



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD JULY 20, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.

The Governing Board met in a Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 5:06 p.m. in the MHSA Office located at 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

CALL TO ORDER Board Member Nolte called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

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

GOVERNING BOARD

PRESENT: Carolyn Cockrell, City of La Verne, Board Member
Paula Lantz, City of Pomona, Board Member
John Nolte, City of Pomona, Board Member
Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, City of Pomona, Board Member
Wendy Lau, City of La Verne, Alternate Board Member
Wand, Katie, City of Claremont, Alternate Board Member

ABSENT: Jed Leano, City of Claremont, Chair
Ronald T. Vera, City of Claremont, Board Member

STAFF

PRESENT: Rimmi Hundal, Executive Director
Darold Pieper, General Counsel
Diana Acosta, Chief Financial Officer
Dana Barford, Interim Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services
Natalie Majors-Stewart, Chief Compliance Officer
Ken Riomales, Chief Information Officer
Trevor Bogle, Controller
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

Board Member Ontiveros-Cole moved, and Alternate Board Member Lau seconded, to: 1) find that subsequent to the posting of the agenda, it came to the attention of the agency that numerous staff and other individuals affiliated with TCMHA have been exposed to or been infected by a Covid-19 variant, thus making it impractical to assume that in-person meetings can be held in the future; 2) find that there is a need for the agency to take immediate action because the Ralph M. Brown Act requires that certain actions be taken to permit the TCMHA Governing Board and Mental Health Commission to hold teleconferenced meeting in lieu of in-person meetings; and to 3) add to the Consent Calendar the matter to adopt Resolution 665 authorizing teleconferenced meetings in the form and substance of Resolution 653 adopted May 18, 2022, to the agenda as authorized by Section 54954.2(b)(2) of the Brown Act. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Alternate Board Members Lau and Wand; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Nolte,

and Ontiveros-Cole. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Vera; and Chair Leano.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Board Member Nolte opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

There being no comment, Board Member Lau moved, and Board Member Ontiveros-Cole seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Alternate Board Members Lau and Wand; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Nolte, and Ontiveros-Cole. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Vera; and Chair Leano.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 15, 2022 GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting of June 15, 2022.”

2. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 662 CONTINUING THE TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF VACATION AND COMPENSATORY CASH OUT POLICY AND PROCEDURE NO. I.17 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 662 continuing the Temporary Expansion of Vacation and Compensatory Cash-Out Policy No. I.17 through June 30, 2023.”

3. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 663 ADOPTING REVISED ON-CALL POLICY AND PROCEDURE NO. II.20 EFFECTIVE JULY 21, 2022

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 663 establishing the revised On-Call Policy and Procedure No. II.20, effective July 21, 2022.”

3A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 665 AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TELECONFERENCING REQUIREMENTS DURING A PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953 (AB 361)

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 665 finding and declaring that it is unsafe to meet in person during the proclaimed state of emergency as a result of the continued threat of COVID-19, and authorizes the Executive Director, or her designee, to continue utilizing teleconferencing accessibility to conduct the Authority’s public meetings pursuant to Government Code § 54953.”

NEW BUSINESS

4. AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE T-MOBILE ENTERPRISE ADOPTION

Chief Information Officer Riomales, reported that in response to ongoing issues staff has been having with the agency’s Verizon cell phones coverage, management decided to launch a pilot

program to determine whether or not T-Mobile is an acceptable solution for Tri-City and its catchment area. Therefore, approximately 20 users piloted T-Mobile cell phone services, primarily within the crisis team since they are out in the field and could provide the best use case to determine if the coverage would be conducive for Tri-City business; that the overwhelming responses were that it was, and referred to the comments from the users listed on the agenda report, which almost unanimously recommended to explore T-Mobile. Accordingly, staff recommends that the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to negotiate further with T-Mobile, noting that preliminary negotiations with T-Mobile show that the agency can save at least 20% of the annual expenditure in addition to receiving better service.

Board Member Nolte opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

There being no further comment, Board Member Lantz moved, and Board Member Cockrell seconded, to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate terms for the transfer of all Tri-City mobile lines to T-Mobile, contingent on agreeable terms. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Alternate Board Members Lau and Wand; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Nolte, and Ontiveros-Cole. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Vera; and Chair Leano.

5. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 664 ADOPTING THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET AND CASH FLOW BUDGET FOR FY 2022-23

Chief Financial Officer Acosta reported that over a couple of weeks ago staff distributed a binder with the proposed Budget to the Governing; she then provided an overview of the Budget stating that it is roughly one hundred pages; that the first few pages provide historical information about Tri-City and assumptions used in preparing the budget; that the tab 'Agency Total' contains the consolidated operating budget which is the entire budget broken up into two main sections which she calls "two sides of the house" because everything MHSA related is one side of the house and everything non-MHSA related is the other side of the house; she then pointed where the Operating Budget Statement and the Cash Flow Consolidated Statements were located, as well as the details that lead up to those consolidated pages.

Board Member Lantz commented that she found the explanations at the beginning of each section very helpful in terms of the big picture and how things operate, as well as how the cash flow from the various departments or programs are utilized.

Chief Financial Officer Acosta expressed appreciation for Board Member Lantz's comment, and stated that she will talk about the actual cash coming in and the cash coming out; she then pointed out that the Operating Budget Statements are on an accrual basis and the Cash Flow Statements focus on projected cash that will be received and what is going to exit, and explained the revenue and payment process. She then talked about the projected debt change in cash for the year which will be approximately one hundred thousand dollars more than what we started the year with; that the entire budget also assumes that all vacancies will be filled, thus, more services will be provided, and discussed expenditures and projected revenue.

Discussion ensued regarding the assumption of cash going to be received in the current year for services provided as result of new hires; and how MHSA projections are based on CBHDA (County Behavioral Health Directors Association) projections provided throughout the year and of the DOF (Department of Finance).

Alternate Board Member Wand stated that Chair Leano was sad for not being able to attend today's meeting; that he expressed appreciation and thanked staff for the preparation of the Budget.

Board Member Nolte opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

There being no further comment, Board Member Nolte moved, and Alternate Board Member Wand seconded, to approve Resolution No. 664 adopting Tri-City's FY 2022-23 Operating Budget and Cash Flow Budget. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Alternate Board Members Lau and Wand; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Nolte, and Ontiveros-Cole. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Vera; and Chair Leano.

6. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON AFTER A VACANCY EXISTS

JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos stated that according to the Joint Powers Agreement of the three cities, the Board is required to select a Vice-Chairperson after a vacancy exists, which resulted with the departure of former Vice-Chair Robin Carter; and that it would be appropriate to select a new Vice-Chairperson.

Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to move forward with the election of the vice-chairperson since there were a couple of Board Members absent; the Board unanimously decided to move forward with the selection of a vice-Chairperson.

There being no further discussion, Board Member Lantz moved, and Board Member Ontiveros-Cole seconded, to elect City of Pomona Council Member John Nolte as Vice-Chairperson to TCMHA Governing Board. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Alternate Board Members Lau and Wand; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Nolte, and Ontiveros-Cole. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Vera; and Chair Leano.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS

7. RIMMI HUNDAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Hundal reported that July is Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Mental Health Awareness Month formerly known Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month; that the word minority is not used anymore because it marginalizes other communities; spoke about Bebe Moore Campbell who was a mental health advocate of the black community and other underrepresented and historically marginalized communities, and formed the NAMI chapter in Inglewood. She then talked about the National 988 suicide and crisis lifeline, which began on Saturday, July 16th, and can assist people who are experiencing a mental health crisis and in need of immediate help; that at this moment, it is the same help that was provided on the national line, just with a new number which is much easier for people to remember; that next month she will provide information about how Tri-City will be working in partnership with the county department of mental health services for this new lifeline. She then stated that she continues to attend staff meetings and discuss with them their vision for Tri-City, what they are looking for, how we can all work together, and to also giving them her vision for Tri-City; and that she continues reaching out to city manager and thereafter will be the chiefs of police.

Board Member Ontiveros-Cole commented that the 988 crisis line will be very important for all the states because it will be nationwide and it is really going to help a lot of people since it will be easier to dial and get and get the help.

8. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Financial Officer Acosta reported that she added to her monthly a section that provides additional updates on MHSA funding, noting that Tri-City received an additional \$4.7 million, and that based on the latest budget projections, additional funding will be received in the approximate amount of \$16.4 million for this next fiscal year; and discussed the MHSA budget updates. She then provided a reversion update and explained how funding is tracked over the three years that we have to spend the funds, which is in line with the stakeholder process and the annual MHSA update that the Board adopts annually.

Discussion ensued about the MHSA programming, how funding is monitored so that it is not at risk of reversion; about the importance of transferring and maintaining funding for the WET Plan and the CFTN Plan because of the need to maintain an educated and trained workforce, as well as the continued change in technology; and about the stakeholder process which decides how excess funding can be allocated to WET and CFTN plans.

9. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER REPORT

Executive Director Hundal reported that Chief Clinical Officer Renteria is working with her team on the MHSSA and MCU grants that Tri-City was awarded; that 12 public sessions have been held and has received valuable feedback on mental health services.

Vice-Chair Nolte inquired about the process to incorporate the feedback received into programming.

Executive Director Hundal explained that staff is currently using a planning grant and that more funding will be received to implement the feedback received to create programming, as well as develop a five-year strategic plan for Tri-City, noting that she is in the process of contacting independent consultants to assist staff in drafting the five-year strategic plan and have the ability to apply and obtain more grants.

10. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Medical Director Teimoori reported that Tri-City is committed to be part of the training of future doctors, and discussed how staff is working with two medical schools and a family residency program in our area; that staff makes sure they have hands-on experience, noting that Tri-City provides a very dynamic way training such in the office, in the field, and a different level of psychiatric care.

Alternate Board Member Lau inquired which teaching hospitals Tri-City is working with. Medical Director Teimoori replied with the family residency program in Pomona Valley Hospital, Western Medical School, and UCR.

Board Member Lantz expressed appreciation for the success stories that both Dr. Teimoori and Chief Clinical Officer Renteria include in their monthly reports.

11. DANA BARFORD, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MHSA AND ETHNIC SERVICES REPORT

Interim Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford stated that under stigma reduction, Tri-City staff participated in the Claremont Summer Camp with 120 youth in grades first through six, to introduce the concept of stigma reduction, mental health awareness, mental wellbeing, and coping skills, noting that it was all age appropriate and all tied to activities that were designed to implement this, noting that a NAMI animated video was played for the kids, and the older kids did some art activities. She then shared that Tri-City's Summer Camp takes place every year for kids ages seven through twelve at the Wellness Center, pointing out that it is our 12th year; and that for the second year, Tri-City staff hosted a senior retreat which is a month long virtual event, and that once a week staff meet with the seniors individually and drop off packets to engage them and to make sure they know how to work the computer and the activities that they will be doing to help them learn coping skills, self-care, positive self-talk, and overall wellness.

12. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT

Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart reported that LACDMH (Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health) will be having a tri-annual state review, where the DHCS (Department of Health Care Services) will review the DMH system of care and randomly selected client charts from all the legal entities under that Mental Health Plan (MHP); that for the first round, Tri-City did not have any charts selected; that for round two, we will be notified in August if we have any selections. She then stated that it is audit season, and Tri-City will be having a medical recertification audit for the adult clinic site; and LACDMH will be on site next Wednesday to conduct a physical plan inspection, perform a review of Tri-City's service delivery, of the agency policies and procedures and protocols, of credentialing process, and of the credentialing of our providers. She added that Tri-City will have its certification for the children's system of care in October.

13. KEN RIOMALES, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER REPORT

Chief Information Officer Riomales reported that the Cerner implementation is well underway and the go live is slated for August 16th; that IT is also currently working on an infrastructure project, pointing out that there is the need to increase bandwidth and capacity within the agency to be able to service and have better internet service, and that it is anticipated to also go live roughly around August 16th.

Vice-Chair Nolte opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

There being no further comment, Board Member Cockrell moved, and Board Member Ontiveros-Cole seconded, to receive and file the month of July staff reports. The motion was carried by an unanimously vote.

GOVERNING BOARD COMMENTS

Discussion ensued regarding a meeting taking place in August to renew and adopt the resolution to continue to have virtual meetings, which is required every 30 days.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public stated that when a loved one requires a 5150 hold, the community should not rely only on the police to be the social workers because it is not fair to them nor to the person having a crisis; that she and other community members are trying to change the trajectory of what happens to someone who is having a crisis, to help the police to deescalate the situation, and for the family member to be able to handle the crisis. She indicated that the problem here in Claremont is that there are not enough beds and more capacity is needed, or either a new hospital or a bed urgent care center on this side of town. She then shared her struggles, and those of her son who suffers from a mental health illness, who had already been taken three different times to Charter Oaks Hospital, and they simply do a 'catch and release'. However, she expressed gratitude for the police because they helped her by sending her son to the ER at the Pomona Valley Hospital where she requested that her son not be transferred to Charter Oaks Hospital or any other hospital, and they kept him for 25 days. She explained that Charter Oaks is a good hospital and its staff is great; however, the psychiatrist department needs major help because they are releasing people too quickly. She also talked about hospitals not admitting patients with Medi-Cal because they do not get paid.

Another member of the public commented that Tri-City has been amazing, noting that the PACT team has been to his home and they were fantastic with his son, who has been hospitalized six times already under the 5150 hold and was sent to Charter Oak Hospital, and every time he was released too soon, noting that even someone who is not a clinician can clearly see that his son is not stable. He then stated that the system is broken; that his son is incarcerated in downtown LA, and thankfully the judge during the arraignment agreed that his son should go to mental health court, but he will have to wait another two weeks in jail. He also stated that he wants to collaborate with Tri-City and make sure that his son can either get into the AOP at Tri-City or outside of Tri-City. He also sought help to find a way to stop the 'catch and release' hospital practices; and then talked about his son's hospitalization failures.

Board Member Cockrell commented that school counselors run into this when they have a student who is threatening and there is nobody to take them other than Charter Oaks, and when parents hear how far the distance is, oftentimes they decide not to do it.

Executive Director Hundal indicated that there is a shortage of beds in the State of California; that there are some Bills being introduced as a result of strong advocacy happening at the state level to increase beds; however, until those Bills are adopted, there is not much that can be done. She also indicated that every county has a patients' rights department and recommended that they contact them and inform them of the issues at Charter Oaks.

Board Member Ontiveros-Cole expressed sadness for this situation and stated that something needs to be done.

Discussion ensued regarding establishing an ambulance service that can provide services for the three cities so that patients do not have to wait 12 hours for help.

Vice-Chair Nolte thanked the public comment, noting that they have been heard, and that the Board will be thinking about how they can assist.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:25 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board its meeting of July 20, 2022 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., via teleconference pursuant to Government Code § 54953.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk