



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD APRIL 19, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.

The Governing Board met in a Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 5:00 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 5:00 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 (arrived at 5:18 p.m.)
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
Steven L. Flower, General Counsel
Diana Acosta, Chief Financial Officer
Liz Renteria, 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 Nolte moved, and Board Member Lau seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar. 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.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 15, 2023 GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 703 ADOPTING A REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING (WET) SUPERVISOR POSITION EFFECTIVE APRIL 19, 2023

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 703 Revising the Job Description for the WET Supervisor Position, effective April 19, 2023.”

3. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 704 ADOPTING A REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION AND SALARY RANGE FOR THE NURSE PRACTITIONER I/II POSITIONS, AND ADOPTING THE AUTHORITY’S CLASSIFICATION & SALARY SCHEDULE REFLECTING THESE CHANGES EFFECTIVE APRIL 19, 2023

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 704 Authorizing a Revised Job Description and Salary Range for Nurse Practitioner I and II Positions, and the Authority’s revised Classification and Salary Schedule effective April 19, 2023.”

NEW BUSINESS

4. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 705 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF POMONA FOR HOMELESSNESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GRANT AO-22-613 GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$106,000

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford reported that this agreement is very similar to the one that is currently active with community navigators for Pomona, which is part of their homelessness plan implementation grant. She expressed that they are specifically looking at Tri-City for the completion of two tasks. The first task is a homeless prevention program where the navigators will be working with community members to provide rental utility assistance, relocation assistance, case management and other services needed for individuals placed in a home. The second task is an interim housing program that can provide motel vouchers, crisis shelter beds, and other resources. The cost is \$106,000 and the process takes about 6 months. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford gave an update of the current plan. She stated that the cost for the original plan was \$69,500 and now has a balance of \$4,000. She mentioned there is a great need for this program and commended staff for their efforts and investment in getting the checks to the community members.

Chair Leano inquired about the cost of the program and whether the prevention services would be available for all three cities. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford replied that the group is called Tri-Cities Cohort which consists of Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne.

Executive Director Hundal added that this is an extension of the Measure H grant. Chair Leano inquired about the administration of funds from the navigator teams that were funded with the very first Measure H cohort money. Executive Director Hundal confirmed that the salaries of those navigators are no longer funded through the cohort grant, but they are funded through the CSS dollars through MHSA, and that services are still provided the same way.

Chair Leano inquired about the length of the processing periods. Executive Director Hundal replied that the duration of each funding period depends on the County and that they reach out whenever there is more funding available.

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. 705 Authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Professional Services Agreement with the City of Pomona for Homelessness Plan Implementation Grant AO-22-613 Grant in the amount of \$106,000. 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.

5. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 706 ADOPTING THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) THREE-YEAR PROGRAM AND EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2023-24, 2024-25, & 2025-26

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford that the community planning process has come to an end and as a result, the Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years 2023-2024 through 2025-2026 is complete. She stated that the report reviews all five of the MHSA plans and programs including the data it is based on as well as the outcomes. The planning process for the document began last fall and culminated with the April 11th MHSA Public hearing held during the Mental Health Commission regular meeting wherein they unanimously endorsed the Plan.

Board Member Vera inquired about the purpose of the Plan; if the plan would serve as a guide for the next three years for staff in terms of how to allocate money and implement programs. Executive Director Hundal replied in the affirmative adding that if anything were to change, it would be the same process again with the posting of the Plan, a Public Hearing, and then bringing it to the Board. Board Member Vera further inquired if there have been any major deviations in the past three-year plans in the last 2-3 years. Executive Director Hundal replied in the affirmative stating that there have been two changes and started to share that one of the new programs under CSS is the school partnership program. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford continued to expand and stated that in the beginning of the process there was talk about moving the Access to Care program. Board Member Vera referred to page 13 of the report and inquired about the school-based services in the report. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford indicated that under the PEI section under the Plan, there was an amendment to a previous Plan; and that it was listed in the Plan in order to tie it into the budget to connect it with the new budget and Plan.

Discussion ensued to clarify that it is not a new Plan amendment, rather the amendment adopted in January which is now included as part of the new Three-Year Plan and the monies are already available to accommodate the two new programs; and that although it is a Three-Year Plan, it is updated on an annual basis.

Board Member Vera referred to his position as a representative of Claremont and inquired about sharing the Three-Year Plan with City stakeholders and the hospital on the Board to inform them of the services that will be available. Executive Director Hundal replied in the affirmative and assured that nothing changes without Board approval.

Board Member Vera then inquired about the \$2.5 million request for transfer of funds and why that is necessary for the adoption of the Three-Year Plan. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied that there is an opportunity to look at the projections of MHSA funds coming in; that in order to come ahead, it is prudent to transfer funds into the CFTN Plan and WET Plan to spend this funds and avoid reversion, noting that the funds are to continue the programming in the WET plan as well as plan for capital facilities and technology improvement. Board Member Vera inquired if the organization would be subject to giving 2.5 million dollars back to the State if they had not transferred the funds. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied in the negative, adding that there is still time to plan ahead but this is the best time to transfer.

Executive Director Hundal added that money is needed to continue with the workforce education and training plan because there is no money that comes directly from the State for that part, and the only way to fill that part is through transferring money from CSS into WET and CFTN. She stated the importance of capital facilities and the need for the funds in order to potentially use in the event that they do find a building for purchase; noted that a building would not be purchased without the Board approval; and that it is also important to have the money there for the purchase of computers, cellphones, and technology changes that come.

Board Member Vera pointed to new legislation that provides spending flexibility for MHSA funds, and inquired about the Three-Year Plan and if the spending flexibility is anticipated in the Plan. Executive Director Hundal replied in the negative, stating that the legislation is going on the ballot next year; for now, it is business as usual; and that staff is preparing internally in case the legislation passes. Board Member Vera inquired if it is a rolling three-year plan. Executive Director Hundal replied in the affirmative.

Vice-Chair Nolte inquired about the amount of money in the capital fund, and if \$2 million is being added to the fund and if it will be doubled. Chief Financial Officer Acosta referred to page 243 of the Plan and stated that there is \$2.7 million in the capital fund; and that per the proposal by adding \$2 million, it will be doubled bringing the amount up to \$4.7 million; that when the money comes into CSS, the funds must be spent within 3 years; and that by moving it into the content and WET fund, it extends the spending period to 10 years.

Vice-Chair Nolte inquired about the amount of funds budgeted for workforce and education training. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied with a projected beginning balance of 1.4 million; proposing to transfer \$500,000, which would add up to 1.9 million. She referred to the \$600,000 on the report that will be spent in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Executive Director Hundal added that salaries are taken out of WET so it is important to have enough money to continue that. Vice-Chair Nolte inquired about the \$980,000 to be spent for the capital facility. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied in the affirmative and mentioned existing projects that have been approved such as the garden and the building upgrades. Vice-Chair Nolte inquired about the possibility of moving funds back into CSS. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied in the negative adding that legislation does not allow funds to be moved back. She mentioned that lease dues are coming up, the organization is continuing to grow, and they are proposing to consider doing something to accommodate the growth.

Board Member Vera inquired about the funding for programs and if they can be moved back. Executive Director Hundal replied in the negative and shared that programs can move depending on the needs of the program; that funds can be taken out of CSS but cannot be returned; that PEI cannot give or receive money, but the programs can stay there as long as they are meeting the

criteria, noting that if the target population changes or if the budget for those programs change, then a public hearing has to take place. Chief Financial Officer Acosta added that CSS, PEI, and INN have a continuing stream of MHSA while CFTN and WET are the only two plans that do not comply.

At 5:18 p.m., Board Member Carolyn Cockrell arrived at the meeting.

Board Member Vera inquired if the commission could make a recommendation in the future to transfer additional monies during the Three-Year Plan. Executive Director Hundal replied in the affirmative. Chief Financial Officer Acosta mentioned that there is a limit to the amount of money that could be transferred: only 20% of the rolling five-year average of total sums in the CSS. She added the importance of caution to not exceed the amount and transferring just enough to be comfortable. Board Member Vera referred to Board Member Carolyn Cockrell to inquire if she attended the Commission meeting. Board Member Carolyn Cockrell replied in the affirmative. Board Member Vera also inquired if a member of the public at the commission meeting presented a new idea. Board Member Carolyn Cockrell replied in the negative. Executive Director Hundal added that stakeholder meetings are where staff welcomes new ideas along with an online form where anyone can submit their ideas on that form. She explained that stakeholders have endorsed the plan, budget and everything; staff have discussed each program with the stakeholders to make sure this is something they want to continue. Board Member Vera inquired about the voting process. Executive Director Hundal confirmed that it is a democratic vote by stakeholders in the group, from there it is taken to the work groups and then to the larger stakeholder body.

Chair Leano stated that he could not be at the April 11th stakeholder meeting due to a City Council meeting and then inquired about who attended, the number of attendees, and what kind of comments were received at the stakeholder meeting. Executive Director Hundal replied that engagement has slowed down since the pandemic but they hope to see an increase in engagement and participation due to the meetings being in-person once again. She then assured Board Member Vera that she can get him the numbers requested.

Board Member Vera requested to be informed about the stakeholder meetings in advance, noting that they were not on his calendar. Executive Director Hundal replied in the affirmative.

Board Member Lau inquired about engagement data for social media and if staff tracks that data. Executive Director Hundal replied in the affirmative, stating that staff does track the data; however, that it is not a sophisticated system, staff does track how many clicks, views and how many people share the content. Board Member Lau requested to receive that information sooner so that the board members can share it on social media and extend that reach within their communities. Executive Director Hundal replied in the affirmative.

Board Member Lantz expressed her concern about the time of the stakeholder meetings, noting that three in the afternoon is usually a time when most people are at work, and it would be best to have a meeting time when stakeholders can give their input; and commented that in the past when meetings were held in the evenings, there were around 100 people in the room and a lot of feedback was given. JPA Clerk/Administrator Olmos replied that staff discovered that the correct process under MHSA is to approve the Plan updates during the regular Commission meetings. She added that in order to hold the stakeholder meetings at a different time, the commission meetings must also be moved. A discussion ensued and it was concluded that moving the

commission meetings would be a bifurcated, complex process. Executive Director Hundal added that the stakeholder meetings still take place in the morning and evening, but the public hearing is being held during the Commission meeting time. She then inquired about direction from the Board regarding the meeting times. Chair Leano mentioned he would like to revisit the issue and directed staff to look at ways to make engagement more accessible.

Board Member Lau added that allowing members of the public to attend virtually as well as in person might be another way to promote accessibility and engagement. Executive Director Hundal agreed.

Chair Leano recognized Mental Health Commission Chair Henderson who was in attendance in the meeting. He then 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. 706 Adopting the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years 2023-24, 2024-25, & 2025-26. 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 reported that on March 19th Governor Newsom's administration announced their plan for behavioral health reform, which is set to be on the November 2024 ballot. She stated the three elements to the design: the general obligation bond for housing, MHSA reform, and statewide enhancement of fiscal transparency. If the legislation passes, the administration will prioritize the creation of housing for veterans as well as cottage setting, multiple property setting and home setting for individuals with mental illness. Next would be MHSA reform. This is the first time MHSA would go through a reform. If it passes, the proposal is proposing a fiscal split: 30% of MHSA dollars would go to housing with support services, 35% would go to stand alone FSP programs, and the remaining 35% would fund the other programs such as CSS, PEI, workforce education and training, and CFTN (capital facilities and technology) needs. Staff are predicting that innovation will go away although the legislation is still under review and there are no guidelines set yet. She added that there will be changes to prudent reserves funding; prudent reserve requirements will go from 33% to 20% and reassessments required for prudent reserves will increase from every five years to every three years. Only 2% of MH funding could be used for administration, including operations, data collection, and reporting compared to the 17% being used for that now. If it passes, estimated implementation will begin in July of 2025. Executive Director Hundal stated that the three-year plan that was presented is based on the previous guidelines and if anything were to change, staff would bring a new plan to the Board.

Board Member Vera shared his concerns regarding the potential changes to the organization, specifically how we provide services. Discussion ensued about the legislation potentially taking away a third of the funding, preparation for the legislation to pass, clarifying the criticism that the County holds on to funding, and staff attending CBHDA meetings to stay updated.

Vice-Chair Nolte inquired about the authority of the governor to pass the legislation. Executive Director Hundal informed the Board that the Governor has the support of Daryl Steinberg, the author of the original MHSA. She added that the initiative has not been finalized due to the opposition present from many mental health bodies. Vice Chair Nolte expressed his interest in timelines regarding the political process. Discussion ensued regarding the proposal and the funding that will be made available for housing; the reason it is likely going to pass; and a request for contact information for the point people involved with this initiative for the board to influence the process.

General Counsel Flower stated that if the board is interested in taking an official position on any piece of proposed legislation, it should be agendaized for a future meeting. Chair Leano directed staff to bring back the initiative to the board when there is more added to the proposal so that the Board can take an official position. Executive Director Hundal replied in the affirmative.

Executive Director Hundal continued to report about Cesar Chavez Day, stating that Supervisor Hilde Solis celebrated Cesar Chavez Day and in honor of the celebration she recognized nine individuals and organizations continuing his legacy; that one of the nine individuals was the Chief of Clinical Services Elizabeth Renteria; and thanked Ms. Renteria for her service. Chief of Clinical Services Renteria shared that a number of people came up to her at the recognition event and praised the organization and what they do for their community.

Executive Director Hundal updated the Board about the organization's five new hires and two separations as well as COVID-19 protocols in the office, noting that staff are still required to wear masks and there will be another update in the fall.

7. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Financial Officer Acosta reported that on page 6 of her report, she added a section that specifically addresses reversion; she received information from the State and had the ability to reconcile the agency's data with State data; she stated that we currently do not have any INN dollars specifically. Board Member Vera commended her work. Chief Financial Officer Acosta continued to share that the Finance Department is working on the agency's draft budget to be able to bring it to the Board for approval. She clarified that she was referring to the agency's budget not the MHSA budget that was presented earlier in the meeting.

Board Member Vera referred to page 6 and 7 of the report and inquired about the amount of revenue received. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied that the report shows more revenue in both non-operating and MHSA funds than anticipated due to more money from the State. Board Member Vera inquired about the plan for the extra funds. Chief Financial Officer Acosta referred to the earlier conversation about the inability to transfer funds around; she stated that is the reason for the recommendation to make a large transfer of CSS funds to Cap/Tech and WET funds, to be prepared and to avoid reversion.

Executive Director Hundal added that ongoing programming is not possible with one-time dollars; those are the funds they prefer to transfer.

8. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria reported that the Mental Health Student Services Act subgrant process has begun; there are 10 applicants who have applied for funding; the review committee is reviewing the applications; they hope to present the awardees for Board approval next month. She added that client data reports will be available once again at the next meeting.

Board Member Cockrell inquired about the waiting time for new clients to be seen by clinicians. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria replied that she will get that information and provide it to the Board at a later time; she added that they are almost fully staffed in the children's department.

9. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Medical Director Teimoori reported that he had provided information about collaboration and services conducted with the pharmacy. He added that they have received a lot of good feedback from clients and staff. He referred to his report that covers data from the last three months including March; you can see the number of prescriptions, the number of people on medication monitoring, and more.

Board Member Lantz commented that this particular pharmacy group seems to have a successful method of dealing with medications and mental health patients. Dr. Teimoori replied that they are specialized in mental health. Board Member Lantz mentioned that it is very encouraging to hear and thanked Dr. Teimoori.

Chair Leano inquired about the retention ratio and if they are abnormal numbers or if they are in line. Dr. Teimoori replied that they are usually less, but it is important to consider people getting moved, discharged, or coming off medication; it can look as if people are not coming back but anything above 80% is good. Board Member Vera commented that it is a good number to have, and it is great that we are doing this.

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.

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

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford reported that we have received 23 applications for the Community Wellbeing grants; we have submissions from all three cities, which is great. The applications are currently under review, and we will hopefully be able to share with you what the new programs will be. She referred to the Stigma Reduction section in her report; she listed the upcoming events which include a stress management and relief webinar, the launch of API Mental Health Day social media posts, a movie night at the Wellness Center, and the Rainbow Collaborative which will be highlighting Mental Health month and providing a space for community members to express any challenges. She added that their hope is to provide the information to the Board in advance so that they can share the information; she offered flyers or any other resources that would help get the word out.

Board Member Lau requested a consolidated calendar for the month, so they are able to share the events on social media or other channels. Executive Director Hundal replied that they are working on that, and it will be sent to everyone once it is completed.

Chair Leano inquired about the number of applicants for the community grants and if everyone will get funded. Executive Director Hundal replied that usually a lot of applications are received; some meet the criteria, and some do not; that the funding depends on the criteria met and this year, it seems like we have enough to give it to the qualified applicants. Chair Leano inquired if all the qualified applicants will receive funding. Executive Director Hundal replied that it is anticipated. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford added that not everyone applied for the full \$10,000 and we will be able to update on that.

11. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT

Executive Director Hundal announced that Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart was out due a death in the family; that if she will be absent next month, there will be a representative from her department to answer any questions in her absence; and that in the interim, she would do her best to answer any questions the Board might have. There being no further comment, Chair Leano asked the general counsel if it was necessary to take a roll call vote to receive and file the staff reports. General Counsel Flower replied in the negative and said that no action was required.

GOVERNING BOARD COMMENTS

Board Member Lantz inquired about the property next to the Wellness Center and the possibility of purchasing that property. Executive Director Hundal replied that they have been in communication with the property owner through an agent for years and the asking price is way over what it was appraised for, noting that although they would love to buy that property, it is too much money over the property value.

Board Member Lau commented about the funding that University of La Verne received from Congresswoman Grace Napolitano in furtherance of creating an institute for mental health and requested staff to see if there is any opportunity for collaboration or cooperation since La Verne is one of the cities we serve.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:57 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

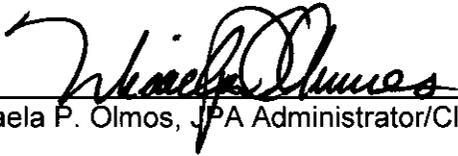
At 6:24 p.m., the Governing Board reconvened to an Open Session.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

There was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:24 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board, its meeting of April 19, 2023 was adjourned. The Governing Board will meet next in a Regular Joint Meeting with the Mental Health Commission to be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk