



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD JUNE 21, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.

The Governing Board met in a Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 5:02 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 5:02 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 (arrived at 5:10 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 (arrived at 5:12 p.m.)
Ronald T. Vera, City of Claremont, Board Member (arrived at 5:12 p.m.)

ABSENT: None.

STAFF

PRESENT: Rimmi Hundal, Executive Director
Steven Flower, General Counsel
Diana Acosta, Chief Financial Officer
Natalie Majors-Stewart, Chief Compliance Officer
Elizabeth 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 Lantz, Agenda Item No. 4 was pulled from the Consent Calendar for discussion. Board Member Lantz then referred to Agenda Item Nos. 2 and 3, and sought clarification regarding the Salary Schedule spreadsheet. Executive Director Hundal responded that the only change to the Salary Schedule is that two new positions were added to it.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 17, 2023 GOVERNING BOARD AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REGULAR JOINT MEETING

RECOMMENDATION: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting of May 17, 2023.”

2. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 712 ESTABLISHING THE CLASS SPECIFICATION AND SALARY RANGE FOR THE GRANTS MANAGER POSITION; AND REVISING THE AUTHORITY’S MASTER CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY SCHEDULE TO REFLECT THIS CHANGE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

RECOMMENDATION: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 712 establishing and adding the Grants Manager position to the Authority’s Master Classification and Salary Schedule effective July 1, 2023.”

3. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 713 ESTABLISHING THE CLASS SPECIFICATION AND SALARY RANGE FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER POSITION; AND REVISING THE AUTHORITY’S MASTER CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY SCHEDULE TO REFLECT THIS CHANGE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

RECOMMENDATION: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 713 establishing and adding the Deputy Chief Clinical Officer position to the Authority’s Master Classification and Salary Schedule effective July 1, 2023.”

NEW BUSINESS

4. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 714 ESTABLISHING THE EXPANSION OF VACATION AND COMPENSATORY CASH OUT POLICY AND PROCEDURE NO. II.21 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

Board Member Lantz inquired about the fiscal impact of Resolution No. 714. Chief Financial Officer Acosta responded that from a cash perspective there is an impact; however, from an accrual basis, the impact has already occurred. Board Member Lantz then expressed a concern regarding the cash out policy noting that although there is a motivational factor, she understands the mental toll that these jobs takes for employees, and that to give an option to take money instead of time off, is not in the best interest of staff or the organization.

Board Member Lau spoke in support of the cash-out policy, stating that finances can be a stressor for some employees, and if it will allow for stress relief, then, it is a good option.

Human Resources Manager Torregano clarified that the policy requires that employees maintain a vacation accrual balance of 40 hours in order to complete the cash-out request, which would allow employees the ability to also take time off if they request it.

At 5:10 p.m., Board Member Carolyn Cockrell arrived at the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of staff taking time off instead of being incentivized to take money and continue to work; that employees would still have the option to take time off

even when they choose to receive pay; and that if an employee were to leave, they would receive pay for their unused vacation time.

Vice-Chair Nolte inquired if taking vacation is being required. Executive Director Hundal replied in the negative, stating that a good work-life balance is encouraged but taking a vacation is not mandatory, and pointed out that the executive team sets the example by taking time off regularly.

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

There being no further comment, Board Member Lau moved, and Vice-Chair Nolte seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 714 establishing the expansion of Vacation and Compensatory Cash-Out Policy and Procedure No. II.21 effective July 1, 2023. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Cockrell and Lau; Vice-Chair Nolte; and Chair Leano. NOES: Board Member Lantz. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Members Ontiveros-Cole and Vera.

5. CONSIDERATION OF AWARDING THIRTEEN COMMUNITY WELLBEING GRANTS TOTALING \$117,104.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 UNDER THE COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT OF THE PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION (PEI) PLAN

At 5:12 p.m., Board Members Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Ronald Vera arrived at the meeting.

Board Member Lantz recused herself from the meeting for Agenda Item Nos. 5 and 6 due to her involvement with some of the proposed grantees.

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford referred to the information about the various grantees in the Board Member's agenda packets for the Community Wellbeing Grants and stated that staff is proposing to award thirteen grants totaling \$117,104; that the Community Wellbeing (CWB) Grants create an opportunity for Tri-City to build community capacity while empowering community members to build wellbeing. She added that the grant also includes technical assistance and Community Capacity Organizer Daisy Martinez meets with each grantee individually to provide technical support; and that the program also provides a networking opportunity for the grantees. She shared RBA statistics for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 showing that 13,489 individuals benefitted from the CWB grants.

Chair Leano inquired if the program was oversubscribed. Barford responded in the affirmative stating that there were 26 applicants, and out of those applicants 13 have been selected for funding. She added that the dollar amount for funding was increased; that the application process includes community meetings; and that there are certain criteria that need to be met.

Board Member Vera inquired about the lifetime award limit of three years. Executive Director Hundal explained that the original and current plan was written and approved by the stakeholders; that communities can apply for up to three years for a maximum of \$10,000 for each year, respectively. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford added that the award limit applies for only one project, and the same community or organization can apply for a different project.

Board Member Lau inquired about the rationale behind the award limit. Executive Director Hundal responded that the stakeholders decided to do it this way in 2010, to encourage and teach smaller organizations how to apply for bigger grants and how to collect data, and that it has not changed since then.

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford added that it also allows opportunities for a variety of organizations to apply. Board Member Lau inquired if it is an intentional path that encourages organizations to learn how to eventually apply for monies elsewhere with sustainability in mind. Executive Director Hundal reply in the affirmative, noting that one of the questions on the application asks how the organization will sustain themselves after receiving the CWB grant.

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 award thirteen Community Wellbeing Grants totaling \$117,104.00 for Fiscal Year 2023-24 under the Community Capacity Building Project of the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) plan. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Cockrell, Lau, and Vera; Vice-Chair Nolte; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Lantz.

6. CONSIDERATION OF AWARDING SIX MENTAL HEALTH STUDENT SERVICES ACT (MHSSA) SUB-GRANTS TOTALING \$441,710.76 BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026, UNDER THE MHSSA GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION (MHSOAC)

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated that the Mental Health Student Services Act grant allowed TCMHA to provide some funds for the community to further serve children, youth, and young adults by increasing access to mental health. She reported that ten applications were submitted from various community partners; that there was a review committee and a rubric; and that six candidates were selected to receive the sub-grants. She then referred to the agenda report attachments that contain summaries of each project, and added that she recommends to award the six identified community partners with the grant amount they requested; that the goal of the sub-grants are to increase access to mental health services; that the award recipients are from Claremont Unified School District, the School of Arts and Enterprise, Pomona Unified School District, JustUs4Youth, and California Polytechnic University.

Board Member Vera inquired if this was the first time that Tri-City awards these grants. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria responded in the affirmative.

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

There being no further comment, Board Member Cockrell moved, and Board Member Lau seconded, to award six Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) sub-grants totaling \$441,710.76 beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026, under the MHSSA grant received from the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Board Members Cockrell, Lau, Ontiveros-Cole, and Vera; Vice-Chair Nolte and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Lantz.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS

7. RIMMI HUNDAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Hundal announced that the Governor's proposed restructuring of MHSA has now been amended to SB 326 (Eggman) and proposed Facilities Bond Measure into AB 531

(Irwin); that the goal is for these to be on the ballot by March 2024; that she will be attending the LA County Department of Health Care Services meeting and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association meeting to get more information and bring it back to the Board next month. She also reported that on June 12th, she attended a CARE Court meeting with Chief Clinical Officer Renteria involving the LA County Chief Executive Office, LA County Department of Mental Health, City of Claremont, and City of La Verne; that they are will be working with LACDMH very closely to see how CARE court is going to be implemented and to determine what is the best workflow; that the next LACDMH meeting is in September and she hopes to have more information for the Board after that meeting. She then provided a TCMHA staffing update as of May 2023.

Vice-Chair Nolte inquired about the procedures for CARE Court and when TCMHA must be ready. Executive Director Hundal replied in December; however, processes are not finalized. Vice-Chair Nolte inquired about the next meeting Pomona can be involved in. Executive Director Hundal indicated that the next meeting is in September and that Pomona could not make it to the last meeting; however, they are aware of what is currently taking place.

Board Member Vera referred to the 35 vacancies and 18 posted positions, and inquired if TCMHA is holding back in terms of filling those vacancies for budgetary reasons. Executive Director Hundal responded in the affirmative, because of the uncertainty with CalAIM; and that it would not be fair to hire someone and then have to make changes due to CalAIM.

Discussion ensued regarding the response from the applicant pool for other vacancies, which is the same but a definite increase in applicants for the Clinical Therapist position; about an industry-wide problem, and that nationally, public mental health positions are difficult to fill in which both hiring and retention is difficult; about California having the highest shortage of behavioral health specialists in the nation; and about the use of recruitment and retention strategies that include developing relationships with the colleges to grow staff into positions and providing every allowable incentive.

8. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Financial Officer Acosta announced that within the next couple of weeks a draft of the budget will be delivered to the Governing Board members for review, and that the budget will be presented for approval at the next Governing Board meeting. She then shared that we are nearing the end of the fiscal year and at this point we are not anywhere near danger of reversion; that as of this date, the team is expected to receive \$11 million; that due to the extension of tax return deadlines, they will be receiving four or five more million dollars in the next fiscal year instead; that according to tax consultants at the State level, TCMHA should be expecting to receive upwards of \$23 to \$24 million and we will have three years to spend those dollars, noting the importance to start planning on how to expend the funds.

Executive Director Hundal added that when TCMHA receives one-time funding, these funds are not able to start a new program since the funds are not ongoing; that they have to be really creative as to how they spend the money.

Board Member Vera inquired about the way TCMHA receives funding, about how CalAIM is going to change that to fee-for-service, and about the way in which TCMHA is preparing for that change.

Executive Director Hundal replied that with CalAIM everything is uncertain at this point; that during the pandemic, billing was low; that the LA County Department of Health Care Services still has not decided how they are to roll it out to the counties, and how the counties will roll it out to the providers; and that the rates are going to be different from what LA County gets.

Chief Financial Officer Acosta added that they have been meeting with the LA County Department of Mental Health and they have another meeting to finalize the details and produce a realistic budget.

Board Member Vera referred to the Chief Financial Officer Report and inquired about the increase in revenue. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied is the \$5 million that TCMHA expected to receive through the end of June will now be shifted to be received next month, which is next fiscal year. Board Member Vera further inquired if there will be a need to use reserve funds since the expected revenue this fiscal year will not be received until the next fiscal year. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied in the negative, since it is difficult to plan due to one-time funding; and that as far as hiring positions, it is challenging having a temporary inflow of dollars. Board Member Vera then inquired about the \$39 million cash balance and where those monies are. Chief Financial Officer Acosta replied that the bulk of it is in LAIF, the Local Agency Investment Fund, which it is expected to earn a pretty substantial interest, noting that LAIF is one of the safest places to leave it in. Board Member Vera asked on average what the gain on return is for the last three years in that fund. Controller Bogle responded less than one percent, and that TCMHA does not have a securities or treasury relationship.

9. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria reported that since the Mental Health Student Services Act grant, the referrals for children and youth have been very robust; that there has been a substantial increase because staff have been able to go out into the community; that there have been a lot more youth, children and young adults coming to TCMHA; that the grant is reaching the people that it was intended to reach; and that she will continue to report more about the grant in future meetings.

Board Member Lantz sought clarification regarding the housing services table presented in Chief Clinical Officer report. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria explained that the first column is the number of referrals received from the community or internally from staff; that the FSP is the number that comes from the adult services, AOP, and Children's; and that evictions are the number of folks that were helped from being evicted.

10. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Medical Director Teimoori indicated that in his report he had provided data on the services performed by the Intensive Outreach and Engagement Team and the PAC team, in collaboration with the Claremont Police Department.

Chair Leano asked what the turnaround time is for an individual who is not a 5150 hold and how long are those officers there. Medical Director Teimoori replied that it is usually a period of two to four hours. Chair Leano further inquired if transportation is always provided by law enforcement. Executive Director Hundal responded that sometimes it is the ambulance.

Discussion ensued about who can transport clients to the hospital, which can be either an ambulance or law enforcement and they can transport the client wherever there is a bed available; that the Police Officer can leave the patient at a hospital and that a hospital cannot refuse a police officer; that once the patient is on hospital grounds, they must be accepted; that the police officer needs to determine whether the patient needs medical attention or psychiatric; that medical services supersedes psychiatric services; and that an ambulance needs to find where there is a bed available before they can drop off a client, and this could take hours.

Board Member Cockrell inquired about the progress regarding the need for hospital beds. Executive Director Hundal indicated that the counties have been talking about this issue at the State level for a long time; that they have advocated for more psychiatric hospital beds; that the number of beds depends on the County; and that due to TCMHA's relationship with Charter Oaks, staff is able to accommodate more TCMHA clients.

Board Member Vera commented about Pomona Valley Hospital's triage for 5150 patients.

Board Member Cockrell inquired how TCMHA handle calls from non-clients who are in crisis. Executive Director Hundal stated that staff responds to every call within the three cities.

Board Member Vera inquired about the billing for services under Cal AIM. Chief of Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart responded that for crisis services, it will be similar to what we are currently doing and there will be no significant effect.

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

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford reported that they have hired a new MHSA Projects Manager, noting that she has been a clinician at TCMHA for nine years and has worked at the Therapeutic Community Garden. She also announced that a new Workforce Education and Training Coordinator has been hired, noting that she was formerly the Innovation Coordinator. She then reported that the first round of TCMHA's loan-repayment program has concluded; that 28 staff applied last year and committed to work for at least 12 months with the agency; that the checks are being awarded and they will be paid directly to the employee's student loan; that the amounts will be up to \$7,500 per person, depending on the employee's most recent loan balance; that the total allocation is \$193,000 through WET funding; and that the next round is getting ready to be launched, noting that this is one of the incentives to retain staff members.

12. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT

Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart shared that TCMHA will be implementing CalAIM on July 1st; that the best practices division has been very involved with the preparation for this. She mentioned that the first round of staff training started this week; that there will be another round next week; and that there are more groups to train and then they will circle back to cover other aspects of CalAIM. She commented that everything is on schedule and things are going well with the transition; and that her department will continue to provide training and support beyond implementation.

GOVERNING BOARD COMMENTS

Board Member Vera shared that he attended the Pomona Library Foundation Mayor's Gala where Board Member Paula Lantz was recognized; and that it was unfortunate that she could not attend. Board Member Lantz indicated that she was unable to attend due to medical reasons.

Board Member Leano congratulated Board Member Lantz for being recognized.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:53 p.m., the Governing Board will recessed to a Closed Session pursuant to Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Gov't Code § 54957); Title of Position of Employee Being Evaluated: Executive Director.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

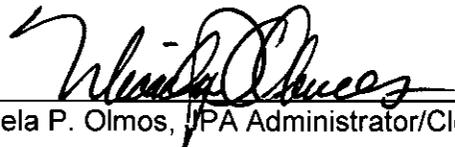
At 6:38 p.m., the Governing Board reconvened to an Open Session.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

There was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:38 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board its meeting of June 21, 2023 was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk