



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD NOVEMBER 20, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.

The Governing Board Regular Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 5:03 p.m. in the MHSA Administration Building located at 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Leano called the meeting to order at 5:03 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
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
Seeyam Teimoori, Medical Director
Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services
Natalie Majors-Stewart, Chief Compliance Officer
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 Lau moved, and Board Member Cockrell seconded to approve the Consent Calendar Items No. 1-6. The motion was carried by the following vote: Alternate Board Member Johnson; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Lau, Vera; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Ontiveros-Cole; and Vice-Chair Nolte.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 10, 2024, GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Special Meeting of July 10, 2024.”

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 23, 2024, GOVERNING BOARD ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Adjourned Regular Meeting of October 23, 2024.”

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 29, 2024, GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Special Meeting of October 29, 2024.”

4. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 761 APPROVING A THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH THE POMONA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (PUSD) TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO DISTRICT’S STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IDENTIFIED AND REFERRED BY THE DISTRICT; AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 761 approving the Agreement with the PUSD for mental health services to be provided from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027, and authorizing Executive Director to execute the Agreement.”

5. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 762 APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SGVCOG) FOR A HOUSING SOLUTIONS FUND GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000.00 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE MOA

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 762 approving the Memorandum of Agreement with the SGVCOG for a Housing Solutions Fund Grant in the amount of \$35,000.00 from November 20, 2024, through June 30, 2025, and authorizing Executive Director to execute the MOA.”

6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 763 APPROVING THE ENGAGEMENT OF HOOPER, LUNDY & BOOKMAN, P.C. FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL HEALTHCARE LAW LEGAL SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN ENGAGEMENT LETTER REGARDING THE SAME

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 763 approving the engagement of Hooper, Lundy & Bookman, P.C. for special counsel healthcare law legal services and authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Engagement Letter with Hooper, Lundy & Bookman, P.C. dated November 14, 2024.”

NEW BUSINESS

7. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 764 APPOINTING ONTSON PLACIDE TO BE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY AND APPROVING AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH ONTSON PLACIDE WITH AN ANNUAL BASE SALARY OF \$317,271.97, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 9, 2024

Interim Executive Director Acosta provided an overview of the salary and benefits offered to Mr. Ontson Placide which he had accepted, noting that his annual base salary will be \$317,271.97, that is Step 2 of Classification 93 of TCMHA's Master Classification and Salary Schedule; that the benefits offered are the same provided to other members of TCMHA's Executive Team; and that Mr. Placide is scheduled to start his employment on December 9, 2024.

General Counsel Flower distributed the current Benefits Summary which will be included as Exhibit B to the Employment Agreement with Mr. Ontson Placide. Chair Leano inquired if the Summary Benefits would be made available to the public. General Counsel Flower replied in the affirmative.

Board Member Vera asked staff to explain how the salary was determined and if it was a competitive salary. Interim Executive Director Acosta replied in the affirmative, noting that the salary was based on a classification and compensation study conducted in October 2023.

General Counsel Flower reported that there was one error in the draft resolution under Section 2, Paragraph B should read "The Chair of the Governing Board" instead of Interim Executive Director; and that there was an error in the Employment Agreement, on Page 5 under Section 9(a) references "City" and should read "TCMHA". Chair Leano sought clarification if it should read "Tri-City Mental Health Authority Report" and not "City Report". General Counsel Flower responded in the affirmative.

Board Member Vera thanked staff for their hard work in the recruitment and stated he was confident in the choice made.

Chair Leano stated he received commendation from applicants on the recruitment process, noting that there was outstanding communication; and praised Human Resources Director Torregano for the excellent work on the recruitment process noting that it exceeded previous recruitment processes. Human Resources Director Torregano thanked the Board and stated she would pass the commendation onto her staff.

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. 764 appointing Mr. Ontson Placide to be the Executive Director of the Tri-City Mental Health Authority; approving an Executive Director Employment Agreement with Mr. Placide with an annual Base Salary of \$317,271.97, effective December 9, 2024; and adopting the staff's oral summary of the Executive Director's salary and benefits. The motion was carried by the following vote: Alternate Board Member Johnson; Board Members Cockrell, Lantz, Lau, and Vera; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Ontiveros-Cole; and Vice-Chair Nolte.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS

8. DIANA ACOSTA, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Interim Executive Director Acosta stated that it had been her pleasure serving as the Interim Executive Director and expressed excitement at the appointment of the new executive director. She then reported that the MHSA Annual Update Mid-Year Update to support the completion of the Claremont Gardens Senior Housing Project had been posted for its 30-day public comment period; and that November was National Native American Heritage Month and acknowledged the unique mental health challenges and trauma experienced by this community. She also stated that the staff and Executive Team are currently working on the CBHDA update regarding Proposition 1; however, that concrete information has not been made available and there was not an update to provide the Board.

Board Member Vera inquired about the Baseline Project and there will be an Ad Hoc for three-million-dollar funding that will be reallocated for the project. Interim Executive Director Acosta explained that there is no need to transfer funds as they are currently allocated in the CSS Plan under the MHSA budget. Board Member Vera further inquired if staff had received a proposal regarding how this 3-million will be spent and if is being monitored. General Counsel Flower stated there has not been a chance to reengage on the monitoring of funds. Interim Executive Director Acosta added that she and Interim Chief Financial Officer Bogle hold bi-weekly meetings and are continuing to monitor and work on the reports. Board Member Lantz inquired if it will be brought back to the Board. Interim Executive Director Acosta responded in the affirmative. Board Members Vera and Lantz expressed the importance of accountability given the challenges that had taken place. General Counsel Flower stated it has been discussed.

Chair Leano inquired if the wage update under Senate Bill 525 was reflected in the last budget report, and if there will be a cash reserve to meet the 13% increase. Interim Chief Financial Officer Bogle stated that it has not been added to the budget; however, there is a cash reserve, and this increase will be within budget; and that a budget amendment will be presented to the Board for its approval.

9. TREVOR BOGLE, INTERIM CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT

Interim Chief Financial Officer Bogle stated the audited financial statement has been received and unmodified or clean opinion, noting that JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos will distribute it to the Board and the three cities, and that the next step will be to submit the audited financial statements to the State. He then talked about reversion, stating that TCMHA is working on updating the ARER (Annual Revenue and Expense Report) to present current info in a timelier manner. He then spoke about the influx of cash received in October 2023, and indicated that TCMHA is only two hundred thousand away from where the agency was at the same time last year, meaning there is more money to spend but is being monitored.

Board Member Vera inquired if any money can be set aside for contingency matters. Interim Chief Financial Officer Bogle stated there is a \$2.2 million dollar reserve, and that additional one million dollars can be moved. Interim Executive Director Acosta added that there is a limit to the prudent reserve. Board Member Vera asked if the contingency includes any capital expenditures for land. Interim Executive Director Acosta stated that these types of funds would be allocated in the

Capital Facilities and Technology Plan (CFTN). Interim Chief Financial Officer Bogle stated the current CFTN fund balance is approximately \$6 million dollars and it is protected for 10 years. Discussion ensued regarding the \$10 million dollar funds and the need to consider how to increase operating costs, which includes considering Prop 1 and a capacity study to find out about hiring more staff; and about implementing a long-term plan.

10. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER REPORT

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria talked about her work in the California Health Improvement Project, stating she concluded her interviews and identified objectives to work on; and reported that the project was about improving client attendance and participation in services; and that some factors have been identified such as helping staff learn how to build better therapeutic alliances with clients and providing specific trainings teaching staff how to better connect with clients and families. She next spoke on the Mobile Crisis Care Unit, noting that TCMHA is currently hiring staff for the team and with additional funding will be expanding to Children’s Mobile Crisis Care, and that the teams will start taking shifts beginning in December. She also reported that the Therapeutic Community Garden Reopening in October was a positive event for the community.

Board Member Vera inquired if the Mobile Crisis Unit is now active and if clients can call. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated there has always been staff available for crisis, but there is now an active team that will respond. Board Member Vera commented on a recent event that took place and asked if TCMHA Mobile Crisis Unit could have responded instead of Police. Chief Clinical Officer Renteria stated that the Mobile Crisis Unit can now be called, noting that there will be a soft opening in January and she will be visiting agencies to promote services, including the three cities, law enforcement, and first responders.

11. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Medical Director Teimoori stated a new medication named Cobenfy, intended for treating schizophrenia has been approved, noting that the medication has reported successful studies; that TCMHA has received samples, and one doctor has started prescribing it.

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

Director of MHSA and Ethnic Services Barford stated the Innovations team recently hosted the Trunk or Treat event, stating that it was an opportunity for staff to connect with the community and collected a total of eighty-eight surveys. She stated the team also hosted the Courageous Minds event allowing community members to share their experiences with the community; and that the Wellness Center Job Fair had one hundred twenty-five participants and overall positive comments were received.

13. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT

Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart received the results of the Consumer Perception Survey sent to clients and reported that one hundred and ninety-four clients participated, and that the rate of agreement was 85%. She then stated that in December, an agency wide capacity assessment will be distributed asking staff if they are serving everyone, what their priority is, and if they are equipped.

Board Member Vera inquired if this survey will be conducted in-house. Chief Compliance Officer Majors-Stewart stated that a third-party will be used; however, the data will remain in-house.

GOVERNING BOARD COMMENTS

Chair Leano thanked Diana Acosta for her service as interim executive director and praised her for her hard work, pointing out that she had done a huge service to TCMHA and that we were very lucky to have her serve as the interim executive director.

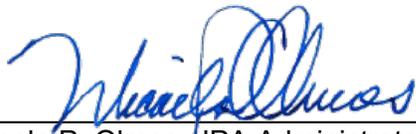
Interim Executive Director Acosta stated she was grateful for the opportunity and that she appreciated all the support she received from staff and the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:38 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board, its meeting of November 20, 2024, was adjourned. The Governing Board will meet next in a Regular Joint Meeting with the Mental Health Commission to be held on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk