles County Continuum of Care Board, noting that recent NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) guidelines placed a 30% cap on permanent supportive housing funds, which could result in two-thirds of individuals in subsidized housing losing their homes. She then stated that a week ago the NOFO was pulled leaving no framework in place; and that recent meetings had focused on prioritizing who would remain housed, noting that mental illness was no longer considered a disability under the program, underscoring the enormity of these changes.

Vice-Chair Lau suggested that in the new year, TCMHA should prepare a State of Mental Health report, including prevention and wellness, and present during City Council meetings to increase public awareness of TCMHA's role, and recommended doing this quarterly or biannually. Executive Director Placide concurred, noting that existing services had varied entry points and that TCMHA takes a back seat to Housing-First agencies, though it continued to provide co-occurring services.

Board Member Canales added that outreach should also include school board meetings since families should also be aware.

Board Member Lantz commented that the community often saw mental health and substance abuse issues firsthand and believe that they are the only homeless population, and people who have unfortunate circumstance such as high medical bills and loose their home, frequently became lost in the system.

Chair Leano stated staff had clear direction to where Board comments were headed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT – MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

At 6:34 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission, its Regular Joint Meeting with the Governing Board of December 17, 2025, was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 3:30 p.m., in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:34 p.m., the Governing Board recessed to a Closed Session pursuant to Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Gov't Code § 54957). Title of Position of Employee Being Evaluated: Executive Director.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

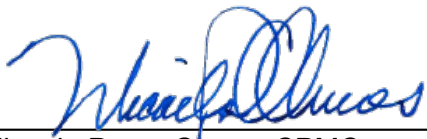
At 7:16 p.m., the Governing Board reconvened to an Open Session.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

There was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:16 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board, its Regular Joint Meeting with the Mental Health Commission of December 17, 2025, was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela Perez Olmos, CPMC
JPA Administrador/Clerk