



MINUTES

**GOVERNING BOARD / MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
REGULAR JOINT MEETING
DECEMBER 21, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Governing Board and the Mental Health Commission held on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 5:02 p.m. its Regular Joint Meeting Via Teleconference pursuant to Government Code § 54953, which allows the continuation to hold meetings without gathering in a room in an effort to minimize the spread and mitigate the effects of COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease of 2019).

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
John Nolte, City of Pomona, Vice-Chair
Carolyn Cockrell, City of La Verne, Board Member (joined at 5:45 p.m.)
Paula Lantz, City of Pomona, Board Member (joined at 5:07 p.m.)
Wendy Lau, City of La Verne, Board Member
Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, City of Pomona, Board Member (joined at 5:14 p.m.)
Ronald T. Vera, City of Claremont, Board Member

ABSENT: None.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

PRESENT: Wray Ryback, Vice-Chair
Carolyn Cockrell, GB Member Liaison (joined at 5:45 p.m.)
Clarence D. Cernal, Commissioner
Joan M. Reyes, Commissioner
Twila L. Stephens, Commissioner
Toni L. Watson, Commissioner

ABSENT: Anne Henderson, Chair
Isabella A. Chavez, Commissioner
Nichole Perry, Commissioner
Alfonso Villanueva, Commissioner

STAFF

PRESENT: Rimmi Hundal, Executive Director
Darold Pieper, General Counsel
Diana Acosta, Chief Financial Officer
Liz Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer

Seeyam Teimoori, Medical Director
Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services
Natalie Majors-Stewart, Chief Compliance Officer
Kitha Torregano, HR Manager
Mary Monzon, Housing Manager
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE OF JOSEPH (JOE) LYONS, PH.D., FORMER TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER AND CITY OF CLAREMONT COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR

At 5:07 p.m. Board Member Paula Lantz joined the meeting.

Sharyn Webb, Mr. Lyons wife, was in attendance at the meeting.

Governing Board Chair Leano, stated on behalf of the City of Claremont and of Tri-City Mental Health Authority, that it is with tremendous sadness the announcement of the passing of Joseph Lyons, former Claremont City Council Member and Mayor, and Governing Board Member for TCMHA; that Dr. Lyons passed away surrounded by his loved ones and expressed condolences to his family and friends. He then reported that in the last week, the flags at Claremont City Hall were lowered half-staff in his honor; that Dr. Lyons served 2 terms on the Claremont City Council from March, 2011 to November, 2018, on the Tri-City Mental Health Governing Board, the 6 Basins Watermaster Board, the Pomona Valley Transit Authority, the Cities Committee on Aging, the Foothill Transit, and the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Board. He then provided Dr. Lyons biography, stating that he was born in Fresno and raised in the suburbs of Boston until his mid-teens when his family moved to San Diego; that he earned a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Microbiology from San Diego State University, and later earned a PH.D. in Immunogenetics from Vrije Universiteit Medical School in Amsterdam in the Netherlands; that he began his career in medical research at the University of California, San Diego, at the School of Medicine, from 1972 to 1983, and he retired from that position that he helped create in the Infectious Diseases Research Laboratory at the City of Hope National Medical Center where he worked from 1983 to 2009; that he was a resident of Claremont since 2002 with his beloved wife, Sharyn Webb; that Dr. Lyons was the proud father of 4 sons and was actively involved in all levels of youth, sports, and organized activities in which his sons participated; that he was a founding president of the San Dimas High School Academic Boosters Club and was a community member on a number of school advisory boards, including the WASC Accreditation Committee; that more recently he served on the boards of the Pomona Valley Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Inland Valley Chapter of Death Penalty Focus, and on the Los Angeles County Continuum of Care for homelessness.

Board Member Vera shared that he met Dr. Lyons through NAMI and got to know him quite well; that Dr. Lyons had encouraged him to apply to be on this Board; that he was shocked to learn about his passing; that Dr. Lyons was just a treasure; and that Board Member Vera just enjoyed their many conversations about how to deal with homelessness, mental illnesses, and other matters; and expressed his extreme condolences to Dr. Lyons' family and how much he appreciated Dr. Lyons' friendship.

Board Member Lantz stated that she also was very sad to learn of Dr Lyons passing; that she served with him on the Tri-City Mental Health Governing Board for many years, and more recently he was the San Gabriel Valley Consortium representative on the LA Continuum of Care for homelessness and that she was an at-large representative on that same group; that they both had many very long discussions about LAHSA and several programs that were supposed to be providing care, noting that she and Dr. Lyons were very vocal advocates for San Gabriel Valley there; and that she will miss their great conversations and collaboration on the subject of homelessness in the San Gabriel Valley.

Executive Director Hundal stated that she was very sad and shocked to hear about the passing of Dr Lyons; that she met him at a NAMI meeting in 2008 when he was still working at City of Hope, noting that she was very impressed with his passion for individuals with a mental illness and for those suffering from homelessness; that he was always caring for, and the voice of, individuals that were unheard and unrepresented. She then shared that Dr. Lyons was part of Tri-City's first stakeholder process; and that based on his recommendation, Tri-City was the first agency in the State of California to implement Mental Health Aid with one-day trainings, noting that the National Council was impressed with Tri-City trainings, which was possible because of his vision for mental health; that Dr. Lyons also talked about building capacity in the community, noting that he was always an advocate for the community and very supportive of Tri-City staff. She then expressed her condolences to his wife Sharyn and family; stated that Tri-City was available for her; and thanked her for attending the meeting today.

Chief Financial Officer Acosta expressed her condolences to the family of Dr. Lyons; and also expressed her appreciation for his many years of service, noting that he was very dedicated to the community, to Tri-City's mission, and to the mission of mental health; and thanked Dr. Lyons' family for attending this meeting.

Commissioner Watson shared that when she joined the Mental Health Commission, she remembers Dr. Lyons and his passion for wanting to make the world a better place, which definitely inspired her. She then expressed her condolences.

Governing Board Chair Leano thanked Dr. Lyons' wife Sharyn, for being here tonight to allow Tri-City to express how much Dr. Lyons meant to this agency and to share it with her.

Since there was no quorum of the Mental Health Commission, the Governing Board Consent Calendar was taken out of order.

At 5:14 p.m. Board Member Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole joined the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR – GOVERNING BOARD

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

There being no comment, Vice-Chair Nolte moved, and Board Member Lau seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following vote, with Board Members Lantz and Vera abstaining from approval of Agenda Item No. 4 - the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting of November 16, 2022: AYES: Board Members Lantz, Lau, Ontiveros-Cole, and Vera; Vice-Chair Nolte; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Cockrell.

3. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 684 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. 684 finding and declaring that it 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.”

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 16, 2022 GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting of November 16, 2022.”

5. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 685 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY ADOPTING ITS 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 685, establishing the Governing Board and of the Mental Health Commission 2023 Meeting Schedule.”

6. APPROVAL TO RE-APPOINT ANNE HENDERSON AS MEMBER TO THE TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Recommendation: “Staff recommends that the Governing Board consider the reappointment of Anne Henderson as member to the Mental Health Commission for a three-year term expiring on December 2025.”

7. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 686 RATIFYING AND APPROVING AN ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE FOR LITIGATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 686 ratifying all expenses incurred and paid to date, and establishing a maximum budget in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for the Engagement.”

NEW BUSINESS – GOVERNING BOARD

8. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 687 ADOPTING CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY SCHEDULE TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW STATE MINIMUM WAGE REQUIREMENTS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023

Human Resources Manager Torregano reported that this is the last phase of the Governor’s seven year plan to raise the Minimum Wage Rate in California; that it is effective on January 1, 2023; that it brings the Minimum Wage Rate to \$15.50 per hour, which also increases the annual exempt rate for employees; and that this year that change will impact approximately ten Tri-City employees; and that this increase will result in a budget change of approximately \$31,000.

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

There being no further comment, Board Member Vera moved, and Board Member Lau seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 687 establishing a revised Classification and Salary Schedule for Tri-City Mental Health Authority effective January 1, 2023, to comply with the new State Minimum Wage requirements. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Lantz, Lau, Ontiveros-Cole, and Vera; Vice-Chair Nolte; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Cockrell.

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 688 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF POMONA FOR THE AUTHORITY'S USE OF THE CITY'S 'HOPE FOR HOME' YEAR-ROUND EMERGENCY SHELTER FACILITY

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria reported that this is the Second Amendment to the contract with City of Pomona for the Hope For Home Emergency Shelter, and pointed out the rate will remain the same for the 31 beds reserved for Tri-City; and that staff recommends to continue to offer this service to Tri-City clients by providing them with crisis shelter as needed. She also said that staff reviewed data to make sure that we are still at the right capacity number, which is the right number and the right amount to continue to serve Tri-City clients for emergency crisis shelter.

Board Member Lantz inquired about the utilization of those beds since the Hope For Home had been quarantined, but we continue to pay for periods of time when we cannot use the beds; and inquired how often this occurs. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria replied that staff spent some time over the summer working on the data, confirming that it looked a little different with the quarantine; however, after staff looked at several years of use, it was determined that that this seems to be the right amount of beds and data showed that we use these beds to capacity most years, even during the quarantine time. Therefore, it would not be a misuse of our resources to continue to pay at this rate; that Tri-City has a more effective daily census system to make sure that we are fully utilizing the capacity at the shelter; and that if there ever is a need to decrease or increase, staff will be able to determine this right away.

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

There being no further discussion, Board Member Lantz moved, and Vice-Chair Nolte seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 688 authorizing the Second Amendment to the Agreement with the City of Pomona to reserve and pay the sum of \$396,025 for the Authority's exclusive use of 31 shelter beds in the City's Year-Round Emergency Shelter, and authorizing the Executive Director to execute it effective July 1, 2022. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Lantz, Lau, Ontiveros-Cole, and Vera; Vice-Chair Nolte; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Cockrell.

10. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 689 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE DISPOSITION AND DEVELOPMENT (DDA) AGREEMENT WITH RESTORE NEIGHBORHOODS, LA, INC. (RNLA) FOR THE CLAREMONT GARDENS SENIOR HOUSING PROJECT AT 956 W BASELINE ROAD IN CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

Executive Director Hundal reported that at the request of Developer RNLA, staff was asking for an extension to close escrow on the project, explaining that unfortunately RNLA had delays in

obtaining final prevailing wages rates for small contractors and subcontractors, finalizing multiple performance bonds for the project, and obtaining the final documents for the funding from the County of Los Angeles. She pointed out that all of the processes necessary to finalize the project are well under way and it is expected to close escrow in late December or mid-January; however, staff are asking for an extension until March 31, 2023 to avoid any time constraints.

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

There being no further comment, Vice Chair Nolte moved, and Board Member Vera seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 689 authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Second Amendment to the DDA with RNLA to extend the escrow closing deadline to March 31, 2023, for the Claremont Garden senior housing project, at 956 W. Baseline Road in Claremont, California. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Lantz, Lau, Ontiveros-Cole, and Vera; Vice-Chair Nolte; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Cockrell.

11. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 690 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT ON BEHALF OF TCMHA AN AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,604,556 UNDER THE NO PLACE LIKE HOME (NPLH) PROGRAM COMPETITIVE ALLOCATION ROUND 4 APPLICATION

Housing Manager Monzon stated that Tri-City had partnered with Developer Cesar Chavez Foundation (CCF) and completed the No Place Like Home Grant Application, Round 4, early this year, which was approved in August. She explained that when the Application was submitted, there was a request for funds in an amount not exceed \$2,455,488; however, CCF did not include the request for capital improvements; and that this Resolution is updated to reflect the correct amounts.

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 Vera seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 690 authorizing the Executive Director to accept on behalf of Tri-City Mental Health Authority an award in the amount of \$3,604,556 under the NPLH Competitive Allocation Round 4 Application which includes \$2,437,123 for capital improvements and \$1,167,433 for Capital Operative Subsidy Reserve funds (COSR), for 8 units of permanent supportive housing in the West End Village Housing Project. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Lantz, Lau, Ontiveros-Cole, and Vera; Vice-Chair Nolte; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Cockrell.

12. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 691 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH GETACCEPT, INC. FOR ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE SERVICES FOR ONE YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,990.37, WITH AN OPTION TO RENEW FOR TWO SUCCESSIVE ONE-YEAR TERMS

Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart stated that staff was recommending that Tri-City enter into an agreement with GetAccept, a company that offers web based digital signature services, which is a very important and critical need for Tri-City right now since in the last two years the need for, and request for services to be provided via telehealth has significantly increased, noting

that working with GetAccept will allow Tri-City to more efficiently and securely obtain appropriate signatures on required client documentation in a remote manner.

Board Member Vera inquired how this service will work for those clients who may not have the capacity to sign, and if a guardian will be able to sign. Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart replied in the affirmative, pointing out that it is part of Tri-City's legal representative and consenting process; and that if there is a legal representative other than the client, those documents will go to that person.

Board Member Lantz inquired if this was a competitive process because she did not see in the agenda report any reference to having sent out a Request for Proposals or a Request for Bids or anything similar. Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart indicated that staff did not conduct a competitive process because the contract is under \$25k; however, staff reviewed several companies, including DocuSign, Adobe Sign, EFax, and that GetAccept was selected because they have the functionality, HIPAA security, and cost that is best suited to Tri-City's needs at this time.

Board Member Lau inquired if Tri-City has a policy that dictates the thresholds required for Board approval, or non-Board approval. Counsel Pieper replied in the affirmative, noting that the Board adopted a Purchasing Policy that governs these issues.

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

There being no further discussion, Vice-Chair Nolte moved, and Board Member Lau seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 691 approving an Agreement with GetAccept, Inc. for Electronic Signature Services in the amount of \$19,990.37 commencing on December 21, 2022, and terminating on December 20, 2023; with an option to renew for two successive one-year terms; and authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Agreement. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Lantz, Lau, Ontiveros-Cole, and Vera; Vice-Chair Nolte; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Cockrell.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS

13. RIMMI HUNDAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Hundal reported that staff is starting a new internal newsletter at Tri-City, noting that the first one will be published in January; that the goal is to help staff stay regularly informed about Tri-City's activities, and to engage and connect them to their colleagues and other departments tied to the organization's mission and values. She explained that working from home certain days a week does not allow that connection to take place; and that the first issue will highlight departments and teams about what they are doing, what they have accomplished in the last year, and what is coming up in the coming year. She also reported that Tri-City had its annual employee appreciation and recognition event, which took place virtually; described the activities that took place; and that 26 nominations for employee of the year were received; that the winner was Brittany Nguyễn, Community Capacity Organizer. She then stated that staff had its first leadership training call DiSC, a personal assessment to help improve communication, teamwork, and productivity in the workplace, noting that leadership learned ways to communicate with each other and to understand each other; and that it helped improve their communication; and lastly, that there were 8 new hires, and one separation last month.

14. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated that at this time we are just at the end of the calendar year, and finance department's attention is currently being turned over to preparing the annual budget and the MHSA budget.

At 5:45 p.m. Board Member Carolyn Cockrell joined the meeting.

Board Member Vera inquired about the actual amount that is subject to reversion, if Tri-City does not utilize it properly. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied that she does not have that actual number ready because it is still in the works.

Executive Director Hundal stated that there is no money currently at risk of reversion, and reported that Dana Barford and her team are putting a plan together to utilize the money that we have for next year, so that there will be no risk of reversion next year either.

Board Member Lantz inquired about the remodeling of the MHSA building, noting that the staff report indicated that plans have been approved, but it was on hold pending the updated electrical plan. Chief Financial Officer Acosta indicated that on the remodeling part, the electrical was the hold up; however, since the electrical project is now complete, staff is now working with the interior designer who has issued a Request for Proposals, and in two months staff will present the selected contractor to award the contract.

15. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria reported two small victories and progress in the way which are strengthening Tri-City's clinical programs: 1) the first team member became certified as a Peer Support Specialist through the State of California so that Tri-City can bill Medicaid, noting that hopefully in the next couple of months most of their team will be certified as Peer Support Specialists; and 2) that one clinical staff member became certified in the Child Parent Psychotherapy, a therapeutic modality for specifically for the 0-5 population, noting it is an area that we continue to grow because early intervention with the youngest families is often the most impactful; and explained the certification process. She also stated that Tri-City's Therapeutic Community Garden provided a workshop at a Cal Poly Pomona Veteran's Resource Center, a continued effort to reach to the 20 - 25 and under population; and that staff continue to make progress on the timelines to complete intake assessments as Tri-City is more staffed.

16. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Medical Director Teimoori explained that his report was in support of two agendas that he was planning to bring to the Board, but unfortunately, we did not get the M.O.U. approved on time by the Pomona Valley Hospital. He pointed out staff's efforts to increase and expand Tri-City's collaboration with family medicine program in terms of their education, and also in terms of them providing with their faculties primary care services in an ongoing basis by Tri-City providing offices in Tri-City's building.

17. DANA BARFORD, DIRECTOR OF MHSA AND ETHNIC SERVICES REPORT

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford reported that Access To Services, and the School Based Services program, are currently funded under 1991 Realignment funds; that an

Amendment to the MHSA Annual Update is currently posted for a 30-day comment period to have both programs transferred to MHSA, noting that the Access To Care program would be transferred to the Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan, at an annual cost of approximately \$755,000; and the School Based Services program transferred to Prevention and Early Intervention, in an approximate amount of \$817,000 annually; that after the 30-day comment period, the Amendment will be presented to the Mental Health Commission and the Governing Board next month for their consideration and approval. She then talked about two events that took place at the Wellness Center: 1) the Thanksgiving where turkey and food baskets are given to families; and 2) the family movie night and the Christmas Tree lighting event, noting that it was limited due to COVID restrictions.

18. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT

Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart provided a year review update on the agency's progress with the California Department of Health Care Services Cal AIM requirements, noting that the Board will be hearing about this for the next several years as Tri-City continues to implement the requirements. She pointed out that this is California's initiative to modernize the State's Medicaid program; thus, there is quite a bit of policy program design regulation changes that will be taking place. She then expressed happiness to report that staff had made great progress with a major Cal Aim milestone for this year that has a great impact on Tri City, including modifications to the criteria for accessing services based on the qualifications; that there are some other initiatives related primarily to standardizing screening tools across the State of California for both mental health plans and managed care plans, and payment reform, noting that staff is following the developments for some of next year's challenges specifically related to payment reform; however, staff will continue with our internal planning to ensure continued compliance of requirements.

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

There being no further comment, Vice-Chair Nolte moved, and Board Member Lau seconded, to receive and file the month of December staff reports. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Lau, Ontiveros-Cole, and Vera; Vice-Chair Nolte; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Commissioner Watson moved, and Commissioner Reyes seconded, to approve the Mental Health Commission Minutes of its Regular Meeting of November 8, 2022.

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

There being no comment, the motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Member Liaison Cockrell; Commissioners Cernal, Reyes, Stephens, and Watson; and Vice-Chair Ryback. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez, Perry, and Villanueva; and Chair Henderson.

2. REPORT ON THE 2022 DATA NOTEBOOK FOR THE CBHPC FOCUS ON THE 'IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ON: (1) THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN CALIFORNIA, AND (2) THE ABILITY OF COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) TREATMENT SERVICES IN 2020 AND 2021.'

Tri-City Mental Health Commission, with staff assistance, answered the Data Notebook questions pursuant to (W.I.C. 5604.2) to report each year to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC); and to the Tri-City Mental Health Authority Governing Board.

Director of MHS and Ethnic Services Barford announced that the Mental Health Commission AD Hoc Committee will present the Data Notebook; explained that again this year Tri-City had the opportunity to participate in this project hosted by the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, which takes all of this information from all the different counties and combine it together into one report that is presented to the California legislation. She then stated that Keri Zehm, Program and Outcomes Analyst Supervisor, met with staff and put together the outcomes.

Commissioner Reyes provided an overview of the Data Notebook 2022 for the California Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions, explaining that the Data Notebook helps the local boards and commissions meet their mandates under the Welfare and Institution Codes to report to the Planning Council each year about performance outcomes and their local behavioral health services; that this is an annual report completed by an Ad Hoc Committee of Tri-City Mental Health Commission, and presented to the Tri-City Governing Board, and submitted to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC). She then spoke about the importance of the Data Notebook because each year it focusses on a specific area of interest, with a variety of questions to be answered; and that the completed Data Notebook is provided to the CBHPC, who then compile the responses from the local mental/behavioral health boards/commissions into an overview report; and the report can be seen at: [Final Draft CBHPC 2020 Data Notebook Overview Report \(calbhbc.org\)](#). She indicated that the information obtained is used by the CBHPC to fulfill its mandate to inform the California Legislature about the status of mental health services in California; and that the Data Notebook AD Hoc Committee were Mental Health Commissioners Wray Ryback, Joan Reyes, Clarence Cernal, Tony Lynn Watson, and Al Villanueva, and the Tri-City staff were Kari Zehm and Dana Barford.

Commissioner Watson explained the process to prepare the Data Notebook which included forming the AdHoc Committee; discussed the questions; finalized the draft of the responses and completed the survey online prior to October 2022; and that the final step is presenting it to the Governing Board. She then stated that the topic selected for this year by the Planning Council is a focus on the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on the behavioral health of vulnerable populations in the California, foster youth, homeless individuals, and those with serious mental illness, and the ability of the County Behavioral Health Departments to provide mental health and substance use disorder treatment services in 2020 and 2021. She then discussed the points of stress on our county system for children and youth behavioral health services during the pandemic, which were an increased numbers of youth receiving services who reported significant levels of anxiety and major depression, with or without severe impairment; that based on the diagnosis data for the anxiety and depressive disorders, there was a slight increase in both anxiety and depression during the pandemic; and that ER data from Pomona Valley Hospital revealed that there a decrease in ER visits, possibly due to people's fears of going to the hospital rather than the need for ER services; that they learned that children in youth adapting to the changes

and increase in the need for various services was challenging; and trying to meet the needs of children and families with limited staff was also difficult. She pointed out that the top three concerns for our county, for children and youth services was 1) increased number of youth presenting for services who reported thoughts of suicide or other thoughts of self-harm; 2) increased need for youth crisis intervention by behavioral health crisis teams and or use of psychiatric emergency setting or crisis stabilization unit; and 3) an increased number of youth receiving services who reported significant levels of anxiety, with or without severe impairment.

MHC Vice-Chair Ryback reported that there were a number of different questions that the Planning Council provided, noting that they also provided some options to choose from, such as identifying the points of stress in our system for adult behavioral health services; that based on the diagnosis data, at Tri-City there were no differences in anxiety and depression during the pandemic; however, interestingly the Pomona Valley Hospital had a decrease in ER visits both for self-harm diagnoses as well as those seeking treatment for alcohol or drug use disorders, which points out again some of the fear factor about going to the hospital during the pandemic; and that it illuminates the need for outpatient treatment, which is what Tri-City provides; thus, if people cannot get the services in the ER, Tri-City is ready and available for people to reach out. She also stated that they answered which were the 3 top stressors for behavioral health needs of all the adults, which were increased numbers of adults receiving services who reported significant levels of major depression and anxiety, with or without severe impairment, and an increased numbers of those who are presenting for services involving thoughts of suicide or self harm. She stated that survey also asked if there were any comments or concerns that they wanted to share, noting that they indicated that Tri-City Mental Health was very adaptive to the needs of our community; however, staffing and reduced services from other agencies had an impact on providing services were challenging. She said another question was about what factors impacted Tri-City's ability to provide crisis intervention services, and it was noted that sometimes there was a lack of ambulance resources and it was difficult to transport people on a timely manner; however, during the pandemic Tri-City continued to provide crisis services both in the community and on-site. She then said that there were questions regarding staffing challenges and commented that every mental health organization has experienced it, noting that Tri-City has been using the following methods to meet staffing needs: utilizing telework practices; allowing flexibility in the work hours; hiring new staff and then providing various financial incentives such as hazard pay, teleworking reimbursement, etc. She reported that the survey also asked if the county (Tri-City) experienced any negative impact on staffing as a result of the pandemic, which we have been hearing for some time about some of the staff quitting or retiring, being out on quarantine, having issues with childcare, or with the children being at home, or not wanting to get the Covid-19 vaccine. She then discussed the challenges that presented significant barriers such as staffing challenges, family member illnesses due to Covid-19 and inability to interact, and language barriers; and if the pandemic had adversely impacted our ability to reach and serve our clients, noting that Tri-City has done such an amazing job in really being there for the community all through the pandemic by making sure to outreach and communicate to the community that Tri-City was open and available to help them which allowed to serve the unserved population. Lastly, she discussed the next steps, and indicated that she had submitted the Data Notebook online, and expressed happiness and being proud of the Commission Members for the work that they have done and for being very engaged in this process; that the AdHoc Committee had shared the results with the executive team and discussions and recommendations are pending.

Board Member Vera complemented the slide presentation because of the graphics that it contained and for being presented very concise, but full of information.

Commissioner Reyes pointed out that Dana Barford had put it together. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford thanked Karie Zhem for all of the data collection.

MHC Vice-Chair Ryback, on behalf of the Commission thanked the Governing Board for allowing them to present this information; all of the Commissioners that participated; and Keri Zehm and Dana Barford for putting this presentation together.

GOVERNING BOARD / MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION COMMENTS

Board Member Lau wished everyone happy holidays and encouraged everyone to take a break for their own mental health, by giving themselves and others a little bit of grace.

Chair Leano thanked all staff for their outstanding work this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

At 6:25 p.m., on consensus of the Mental Health Commission its Regular Joint Meeting with the Governing Board of December 21, 2022 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Mental Health Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, pursuant to Government Code § 54953.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board recessed to a Closed Session pursuant to: Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation (Gov't Code § 54956.9); Case Name or Reference: Patricia Kears v. Tri City Mental Health Authority, Warkitha Torregano, et al.; Case Number: 21PSCV00953; Venue: Los Angeles Superior Court.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

At 7:00 p.m., the Governing Board reconvened to an Open Session.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

There was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:01 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board, its Joint Meeting of December 21, 2022 with the Mental Health Commission was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, pursuant to Government Code § 54953.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk