



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.

The Governing Board Regular Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Wellness Center located at 1403 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
Carolyn Cockrell, City of La Verne, 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 (Arrived at 5:05pm)
Beverly Johnson, City of Pomona, Alternate Board Member

ABSENT: John Nolte, City of Pomona, Vice-Chair
Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, City of Pomona, Board Member

STAFF

PRESENT: Diana Acosta, Interim Executive Director
Steven L. Flower, General Counsel
Trevor Bogle, Interim Chief Financial Officer
Elizabeth Renteria, Chief Clinical Officer (Virtual)
Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services
Natalie Majors-Stewart, Chief Compliance Officer
Kitha Torregano, Director of Human Resources
Mica Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

General Counsel Flower acknowledged the attendance of Alternate Board Member Johnson in place of Vice-Chair Nolte.

PRESENTATION

OVERVIEW OF PHASE II OF THE PSYCHIATRIC ADVANCE DIRECTIVE (PAD) PROJECT UNDER INNOVATION PLAN

Paulina Ale, MHSA Program Coordinator for Innovation Plan, explained the Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs) Phase II Innovation Project and discussed the timeline of the project, noting Phase I was approved by MHSOAC in June 2021 when five counties were a part of the project.

She stated TCMHA joined the project on July 1, 2022; and that the budget for Phase I was \$253,79 during Fiscal Year 2022-23; \$250,447 during Fiscal Year 2023-24; and for Fiscal Year 2024-25 will be \$257,672, with a grand total of \$761,672.

At 5:05 p.m., Board Member Vera arrived at the meeting.

MHSA Program Coordinator Ale indicated that PADs is a peer-led project and explained a PAD is a legal document that outlines an individual's specific treatment preferences in the case of a future behavioral health crisis when an individual may be unable to make their own decisions; that Phase I of the project will end on June 30, 2025; that the project is a multi-county collaborative with six counties currently participating alongside TCMHA: Shasta, Fresno, Orange, Mariposa, Contra-Costa, and Monterey; that a user-friendly and secure online tool is being developed and the priority population is Transition Aged Youth (aged 18-25) and individuals experiencing homelessness. She then discussed the approval process of Phase II of the project, noting that a workgroup held in August 2024 unanimously approved PADs Phase II and that meetings with stakeholders and the community were held in September 2024 and received an 88% approval rating. She also discussed the different ways to integrate PADs including outpatient services, FSP, Mobile Crisis, Wellness Center, and community partners and agencies like law enforcement, noting that PADs is in alignment with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) and Proposition 1. She then talked about Phase I of PADs project, which started at creation of a comprehensive training curriculum for Peer support Specialists, then development of the initial cloud-based digital PADs platform and user and beta testing. She stated Assembly Bill AB 2352 has been introduced to recognize PADs as a legal document in California; and that extensive collaboration with peers, caregivers, hospital staff, law enforcement, and service providers are ongoing through technical workgroups along with ongoing evaluations to provide insight and further enhancement. She then presented a video recording from the stakeholder meeting held on September 4, 2024, featuring Kiran Sahota, PADs Project Director from Concepts Forward Consulting, and Wray Ryback, Risk and Patient Relations Manager from Pomona Valley Hospital and TCMHA Mental Health Commission Member.

Kiran Sahota stated the PADs Project goals are to create a standardized template, participate in a facilitator training, and make the PAD platform more accessible; and that Phase I is comprised of awareness, acceptance, and how to develop an easy-to-use platform that can be adopted. She also indicated that the PADs Platform improves efficiency, quality of care, and care coordination; that it will be real-time accessible, personalizes care, allows an individual to move between counties, allow immediate connection with a personally appointed advocate/agent, and allows users the ability to determine who has access. She provided an example of an individual's PAD, which showed an individual's photo outside of crisis and personal facts about them, noting that this would humanize the individual when in crisis. She then discussed goals and objectives for Phase II which were improvements, expansion, and impact, pointing out that one of the goals is to reduce stigma and train hospital emergency departments and law enforcement. She added that PADs are a perfect fit for individuals coming out of incarceration, Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), Fully Service Partnership (FSP) Housing Insecure, individuals who visit Wellness Centers, Crisis Residential Programs, follow-up after hospitalization, non-minor dependents, and CARE courts. She then talked about sustainability and stated that it reduced recidivism in jails and hospitals, noting that peer facilitators can bill Medi-Cal which increases funding, partnerships and collaborations to identify appropriate resources that can lead to recovery, and additional legislation can lead to more sustainability. Lastly, she provided a list of collaborators.

Wray Ryback stated that in a hospital setting about 30% of patients have a Medical Advance Directive but no patients have a Psychiatric Advance Directive, and the goal is to change that, noting that every individual has the right to decide what their treatment will be and that the PAD will allow for more personalized care, and Social Service staff to identify a Support Person, current physicians, and living situation. She then provided examples of when a PAD can be used such as when a patient is in crisis and law enforcement was called, noting that without a PAD, first responders will not know the individual's name, who their trusted support person is, their preference for treatment, the individual's physician or therapist, potential allergies, and what might calm the patient; and that a PAD will allow more engagement with patients and better understand of their needs and reduce length of stay in the hospital.

MHSA Program Coordinator Ale talked about the proposed budget for Phase II of the PADs Project, stating that the overall requested budget for TCMHA's participation over a four-year period would be \$1.5 million, broken down to \$375,000 per fiscal year. She then provided an example of how an individual would be able to obtain a PAD, indicating that individuals would be able to contact TCMHA; that the Innovation Team will accept referrals, and that Peer Support Specialists will meet with and assist individuals, pointing out that as interest grows, additional facilitators will be trained to expand outreach and opportunities for PAD creation. She then announced that the Project will be open for public review from September 6, 2024 to October 8, 2024, and TCMHA will hold a Public Hearing on October 8, 2024.

Board Member Vera inquired if there will be a database so the Police Department or TCMHA can verify if a person has a PAD. MHSA Program Coordinator Ale stated there will be no instant access database; however, law enforcement will be able to search for individuals, noting that this is still being worked on. Board Member Vera added that it would be beneficial to have a database for reference.

Board Member Lau inquired how a PAD will be accessed during a crisis. MHSA Program Coordinator Ale stated promotional items are being discussed so the logo is easily identifiable and that also personal identifiers are being worked on so that first responders can identify an individual that has a PAD, noting that the program is still on the pilot phase.

MHC Member Ryback stated facial recognition, tattoos, and other identifying marks can also be used to identify an individual.

Board Member Lau expressed she believed it was a good idea for a person to have identifiers but expressed concern about it, pointing out that it could cause harm when trying to get close to an individual to see the identifier during a crisis.

MHC Member Ryback stated a PAD database would ideally be incorporated into an individual's electronic health record so that peers can see the PAD in real time before a crisis occurs, so this way when an individual arrives at the hospital in crisis, they can see the individual has a PAD.

Board Member Lantz expressed support; however, she pointed out that TCMHA has already spent \$500,000 in building Phase I, and now it is expected to spend an additional \$1.5 million and inquired about the reason for taking so long to get it going.

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford stated that the PADs Project is a collaboration of seven counties, which each has its legal department that have spent time in discussion surrounding HIPAA and privacy related issues.

Chair Leano reminded the audience that the Public Hearing will be held at the Wellness Center on October 8, 2024, at 3:30pm. He then pulled Agenda Item No. 10 out of order citing time constraints by the presenter of this item.

10. PRESENTATION REGARDING LOS ANGELES COUNTY BALLOT MEASURE A, “HOMELESS SERVICES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE,” AND CONSIDERATION OF TAKING A POSITION TO EITHER SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE MEASURE

Margo Reeg, of the League of Women Voters from Los Angeles County, talked about Ballot Measure A, stating that it is a half-cent sales tax increase that would replace the current quarter center sales tax. She stated that currently LA County has around 75,000 unhoused individuals that has plateaued but it not getting smaller; that in 2017, LA County passed Measure H, a quarter cent sales tax that would fund homeless services and prevention in LA County, which was approved by over 70% of voters and it is still in effect until 2027. She then stated that the LA County has introduced and is currently implementing Community Assistance Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court, which engages individuals living with psychotic disorders into treatment under the court’s jurisdiction. She also stated that California Voters adopted Prop 1 which reallocates part of the 1% tax on income above one million dollars, the *Mental Health Services Act*, and renamed it the *Behavioral Health Services Act*, which now includes housing and substance abuse in addition to mental health services. She then explained that Measure A would reduce and prevent homelessness, supply affordable housing, and would repeal Measure H set to expire in 2027; and discussed the fiscal impact of Measure A stating that it would raise \$1.1 billion per year and 61% would go to the county for comprehensive Homelessness Services, 36% would go to the Affordable Housing Solutions Agency, and 3% would go to the LA County Development Authority for Housing Production. She added that voting yes means supporting a one half-cent sales tax, and voting no means opposing the half-cent sales tax; that supporters say the funds will pay for new affordable, immediate, and interim housing, it supports mental health and substance abuse treatment, it provides rental and legal assistance to prevent eviction, and it increases accountability through audits and oversight; that opponents say the current tax has not delivered results and homelessness has increased by 37% since 2017, more taxes will burden those already struggling, that there is a need for more transparency and accountability, and Measure A is being “rushed” since there is three years left in Measure H.

Chair Leano opened the meeting for public comment.

Scott Chamberlin, Executive Director of San Gabriel Valley Consortium on Homelessness, stated that it is important to talk about Measure A, pointing out that forty-two people a day are placed into housing; that services have done well but housing and prevention is lacking and more needs to be invested into housing; that if Measure A is not adopted, over forty-nine thousand will lose housing or services, with 28% at risk of becoming homeless and thirty-three hundred will lose lifesaving services. The then talked about the cost benefit, stating it still costs individuals to do nothing, and provided statistics for the San Gabriel Valley stating that an estimated \$34 million will be paid annually and approximately 60% will be for services, 26% for affordable housing, 11% for prevention, and 15% of the 60% will be for local solutions. He then provided a list of local supporters and stated that he understood the challenge in raising taxes; however, individuals still

having to pay; and that Measure A will be able to tap into boarding and care beds that are not being accessed currently; and encouraged everyone to support Measure A.

Chair Leano stated he felt it was important for the Board to hear about Measure A because other local organizations have issued support.

Alternate Board Member Johnson stated that she was sitting in for Vice-Chair Nolte and he expressed his support for Measure A. Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Lau, and Vera also expressed support on Measure A.

There being no further comment, Board Member Leano moved, and Board Member Lantz seconded to support Los Angeles County Ballot Measure A, the *Homeless Services and Affordable Ordinance*. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Alternate Board Member Johnson; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Lau, and Vera; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Ontiveros-Cole; and Vice-Chair Nolte.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Board Member Lantz announced that she would abstain from voting on the approval of Agenda Items No. 2 and No. 3 (Minutes) due to not having enough time to read the Minutes since they were distributed after the agenda packet distribution.

There being no further comment, Board Member Vera moved, and Board Member Cockrell seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar Items No. 1-7. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Alternate Board Member Johnson; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Lau, and Vera; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Vice-Chair Nolte; and Board Member Ontiveros-Cole.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 17, 2024, GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Special Meeting of July 17, 2024.”

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 21, 2024, GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Special Meeting of August 21, 2024.”

3. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 753 ESTABLISHING THE SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY LAW AWARENESS POLICY AND PROCEDURE NO. II.26, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 753 establishing the Safely Surrendered Baby Law Awareness Policy and Procedure No. II.26, effective September 18, 2024.”

4. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 754 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLIES SYSTEMS FOR NETWORK DEVICES IN THE SUM OF \$37,956.15

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 754 Authorizing the Executive Director to purchase 16 new Uninterruptible Power Supplies Systems in the amount of \$37,956.15 allocated under the Capital Facilities & Technology Plan adopted in June 2022.

5. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 755 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE NEW HARDWARE FOR THE WELLNESS CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,857.42

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 755 Authorizing the Executive Director to purchase new hardware for the Wellness Center in the amount of \$34,857.42 allocated under the Capital Facilities & Technology Plan adopted in June 2022.

6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 756 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE METAL DETECTORS AND TO ENTER INTO A ONE-YEAR SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH METRASENS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,740.00

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 756 Authorizing the Executive Director to purchase Metal Detectors and enter into a One-Year Service Agreement with Metrasens, Inc. in the amount of \$72,740.00.

7. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 757 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED APPLICATIONS FOR TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY TO BECOME A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT SERVICES PROVIDER UNDER THE DRUG MEDICAL ORGANIZED DELIVERY SYSTEM (ODS)

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 757 authorizing the Executive Director to complete and submit the required Applications for TCMHA to become a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services Provider under the ODS.”

NEW BUSINESS

8. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 758 AWARDING A TWO-YEAR AGREEMENT TO DAYDREAM COMMUNICATIONS LLC FOR MARKETING SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000.00; AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford stated an RFQ process was conducted for marketing services and Daydream Communications LLC was selected.

Board Member Cockrell inquired what the marketing campaign is for. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford replied there are seven projects for marketing services, including research and strategy for Community Planning Process and related activities resulting in future Innovation plans for TCMHA.

Board Member Vera inquired where the RFQ was sent, stating that he was surprised that there was not a local company that offered services. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford stated the RFQ was posted and distributed to marketing companies.

Board Member Lau asked where the RFQ was distributed. MHSA Program Coordinator Ale stated some of the local agencies were qualified, but they were concerned with the budgeted amount of only \$80,000. Board Member Vera further inquired when the RFQ was posted, for how long, and how many inquiries were received. Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford replied it was posted on June 17, 2024 through August 30, 2024. MHSA Program Coordinator Ale added that there were fifteen inquiries and only two applied.

Board Member Vera stated he was reluctant to approve this agreement because he knows a lot of local advertising agencies.

Board Member Lau requested that RFQs are also distributed in the future to the Governing Board.

Board Member Vera stated that TCMHA should have a preference for local entities.

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 Lau seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 758 authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a two-year agreement with Daydream Communication LLC in the amount of \$80,000 for marketing services under the Community Planning Process Innovation Project. The motion was carried by the following vote: AYES: Alternate Board Member Johnson; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, and Lau; and Chair Leano. NOES: Board Member Vera. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Ontiveros-Cole; and Vice-Chair Nolte.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT PROCESS UPDATE

Human Resources Director Torregano reported that TCMHA is approaching 3 weeks of the recruitment and 20 applications have been received; and that her team is currently screening applications and is on target to meet the deadlines and conducting virtual interviews on October 15th, and 2nd interview with the Board on October 29th.

Board Member Vera commented he has been contacted by individuals that were interested but were curious how rigid the licensing requirements were, and that he had encouraged them to apply. Director of Human Resources Torregano stated if any applicants have questions, they are encouraged to contact TCMHA's Human Resources Department.

Chair Leano clarified the screening of qualified candidates includes those without the requested licensing.

Board Member Vera inquired if twenty applications were good or bad. HR Director Torregano stated it could be either; however, there will be enough to get through the first round, and pointed out that there are more applications for this recruitment than the previous one, and there will be some repeat applicants.

Chair Leano announced that Claremont City Hall is confirmed for October 29th to conduct applicant interviews.

At 6:25 p.m., Board Member Vera left meeting.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS

11. DIANA ACOSTA, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Interim Executive Director Acosta reported that in connection with the Baseline Project, there is a gap in funding and that the developer has sent out request for bids; that the bids received are likely favorable; however, TCMHA staff does not know if the gap is closed and she is reluctant in providing a preliminary report since nothing has been confirmed by the developer. She then announced that September is National Hispanic Heritage Month; and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; and that the PADs Phase II Public Hearing will be held on October 8, 2024.

12. TREVOR BOGLE, INTERIM CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT

Interim Chief Financial Officer Bogle stated field work has been started on the audit of TCMHA Financial Statements; that the office space at the 2001 building has been completed and is currently being furnished; that the due diligence on the new building purchase has been conducted and it has been decided to not move forward with purchase, noting that although the location was ideal, it lacked the ability for TCMHA to serve the public adequately citing limitation of parking and the high cost to renovate the building. He added that the Community Garden has been completed and a grand re-opening will be on October 10, 2024, from 3pm-5pm.

Mental Health Specialist Elizabeth Fajardo and Clinical Therapist Maria Lopez expressed their excitement for the Grand Re-Opening of the Therapeutic Community Garden.

13. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria attended the meeting virtually, and reported that during the month of July the Clinical team had focused on staff safety and training on how to respond and de-escalation techniques, suicide care assessment and prevention, noting that there are more trainings scheduled in the near future.

14. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Medical Director Teimoori was absent and Interim Executive Director Acosta stated she was available to answer any questions from his report. There were no questions.

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

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford reported that the ¡ADELANTE! Wellness Collaborative presented to the Pomona Job Project group information about TCMHA's mental health resources and programming tailored to this population, noting that it was a great success.

16. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT

Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart reported that data collected for MHSA was submitted to MHSOAC and DHCS, and that the full collection of FY 2023-24 MHSA data outcomes and analyses is currently in review with MHSA program leadership, noting that it will be used for both the MHSA plan update and for program development and continuous quality improvement.

GOVERNING BOARD COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:40 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board its meeting of September 18, 2024, was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., in the Wellness Center, 1403 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk