



MINUTES

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

The Governing Board met in a Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 5:16 p.m. in the MHSA Office located at 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Leano called the meeting to order at 5:16 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
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
Seeyam Teimoori, Medical Director
Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

There being no comment, Board Member Vera moved, and Board Member Lau seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following vote, with Board Member Lantz abstaining from approval of Agenda Item Nos. 1 and 2: 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 FEBRUARY 1, 2023 GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Special Meeting of February 1, 2023.”

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 15, 2023 GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting of February 15, 2023.”

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 1, 2023 GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Special Meeting of March 1, 2023.”

NEW BUSINESS

4. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 700 AWARDED SDC ENGINEERING, INC. THE AGREEMENT FOR THE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY GARDEN AND PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT 2008 N. GAREY AVE. IN POMONA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$599,800; AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,800 FOR THE PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND \$20,000 FOR THE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

Chief Financial Officer Acosta reported that for the last few months she has provided updates regarding the Therapeutic Community Garden (TCG) Project, and expressed excitement to present it to the Governing Board for its consideration and approval; that Facilities Manager Alex Ramirez was also in attendance to answer any detail questions about the project plans; and pointed out that she had also provided them with a visual of what the garden will look like.

Board Member Ontiveros-Cole inquired where the garden was located. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied that it is adjacent to the clinic at 2008 Garey Avenue, to the north.

Board Member Vera inquired about the source of monies to fund this project. Chief Financial Officer replied that the project is being funded through the Capital Facilities and Technology Needs Plan under MHSA, and a portion of realignment for the parking lot portion of the project.

Chair Leano inquired if the garden was accessible from the clinic. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied in the affirmative, and that it is also visible from the street. Executive Director Hundal added that there is a gate that allows persons to walk from the clinic to the garden.

Chair Leano commented that the garden design was beautiful; commended staff for their hard work; and then 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. 700 awarding SDC Engineering the Therapeutic Community Garden and Parking Lot Project at Clinical Building located at 2008 N. Garey in Pomona, effective March 15, 2023; authorizing the Executive Director to execute the agreement in the amount of \$599,800; authorizing the budget amendments; and authorizing contingency amounts up to an additional 10%. 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. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 701 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES, INC. (FORMERLY KOFF & ASSOCIATES, INC.) FOR COMPLETION OF THE TOTAL CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY

Human Resources Manager Torregano reported that in January staff presented to the Governing Board the First Amendment to the Koff and Associates contract, revising the budget for its consulting services for TCMHA's classification and compensation study; that this First Amendment is being presented again because Koff and Associates has since been acquired by a new agency, Gallagher Benefit Services, and its new legal team had requested some revisions to that Amendment; and enumerated the changes which had been reviewed by TCMHA's general counsel Darold Pieper.

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

There being no further comment, Board Member Vera moved, and Vice-Chair Nolte seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 701 authorizing the Executive Director to execute the First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (Formerly Koff & Associates, Inc.) in the amount of \$52,388 to complete the Classification and Compensation Study. 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.

6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 702 AWARDING RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON THE AGREEMENT FOR GENERAL COUNSEL SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

Executive Director Hundal thanked Mr. Pieper, TCMHA's General Counsel, for his long service to TCMHA, pointing out that Mr. Pieper had submitted his Notice of Resignation on January 12th, after serving TCMHA for almost 20 years; that staff issued a Request for Quotes for general counsel services on February 3rd and three Quotes were received, noting that all three proponents were interviewed by the Governing Board of March 1st; that staff recommends that the Governing Board award the contract for general counsel services to RWG which was founded in 1954 and serves as general counsel to dozens of government entities; that RWG proposes Mr. Steven Flower to be the designated general counsel.

Chair Leano inquired if the contract included under its terms an at-will provision if either party wanted to discontinue the contract, it could be done at any time. Mr. Flower replied in the affirmative and that the purpose of the term was to set forth the rates over the three-year

term. Chair Leano further inquired, for purposes of evaluation, if it was built into the contract or if the Governing Board needed to establish it as a matter of policy. Mr. Flower stated that this provision is not included in the contract, and it could be built into the contract as they welcome any feedback; however, it is not RWG's policy. Chair Leano stated that he does not see the need to put it in the contract; however, he believes it would be helpful for them to visit this once a year.

Board Member Lantz indicated that the contract for general counsel services will start today, and inquired if Darold Pieper will be available during the transition.

General Counsel Pieper replied in the affirmative, noting that last month he mentioned to the Board that he was pleased to be available through the end of the month, under his existing arrangement for any transitional issues.

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

Steven Flower, of RWG, expressed gratitude to the Governing Board, staff, and to Darold Pieper, stating that Mr. Pieper was formerly a partner at RWG; that it is his privilege to attempt to step into his shoes, especially seeing how much he is respected here at Tri-City and how much we all have relied on his expertise and professionalism. He indicated he looks forward to attempting to meet that standard; that he is going to be available to all of us; that he hopes to get a chance to get to know everyone a little bit better soon. He also stated that his partner, Senior Counsel Kevin Ennis is in attendance at the meeting, and that he will also be available to assist as well as a number of our attorneys who have expertise that are needed by the Authority.

Kevin Ennis, Special Counsel at RWG, stated that they are very grateful and happy that the Governing Board had selected their firm to provide general counsel services; that TCMHA will be in great hands with Mr. Steven Flower. He then recognized Mr. Darold Pieper, noting that he was one of his mentors and approximately 35 years ago, they started working together, and that he has learned a lot from Mr. Pieper's tutelage, advice, guidance, and just wisdom. He then congratulated Mr. Pieper for his very well-earned retirement after 20 years of great service to this agency and wished him all the best in his retirement.

There being no further comment, Vice-Chair Nolte moved, and Board Member Lau seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 702 awarding Richards, Watson and Gershon an Independent Contractor Agreement for General Counsel Services effective March 15, 2023; and authorizing the Executive Director to execute the agreement. 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

7. RIMMI HUNDAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Hundal reported that when MHSA first started, there was funding set aside kept at the state level for workforce, education, and training development, which was divided by regions resulting in TCMHA belonging to the Southern Region, with nine other counties with the exception of the Los Angeles County; and discussed the partnership (SCRIP), noting that they host a conference each year and it has been hosted in the City of Pomona for several years; that last year during COVID, the conference was held in Santa Barbara because it is the fiscal sponsor;

that this year's conference year's topic "Strategies for Addressing Trauma" took place last week in Pomona; and that she had received good feedback from our staff who attended the conference. She then talked about trauma and stated that research shows that childhood trauma is showing physical impact on people's health resulting in lowering people's life expectancy; and that it was very timely conference since we are also coming out of COVID. She then provided a staffing report; then announced that effective April 3, 2023, the California Department of Public Health will be sun-setting the requirements for all healthcare workers to be vaccinated for COVID 19; therefore, she will no longer be providing updates regarding staff vaccination compliance; and that it is also expected that the masks will no longer be mandatory and will become optional.

Board Member Vera inquired if the workforce grant goes to Santa Barbara and it distributes monies to each of the agencies. Executive Director Hundal replied in the negative, stating that fiscal responsibility means that they just get an admin fee to hire a staff member to manage the funding; that it is not divided by counties and it is to develop workforce for all counties, which involves sharing subject matter experts and trainings; that this year counties are planning to update the plan to include stipends for some hard to fill positions; and that counties' contribution depends on county size, noting that TCMHA is mid-size county. Board Member Vera further inquired if there is anything as part of this grant that is looking at increasing the pipeline of students going into mental health or hiring tools. Executive Director Hundal replied in the affirmative, noting that staff is working with local schools and colleges to encourage careers in mental health and discussed the various strategies.

Chair Leano commented that from staff's reports, last year we were having staffing issues like everybody else but we are closing that gap, and inquired how Tri-City is currently doing in terms of vacancies. Executive Director Hundal reported that we are at a very good place since we have the lowest turnover rate. HR Manager Torregano added that we have had the lowest turnover rate over the last year and a half, roughly about 5.6% reduction, noting that it has a lot to do with the resolution that the Board approved last year to increase the pay for clinical therapists. Executive Director Hundal added that the loan forgiveness program through Tri-City's WET program has also help because encourages staff to apply so they can get \$7,500 forgiven for one year of service; which will continue as long there is funding available.

Discussion ensued regarding vacancies and pending hires; about the different recruitment strategies staff has been using such as going to career fairs, having an electronic billboard along the 10 freeway, reinstating internship program that stopped during COVID, and working with high schools to introduce them to careers in mental health; and about recruitment efforts with the universities, noting that website link of job postings should also sent to the universities, rather than just informing them that the jobs are posted in Tri-City's website.

Chair Leano commented that everyone had a responsibility to keep talking about the agency whenever they are in a setting that can possibly access new talent pool, pointing out that we are moving in the right direction, and encouraged staff to keep the Board informed about what they can do in addition to spreading word of mouth, because the Board should be implementing the most aggressive policies to fill all these vacancies.

8. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Financial Officer Acosta reported that on page 2 of her report, she added a section about CalAIM; that about two weeks ago, Tri-City received the rates from LA County which will be

effective July 1, 2023; that currently the finance department is working through all that data to determine how it is going to impact Tri-City in the short and long terms; and that staff expects to provide detailed information in the next couple of months. She then referred to page 3 of her report and indicated that because of the extreme weather we been experiencing and state of emergencies that have been declared, income tax filings have been extended until October, resulting in having our MHPA dollars that would have been received this fiscal year, shifted to the next fiscal year, noting that she will keep the Board abreast of what impact it may have on Tri-City.

Board Member Lantz inquired if the income, as a result of the delayed tax filing, will be received by Tri-City after the deadline or as people file. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied as people file, and discussed that it might be the same situation that we had during COVID in 2020 when the tax filings were extended to after the fiscal year and Tri-City has been experiencing these giant tidal waves where we come down 30% and then we go up 30%, but reassured that staff is managing that the best way possible.

Board Member Vera referred to the budget wherein it was projected that Tri-City was going to receive \$14.7 million in 2023, and inquired if there was going to be any postponement of any program in the amount of \$2.5 million with the expected shortfall. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied in the negative because of the tidal wave of dollars that we experienced last year, pointing out that our spending has been shifted to year two, rather than the bulk of it in year two and year three, since we have three years to spend these funds.

Discussion ensued regarding the risk of reversion if MHPA funds are not spent at year three; however, that staff works really hard to avoid reversion; and that if it is anticipated that this could happen, staff would notify the Board as soon as they become aware.

Board Member Vera stated that he is aware that staff has been talking about various programs that are being vetted by the Commission, and inquired when will the Board is expected to see those new programs, since he is starting to receive public inquiries about whether or not it is too late to submit proposals to use the excess funding. Executive Director Hundal stated that information about the Plan is included in the Director of MHPA & Ethnic Services' report; that the Plan has been posted and it will be presented to the Commission next month as well as the Governing Board for its approval; that regarding the Innovation Plan, staff is working on getting into the OAC schedule, and thereafter will present it to the Board; and that it is never too late to receive proposals since staff is always looking for new Innovation ideas. Director of MHPA and Ethnic Services Barford added that there is a survey online which can be completed at any time throughout the year to and share your ideas.

9. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER REPORT

Executive Director Hundal reported that Chief Clinical Officer Renteria is attending 'Lobby Day' in her place in Sacramento, and she is meeting with Mr. Freddy Rodriguez and other representatives our area to talk about the workforce shortage, among other things, to see what they can do at the state level; and that she was happy to answer any questions from the Chief Clinical Officer report.

10. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Medical Director Teimoori reported that he had provided data about services conducted in February by the multiple teams that we have, that he would be happy to answer any questions.

Chair Leano inquired about the pharmacy. Dr. Teimoori replied that it is going well and people, including doctors, are happy with their services, noting that the pharmacist is great and that overall it has been very good. Chair Leano asked for the Board to receive later on in the year, a high level summary report regarding how many people we are serving, wanting to know if this in fact is a positive outcome for access for our clients and for our residents, and if it can be improved.

Executive Director Hundal commented that she has been contacted by three other counties wanting to know how is the pharmacy working for Tri-City, and that it is a really nice thing to be ahead of the game in the state since Tri-City was one of the first to implement a pharmacy at its premises, which is working so well that other counties want to do what we are doing.

Discussion ensued regarding the many referrals that Tri-City has had in a very short term basis; about the pharmacy's flexibility with Tri-City clients in terms of providing them with medication even where there is a lapse in the insurance coverage and that they have been very helpful and have been finding ways to cover the cost of medication.

Board Member Vera reported that a professor at Western University received a government grant to train pharmacists on how to look for mental health issues with their clients, and stated that he would like to invite that professor to see what she is doing too.

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

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford reported that recently a stakeholder meeting was held and \$2.5 million were identified to transfer from Community Services and Supports (CSS) to Capital Facilities and Technology Needs (CFTN) and to Workforce Education and Training (WET); that it is being proposed that: 1) \$500,00, of the \$2.5 million from CSS, be transferred to WET to support Tri-City's internal Loan Repayment program and future trainings, which are a strong incentive for recruitment efforts; 2) \$2 million be transferred to CFTN to purchase a building; and 3) the \$35,500 allocated to NAMI on an annual basis, be instead allocated for three years since NAMI was struggling to expend this funding on an annual basis due to losing staff who did their trainings and the closure of schools during COVID, which is where they primarily would be working with parents or schools, noting that when NAMI is fully operational again and the school districts are allowing them back in campus, the funding amount allocated to them can be adjusted. She added that spreading the \$35,000 over three years will be less pressure for NAMI, and it will also allow approximately \$75,000 being earmarked for other PEI programs while NAMI is working in a parallel process to ramp up things. She then announced that this is Green Ribbon Week and discussed the various activities taking place, and encouraged the Board to let her know if they would like staff to drop of green ribbons at a specific school, organization or office.

12. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT

Executive Director Hundal stated that she would answer any questions in the absence of Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart who is out in vacation.

Chair Leano 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 March 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

There was no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:59 p.m., the Governing Board recessed to a Closed Session to hold a conference with legal counsel, pursuant to Gov't Code § 54956.9; Existing Litigation: 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 6:34 p.m., the Governing Board reconvened to an Open Session.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

There was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:34 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board its meeting of March 15, 2023 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk