



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD FEBRUARY 15, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.

The Governing Board held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. a Regular 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 5:00 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
Paula Lantz, City of Pomona, Board Member (joined at 5:02 pm)
Wendy Lau, City of La Verne, Board Member
Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, City of Pomona, Board Member
Ronald T. Vera, City of Claremont, Board Member

ABSENT: None.

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
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

CONSENT CALENDAR

At the request of Board Member Vera, Chair Leano pulled Agenda Item No. 2 from Consent Calendar for discussion.

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 Cockrell seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar. 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.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 18, 2023 GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting of January 18, 2023.”

3. APPROVAL FOR THE DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE OR DAMAGED I.T. EQUIPMENT

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the disposal of I.T. equipment listed on the I.T. Equipment List for Disposal-February 2023.”

NEW BUSINESS

2. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 697 ADOPTING THE AUTHORITY'S CLAIMS AND LITIGATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE NO. 1.25 EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 15, 2023

Board Member Vera referred to Section 2.2 2 of the proposed policy, and pointed out that it reads that the Authority shall retain the services of outside counsel, and commented that it seems that sometimes there may be some litigation or claims that can be handled by general counsel rather than having it automatically go to outside counsel.

General Counsel Pieper indicated that is certainly possible, depending on who is selected, noting that if a firm is selected, then they will be doing the litigation in-house and that it is a reasonable change; and that it would simply depend on the resources that Tri-City will have, but definitely someone who has expertise in typical claims is needed to handle it.

Chair Leano concurred with Board Member Vera's comment, noting that sometimes it may just call for a relatively simple matter just being handled in-house.

Board Member Lantz commented that after her review of the chronology of the current legal case, the need for this policy is imminently clear, and concurred with Board Member Vera's comment.

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 adopt Resolution No. 697, establishing the Authority's Claims and Litigation Policy and Procedure No 1.25, effective February 15, 2023, as amended. 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.

4. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 698 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF POMONA FOR THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SGVCOG) HOMELESS PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$69,500

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford reported that this particular item talks about how Tri-City community navigators are going to be administering the program on behalf of our three cities; that with the funding in the amount of \$69,500 they are going to support community members that

are late paying their rent or their utility bills as a result of the pandemic; that through this grant program individuals can apply for additional funding so that they can pay off the back utilities, rent, and to bring themselves current so that they can continue to move forward and be successful; and discussed the various services that can qualify under this grant such as showers, laundry services, meals, case management, trainings for sustainability on the housing first model; and that Tri-City navigators are very excited to get started.

Board Member Lantz inquired about the augmented services that would be provided under this grant, and if Tri-City will obtain housing vouchers in addition to what the City of Pomona already has. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated that she was not aware of the actual process for housing vouchers, but that the funding is separate from that to have the additional vouchers, and that she can get back to her about the grant program. She added that when the request comes in, staff has to check if it fits under these parameters, and then they are able to help as many people as possible.

Board Member Lantz inquired if any of the training under this grant involves the Mental Health First Aid training for our police departments, noting that this training was provided in the past and wants to know if this grant will help fund the continuation or reinstating of those services. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford replied that Mental Health First Aid has always been available under Tri-City community mental health training program, which is part of the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Plan; and that she will confirm with the trainer that she is working with the law enforcement in all three cities.

Vice-Chair Nolte inquired how the amount of \$69,500 was determined. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford replied that she did not have an answer today, but would be happy to get that information if he would like to know more about the grant process. Vice-Chair Nolte replied in the affirmative.

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 Ontiveros-Cole seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 698 authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Professional Services Agreement with the City of Pomona for the SGVCOG Homeless Program Grant in the Amount of \$69,500. 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.

5. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 699 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF DESK PHONE HARDWARE AND SUPPORT FOR 285 STAFF WORKSPACES AND COMMON AREAS FROM INTELLITECH, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,788.63

Executive Director Hundal reported that on June 15, 2022, the Governing Board approved the Capital Facilities and Technology Needs (CFTN) Plan, which includes a plan to replace and upgrade components of the overhead paging system for all agency buildings; that this purchase will replace all agency desk phones for staff as well as place a phone in all common areas for staff to use in the event of an emergency to broadcast a message of that particular site; that it will also ensure a standard uniform experience for staff while working on site in the agency buildings; and that it will allow for a hotel-space plan for easier transition of staff working in hybrid telework schedules; that Tri-City's IT Division secured 3 Bids, and recommends the approval for Intellitech, Inc., noting that funding is available under the CFTN Plan.

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

There being no further comment, Board Member Lau moved, and Board Member Cockrell seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 699 authorizing the purchase of desk phone hardware and support from Intellitech, Inc. in the Amount of \$36,788.63. 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.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS

6. RIMMI HUNDAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Hundal announced that February is a Black History month, during which we honor the impact that African-Americans have made in the United States, and discussed the various activities and events that Tri-City will hold throughout this month. She then provided an update on the recruitment for the general counsel, noting that our general counsel had submitted his resignation on January 12th, after serving Tri-City for more than 19 years; she indicated that Mr. Pieper was instrumental in guiding Tri-City through the bankruptcy and many other projects and contracts that we have done; and thanked him for his service; that the interviews for general counsel will take place on March 1st, the award of the contract on March 15th, and the commencement of work on March 16th. She also announced that the California Governor State of Emergency will end on February 28, 2023; therefore, the next meeting will be in person and held at the MHSA Building, located at 2001 N. Gary Avenue in Pomona.

Board Member Vera inquired about the recent lockdown. Executive Director Hundal reported that a person threatened to kill some staff on Tri-City grounds; thus, Tri-City immediately went into lockdown and alerted the police, as well as those individuals that were threatened; and discussed the various actions taken to prevent a tragedy; and that a week ago, a staff survey was conducted to find out if staff feel safe coming into work; that results were received this morning, and each director met individually with their staff. Board Member Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole inquired which location received the threat. Executive Director Hundal replied the threat was for 2008 N. Gary Avenue, but all the buildings were shut down, including the administration building; and everyone worked from home.

Discussion ensued whether to have the interviews for general counsel services in-person or via zoom. The Board decided to have them in-person, at Tri-City premises.

7. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Financial Officer Acosta reported that finance department is currently working on a 3-year budget for MHSA, and on the annual operating budget. She also indicated that the 2 capital improvement projects: 1) the improvements to remodel the administrative building is moving along and staff has submitted the plans to the City to obtain approval, thereafter, move forward with the RFP process; and 2) the community garden project, staff will be recommending the single bidder to this project, which is currently under contract negotiations, and expect to present for approval at the next Board meeting.

Board Member Vera inquired how will the fee-for-service will affect staff, and if it means that they will be required to do more reporting.

Chief Financial Officer Acosta stated that it is anticipated that there will be less reporting annually, noting that Tri-City is required to provide a Cost Report, and beginning next fiscal year, those requirements will go away. She added that she is assuming there will be some level of reporting, but the intensity of the production of the reports are expected to lessen.

Board Member Vera the inquired about the rate setting provided to the counties. Chief Financial Officer Acosta indicated that rates have now been set by the State and have been provided to the Counties; however, Tri-City has not received any rate information that pertains directly to Tri-City from the County.

8. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria talked about the clinical training that is provided to staff, such as the cognitive behavioral therapy, an evidence based practice, which has one the largest of research and base for efficacy, and across a presentation, across a diagnosis, and population; that it was provided by the Beck Institute, the Premier Institute of that training; that about 70 staff participated, and they are now applying this model in their treatment, noting that they hope to continue to develop; and that as the as a local mental health authority be able to provide the highest quality of care that can and develop our training program.

Board Member Cockrell stated that she appreciates the training that staff receives because it is probably is one of the things that goes a long way towards effective counseling and staff retention, since they feel effective in what they are doing.

9. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Medical Director Teimoori reported that he had provided statistics about the services that they provided during the month of January; and thanked the Governing Board for approving the MOU with the Pomona Valley Hospital so that they could re-start the pop up clinic; and that efforts continue to collaborate with the Pomona Valley Hospital for them to establish medical primary care offices in our building.

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

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford provided dates and times for upcoming stakeholder meetings, which will be held virtually, and for the upcoming meetings for the Community Wellbeing Grants, noting that staff will be connecting with current Community Wellbeing grantees to have access to individuals and cultural brokers so that they can build up that program.

11. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT

Executive Director Hundal reported that Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart is not feeling well and had to leave the meeting; and that Mrs. Hundal will be available to answer any questions.

Chair Leano stated that he hoped Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart feels better soon. He then opened the meeting for public comment; and there was no public comment.

There being no further comment, Board Member Cockrell moved, and Vice-Chair Nolte seconded, to receive and file the month of February 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.

GOVERNING BOARD COMMENTS

Governing Board Vera referred to Page 9 of the Agreement with the City of Pomona, under Section 3.2.12.4, Liability for Non-compliance, and stated that there is a typo because it cross-reference to Section 3.2.14.2; however, this section it does not exist. General Counsel Pieper indicated that he would look at it.

Board Member Lantz commented that during the Pomona Mayor's COVID-19 Committee, the Mayor mentioned funding that the City had received related to recovering from COVID-19, and also mentioned Tri-City because of the timeframes between referrals, and actually being able to be seen regularly for service, that perhaps finances could assist in facilitating services in terms of more staff or more space, and recommended that Executive Director Hundal connect with the City of Pomona to discuss this funding available. Executive Director Hundal indicated that she would contact the City of Pomona tomorrow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:40 p.m., the Governing Board recessed to a Closed Session pursuant to Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Gov't Code § 54956.9); 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 6:08 p.m., the Governing Board reconvened to an Open Session.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Chair Leano reported that the Governing Board had authorized additional funding for consulting services relating to the litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:08 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board its meeting of February 15, 2023 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk