



## MINUTES

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD April 17, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Governing Board Regular Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 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  
Beverly Johnson, City of Pomona, Alternate Board Member  
Paula Lantz, City of Pomona, Board Member  
Wendy Lau, City of La Verne, Board Member  
Ronald T. Vera, City of Claremont, Board Member

**ABSENT:** Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, City of Pomona, Board Member

#### STAFF

**PRESENT:** Rimmi Hundal, Executive Director  
Steven L. 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  
Sara Rodriguez, MHSA Project Manager

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Chair Leano announced there will be no Consent Calendar; that the Minutes from the March 20, 2024 Governing Board Regular Meeting will be distributed at the next Regular Governing Board Meeting.

#### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 20, 2024 GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 737 AWARDING THE CONTRACT TO BRIDGEROCK CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE OFFICE REMODEL PROJECT OF THE MHSA BUILDING LOCATED AT 2001 N. GAREY AVE. IN POMONA, CALIFORNIA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$303,059.48; AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT**

Chief Financial Officer Acosta shared that staff has already posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the office remodel project; that she is happy to bring forth the proposed contract to Bridgerock Construction, Inc.

Board Member Lantz inquired about a typo on the Resolution. Executive Director Hundal affirmed that there is an extra number where the construction amount is indicated; that the correct amount is \$303,059.48.

Board Member Vera inquired about the start of construction. Chief Financial Officer Acosta responded by stating that if the agreement is approved, she is not sure of the specific date and she passed it off to Facility Manager Ramirez. Facility Manager Ramirez shared that they would like to break ground by May and finish in about three months.

Board Member Vera inquired about the alternate meeting location during construction. JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos shared that one of the recommendations was to alternate between hosting the meetings at each City Hall (La Verne, Pomona, Claremont); that the meetings will be at the same time and same dates.

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

There being no further comment, Board Member Lantz moved, and Vice-Chair Nolte seconded to adopt Resolution No. 737 awarding the contract to Bridgerock Construction, Inc. for the office remodel project of the MHSA Building located at 2001 N. Garey Ave. in Pomona, California in the amount of \$303,059.48 and authorizing the Executive Director to execute the contract. The motion was carried by the following vote, AYES: Alternate Board Member Johnson; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Lau, and Vera; and Vice-Chair Nolte; Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Ontiveros-Cole.

### **3. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 738 ADOPTING THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) ANNUAL UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25**

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford shared that it is the time again for the MHSA Annual Update for fiscal year 2024-2025. She mentioned that they had their Public Hearing last week with the Mental Health Commission; that there were no substantial changes made to the document or any concerns; that they had 29 individuals attend; that the public comments were focused on the community navigators being out in the community; that Commission Member Guzman asked about the three year upcoming process of allocating monies and how surveys will be conducted. She also shared that another community member inquired about the Mobile Unit project and the length of the program. She mentioned that since the posting of the agenda for the Governing Board meeting, the Annual Update has been updated; that they are all clerical changes and the packets do have a copy of the most updated version. She shared all the updates made

in the document which include: a change in the audit date on page 4, the date of the Governing Board Meeting was changed from May to the current meeting date (April 17, 2024), a line item in the budget for Access to Care was put under the Mobile Crisis line by mistake so that was corrected, and lastly, in the executive summary, the numbers of individuals served were matched up to each program (Community Wellbeing, Stigma Reduction, Housing, and the Therapeutic Community Garden).

Board Member Lantz commented that it is an amazing document and it is a very helpful and useful document.

MHSA Projects Manager Rodriguez expressed her appreciation for the teamwork and leadership behind the project; that she also appreciates everyone's review and feedback of the document.

Chair Leano inquired about how stakeholder engagement is going generally. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford shared that the plan for this year's stakeholder engagement was to go out to the individuals instead of them coming to TCMHA. MHSA Projects Manager Rodriguez shared that they have so far attended about a dozen stakeholder events, called community forums, embedded in the community; that they have attended forums at many local colleges and universities as well as local non-profit organizations; that she is still booking meetings with different community organizations even though they are outside of the official community planning process period. She added that she believes it is important to present about TCMHA in the community because they are very accessible but if the community members are not aware of TCMHA then it feels as if they are not accessible. She shared that they have reached about 200 individuals so far and over 120 of those 200 were non-staff community members.

Board Member Vera inquired about the different numbers listed on the booklet versus the packet which shows a 2,500-person difference. He inquired about the cost of the 2,500 swings in a matter of a week. MHSA Projects Manager Rodriguez responded that she has a breakdown that in some of the cases, the number she was originally looking at might have been reported by a program report itself instead of waiting for Program Analyst Gill's actual data; and she noted that it is part of her learning curve as well; that the actual data that is reflected is looking at all the qualitative information throughout the fiscal year as opposed to other cases where someone who is reporting might round up or down; and that in the future, she plans to use all the qualitative information to write her dialogue and work on the numbers last to make sure everything aligns so that it does not happen again next year.

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford added that they get numbers from various departments and when they get the numbers, they find the discrepancies and make calls; that the Board now has everything with the corrections. Executive Director Hundal added that the revised Annual Update is the final document that will go to the State.

Chair Leano opened public comment; there was no public comment.

Chair Leano acknowledged Mental Health Commission Chair Henderson's presence and thanked her for her service on the Commission.

There being no further comment, Vice-Chair Nolte moved, and Board Member Cockrell seconded moved to adopt Resolution No. 738 adopting the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2024-25. The motion was carried by the following vote, AYES: Alternate

Board Member Johnson; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Lau, and Vera; and Vice-Chair Nolte; Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Ontiveros-Cole.

## **MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS**

### **4. RIMMI HUNDAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Hundal shared that since the last meeting, Proposition 1 has passed. She stated that there have been a lot of questions but as of now, there is no change; that this is how MHTSA has always done their Annual Update and it is the plan they will be following next year; that they are also in the current three-year plan, which means that every three years TCMHA has to submit a three-year plan as well as an Annual Update every year; that it is a bit complex.

Board Member Vera asked if TCMHA is in year two of that plan. Executive Director Hundal responded in the affirmative, stating that they are staying with that plan. She shared that the Department of Healthcare Services is going to start giving the guidelines and procedures for Proposition 1; that they will be hosting work groups; that she has been selected to represent the Cities, both TCMHA and the City of Berkeley to make sure it makes sense how it will be implemented; that Director of MHTSA and Ethnic Services Barford will be at every meeting as well; that if there is a division and they do special work groups for different programs, the corresponding staff member will be attending those meetings as well. She added that once they get into the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) the Annual Update document will be doubled in size because they will have to track everything that TCMHA does; that a big part of Prop 1 is the accountability part; that staff will do the best they can to continue to provide the services they have. She shared that she will keep updating the Governing Board as she hears about changes and updates; that the work groups are expected to start in July and end by October; that she hopes to update the Governing Board in November to let them know how it will be implemented; that they are already in dialogue with the State; that her and Director of MHTSA and Ethnic Services Barford are attending the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission to learn about the changes and what they are recommending for prevention and innovation programs and how the proposition will be rolled out in the next two years; and that they will be a hosting a lunch and learn for staff on financial planning and retirement planning. She then announced that SB553 will be effective July 1, 2024, and requires each employer to establish a workplace violence prevention program; that TCMHA has already started that process; that the Human Resources department and facilities are working in partnership to develop a new plan. She added that they just completed an employee survey, which is the first step, and they are collecting that data; that based on the data they receive, they will implement a policy and procedure which they hope to bring to the Governing Board by June for approval and adoption. She also talked about staffing, and that there is a lot of anxiety with Proposition 1; that staff plan to do their best to continue doing what they do.

Vice-Chair Nolte inquired about Proposition 1 and the possible need for a housing expert. Executive Director Hundal responded that they will need a Housing consultant because although they have a great Housing department, this is beyond the scope of what they do; that it seems like the State may allow money for consultants; that they will begin looking for that.

Chair Leano commented that just by reading the Measure and its impacts, it is obvious that there are big changes coming; he expressed that it is important to let the community know that TCMHA is not reducing any major services that are currently being provided and that TCMHA has

preempted substantial shifts and made it so that the budget allows for continued service delivery as it had been prior. He shared that TCMHA has done a great job presenting the high-level explanations of new programming and changes to the various City Councils; that it would be good to assure the community of the information and plan that TCMHA has currently. Executive Director Hundal shared that even if there are changes, there will be a change in the delivery method, but it does not mean that services will not be delivered. She added that they are in a waiting phase, but she is happy to speak with anyone and Director of MHS and Ethnic Services Barford is also open to speak about the Proposition and what it means for TCMHA.

#### **5. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT**

Chief Financial Officer Acosta reported that although she has been identifying in her reports that they had not yet received payment from the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (LADMH) under the new payment reform Cal AIM, that they just received payment, which is not reflected in the financial statements since it was received in March and the financial statements for this month are through the end of February. She also shared that TCMHA just ended the contract with their audit firm; that it was just the end of the term with the existing firm; that they will be preparing an RFP and bring forth a contract for new independent auditors in the next few months.

#### **6. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER REPORT**

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria was out at a conference. Executive Director Hundal stated that she would answer any questions, along with a few other staff members present.

Board Member Lantz inquired about the timeframe between requesting services; that in the report there is a reference to the Los Angeles County standard of 10 days and she inquired if it is only 10 days between referral to intake.

Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart responded by stating that it depends on priority; that any is standard 10 days but if it is crisis level, it can be same day; that if it is urgent, it is within two days; if it is hospital priority, it is five days; that the standard routine is 10 days. Board Member Lantz inquired if staff would choose that standard. Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart responded in the affirmative, stating that they are currently meeting their network advocacy standards.

Discussion ensued regarding the LA County intake timeline standards, which that TCMHA must report for data adequacy to the State.

#### **7. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT**

Medical Director Teimoori reported that they going to be fully staffed now; that they will now have six Psychiatrists; that they were able to hire doctors. He referred to the data he shared in the past about the shortage of psychiatrists; that he hopes with support from the agency and the Governing Board, they will be able to continue services.

Board Member Vera referred to the potential shortage and inquired if there are any projections about where patients can receive services other than through a Psychiatrist. Medical Director Teimoori shared that there is some extra training for primary care doctors and primary care

residencies, even in the form of continuing education or in the form of an extra year for the family medicine residents, which is supposed to help the potential shortfall.

Board Member Vera inquired if patients need to see a psychiatrist or a doctor once a month to receive their medication. Medical Director Teimoori responded by stating that it depends on the clients; that some clients start with a visit every two to four weeks and eventually their visits are spaced out up to every three months; that for Full-Service Partnership patients, it is usually between every four and six weeks; that it all depends on the case and severity of the case.

Discussion ensued regarding contracting out for psychiatrist services, working with locum companies, and that TCMHA doctors can have their own private practice on the side, which is a benefit.

Board Member Cockrell inquired about the level of students coming in to help from Western University. Medical Director Teimoori stated that due to the shortage of doctors, they had to slow the program, but they hope to get settled and refresh the program again. Board Member Cockrell further inquired if the students are observing and learning or if they can provide solutions. Medical Director Teimoori responded that it is a combination of shadowing the psychiatrists along with getting involved in the interviewing process; that when they had students come, they would expose them to all the steps involved in providing services including showing them the clinical team and other ancillary services; that they wanted to give them exposure to a wide variety of the services that TCMHA offers. Board Member Cockrell also inquired if there is potential for the students to one day be employed with TCMHA. Medical Director Teimoori responded by stating that because they are students, they need to finish schooling and go through residency, so they are a little out of reach, noting that they are also working with residents from family medicine in Pomona and 70% of the mental healthcare is provided by primary care, so they are hoping that is some sort of contribution to more confident primary care doctors around mental health.

Board Member Vera inquired if the salaries for TCMHA psychiatrists are competitive with Los Angeles County, San Bernardino County and the private market. Medical Director Teimoori responded that they are not comparable to the private market but based on the Koff and Associates analysis, they are comparable with other government agencies. Executive Director Hundal added that they are above market in the public sector; that they cannot compare themselves with the private sector or Kaiser; that in the private sector, the hours are more demanding whereas at TCMHA, the work hours are from 8am to 5pm. She explained that there are differences between the agencies, but TCMHA is above average among the local counties including San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside and Los Angeles.

Board Member Lau inquired about recruiting strategies and how TCMHA is utilizing the information about first generation employees, who do not yet have experience in the various sectors, to make the case for working at TCMHA. Executive Director Hundal responded by stating that Medical Director Teimoori uses all the mentioned information as a selling point; that he makes sure to emphasize the benefits of working for TCMHA in comparison to other counties. Board Member Lau inquired about the use of that information before the interview, specifically in the recruiting process. Executive Director Hundal responded by sharing that they have a flyer that they advertise in professional journals and other places where doctors come from schools; that they also partner with local schools, colleges, and medical schools.

Discussion ensued regarding recruitment strategies, specifically with first generation students and the importance of staying connected with the medical community to spread awareness about what it is like to work at TCMHA.

Board Member Cockrell inquired about the reasoning behind losing the last wave of doctors. Medical Director Teimoori responded by stating that there were different reasons; that one person retired, a couple others felt overwhelmed, and another left for medical reasons; and that they are trying to get more support for the doctors because the amount of support at each clinic is different and the workload has changed due to CalAIM.

Board Member Vera inquired about the ideal number of psychiatrists for the agency and patients. Medical Director Teimoori responded by stating 6 or 7. Executive Director Hundal added that they are trying to build support by hiring nurses to help with other tasks including paperwork, which has increased with CalAIM.

## **8. DANA BARFORD, DIRECTOR OF MHSA AND ETHNIC SERVICES REPORT**

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford reported that on March 29th, a few staff members were able to attend the 20th annual Cesar Chavez breakfast, hosted by the Latino, Latino round table; that it was a very fun and inspiring event. Board Member Lantz thanked her for the feedback, stating that she was on the Committee for the event. She also shared that they have received 23 applications for the Community Wellbeing Grants program; that the grants are up to \$10,000 and for community members; that 15 of the applicants were new communities and 8 of them were returning. She added that they will be scheduling interviews with the applicants. She then highlighted the employment component of the Wellness Center; that they just finished another workshop and hiring event where they partnered with Federal Express; that they had 30 participants who applied for jobs and 29 of them were really strong candidates. She mentioned that FedEx worked really well with the Wellness Center staff; that they hope to do many more workshops in the future. She concluded by stating that the employment opportunities and process at the Wellness Center continue to be a success.

Board Member Vera inquired if the Community Wellbeing grants will be affected by Proposition 1. Executive Director Hundal responded in the affirmative, stating that it is up to the stakeholders how it will be done but that it would be something that staff would have to look at; that they are going to look at how prevention and early intervention are defined in the proposition to see how they can make things fit.

Board Member Vera inquired about the amount of the award for the Community Wellbeing grants. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford responded that each community member applied for a dollar amount based on their project, but it is not to exceed \$10,000.

Board Member Lau inquired about the limit of times the same community member can apply and if there is data regarding programs that have continued after they have reached the limit of applying for the Community Wellbeing grants. Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart responded that she would check on that and she thinks it is a great suggestion. MHSA Program Supervisor Lisa Naranjo added that by the second time the community member applies, they start incorporating other partners; that although they do not have the data to show, they have started to show growth in expanding their connections, outreach and other funding streams coming in. Board Member Lau commented that if it is a good program, it is a plus if that program can continue

after receiving the grant to continue serving the community; that it is also good for TCMHA to be a partner that promotes sustainability and connecting with other partners through the program.

#### **9. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT**

Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart highlighted the data analysis process, more specifically, she emphasized the increasing need for data in healthcare. She shared that since she began with working TCMHA, the need for data has increased tremendously. She added that data has helped the make some of the most pivotal and solid operational and programmatic decisions at TCMHA; that for effective healthcare operations, they will need the data to report out faster and the technology to do some of the heavy lifting of data storage for coding as well as visualization of the data so that the end user can easily interpret it; that staff is going to be looking at how to use tech and data to get TCMHA where they want to be; that this will also bring an increased responsibility of ensuring security with that data; that as the data increases, they need to ensure that privacy and tech companies are not held to the same standards that covered entities are. She assured the Governing Board that they are analyzing and consulting with legal as needed but she also wanted to inform them where they are headed. She concluded by stating that they will be updating the Board as they move along.

Vice-Chair Nolte inquired about the involvement of artificial intelligence. Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart replied that it is something that many technology companies utilize to make things more efficient, that they are monitoring that. Discussion ensued regarding the efficiency of artificial intelligence, and it was concluded that TCMHA would like to progress forward as much as they can without jeopardizing security.

Board Member Vera commented that he really liked the chart that was provided by Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart in her report regarding data process and analysis.

#### **GOVERNING BOARD COMMENTS**

Chair Leano thanked the TCMHA staff members who were present in Claremont at the groundbreaking of the Marketplace housing development.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:53 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board, its meeting of April 17, 2024 was adjourned. The Governing Board will meet next in a Regular Joint Meeting with the Mental Health Commission to be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

  
Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk