



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD FEBRUARY 18, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.

The Governing Board Regular Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the MHSA Administrative Office located at 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Leano called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL Roll call was taken by JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos.

GOVERNING BOARD

PRESENT: Jed Leano, City of Claremont, Chair
Wendy Lau, City of La Verne, Vice-Chair
Lorraine Canales, City of Pomona, Board Member
Sandra Grajeda, City of Claremont, Board Member
Paula Lantz, City of Pomona, Board Member
Trent West, City of La Verne, Board Member

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

STAFF

PRESENT: Ontson Placide, Executive Director
Steven Flower, General Counsel
Diana Acosta, Chief Financial Officer
Seeyam Teimoori, Medical Director
Dana Barford, Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services
Natalie Majors-Stewart, Chief Compliance Officer
Micaela P. Olmos, JPA Administrator/Clerk

OATH OF OFFICE

General Counsel Flower administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Governing Board Member Trent West, City of La Verne Community Representative. Chair Leano congratulated Governing Board Member West. Board Member West expressed appreciation for the opportunity to support the community and give back, noting prior interactions with TCMHA over the past four years and firsthand experience observing agency programs in operation, and shared that he was pleased to contribute to supporting families experiencing crisis as a community member.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Board Member Lantz requested to pulled Item No. 4 from the Consent Calendar for further discussion.

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

There being no further comment, Vice-Chair Lau moved, and Board Member Canales seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar Items Nos. 1-3 and 5-11. The motion was carried by the following vote: Board Members Canales, Grajeda, Lantz, and West; Vice Chair Lau; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Ontiveros-Cole.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES THE JANUARY 21, 2026, REGULAR JOINT MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Recommendation: “A motion to approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting of January 21, 2026.”

2. ONTSON PLACIDE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT

Recommendation: “A motion to receive and file.”

3. DIANA ACOSTA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER MONTHLY REPORT

Recommendation: “A motion to receive and file.”

5. SEEYAM TEIMOORI, MEDICAL DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT

Recommendation: “A motion to receive and file.”

6. DANA BARFORD, DIRECTOR OF MHSA AND ETHNIC SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

Recommendation: “A motion to receive and file.”

7. NATALIE MAJORS-STEWART, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER MONTHLY REPORT

Recommendation: “A motion to receive and file.”

8. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 838 ESTABLISHING THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE DIRECTOR AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENT INTERN CLASSIFICATIONS, AND UPDATING THE MASTER CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY SCHEDULE TO ADD THESE POSITIONS

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 838 establishing the Strategic Initiative Director and Occupational Therapy Student Intern Job Classifications; and updating the Master Classification and Salary Schedule to include these changes.”

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 839 ESTABLISHING THE RECONCILIATION AND REPORTING OF SERVICE ENCOUNTER CLAIMS POLICY AND PROCEDURE NO. I.29, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 839 establishing the Policy and Procedure No. I.29 for the Reconciliation and Reporting of Service Encounter Claims, effective February 18, 2026.”

10. SERVICE ENCOUNTER CLAIMS RECONCILIATION AND REPORT

Recommendation: “A motion to receive, approve, and file, the reconciliation and report of service encounter claims.”

11. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 840 APPROVING AN AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH PALO ALTO UNIVERSITY AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AND ANY AMENDMENTS THEREAFTER

Recommendation: “A motion to adopt Resolution No. 840 authorizing the Executive Director to execute an Affiliation Agreement with Palto Alto University, and any amendments thereafter.”

NEW BUSINESS

4. LIZ RENTERIA, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER MONTHLY REPORT

Board Member Lantz referenced prior interactions with the Pomona Police Department regarding outreach efforts, noting that TCMHA had previously been asked to participate but that the initiative was funded through Los Angeles County. With the establishment of the Mobile Crisis Care (MCC) program, she inquired about recent discussions on the matter.

Chief Clinical Officer Renteria responded (via electronically) that Pomona continues to utilize Los Angeles County staff, with MCC serving to fill service gaps. She explained that as Los Angeles County triages calls, warm handoffs will be made to Tri-City when appropriate. She further noted that the Pomona Police Department maintains a mental health unit and that MCC is coordinating with that unit. She concluded by stating an MOU was under review, and recent meetings with Los Angeles County and Pomona Police Department were reported as positive.

Board Member Lantz expressed satisfaction with the update.

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

The staff monthly report was received and filed.

12. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 841 AWARDING A CONTRACT TO VMA COMMUNICATIONS FOR MARKETING SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$66,000.00, BEGINNING MARCH 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

Director of MHSA & Ethnic Services Barford explained that the contract with VMA Communications supports workforce recruitment efforts during a period of organizational transformation associated with BHSa implementation and anticipated workforce growth. She noted the intent to recruit qualified professionals and address hard-to-fill positions.

Communication Coordinator Sprague provided additional context, stating that the effort aligns with state and county recruitment initiatives and represents a strategic opportunity to expand outreach beyond the immediate service area to neighboring counties. She reported that an RFQ was issued on January 5, with outreach to 15 firms, including chambers of commerce. Six vendors submitted proposals, which were evaluated through interviews by a panel including the herself, Human Resources, and additional staff. Based on the evaluation, VMA Communications was selected due to its strong community presence in the San Gabriel Valley and comprehensive communications capabilities.

Board Member Canales asked whether the four-month contract period would result in completed videos and digital advertisements and whether the materials would extend beyond the contract term. Communication Coordinator Sprague responded that the recruitment videos would serve as foundational assets housed on a recruitment landing page, intended for long-term use. She noted that the contract period includes planning, development, and testing, and that materials produced would be sustainable and reusable.

Board Member Lantz asked how success would be measured. Communication Coordinator Sprague responded that metrics would include reach, engagement, and lead generation, with comparisons to current baseline data. Executive Director Placide added that current click-through data would be used for comparison. Board Member Lantz expressed interest in reviewing results given the contract cost.

Board Member West asked whether the campaign would focus on executive-level positions or general recruitment. Communication Coordinator Sprague responded that the approach would be hybrid, supporting general recruitment while also targeting hard-to-fill positions such as psychiatrists, nurses, peer support specialists, and mobile-based staff. Executive Director Placide noted that increased competition with county and healthcare providers requires clearer messaging regarding the agency's offerings and role as a government entity.

Vice-Chair Lau asked whether the materials would be used across social media platforms and who would control posting. Communication Coordinator Sprague confirmed that a multi-channel approach would be used, including LinkedIn, and that the agency would retain ownership and shared access to all assets. She further stated that VMA would provide training, templates, and support to ensure continuity if services were not extended. Vice-Chair Lau emphasized the importance of engagement metrics and requested comparative data at the conclusion of the contract period.

Board Member Canales commented on the importance of outreach focused on recruiting staff willing to work directly in the community. Communication Coordinator Sprague responded that storytelling centered on field-based staff and community impact would be a central component of the campaign.

Lindsey Barnes of VMA Communications addressed the Board, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to work with the agency and noting her role as project manager and primary point of contact. She reported experience with similar agencies and referenced prior campaigns that generated significant candidate engagement. She explained that VMA would track detailed engagement metrics and provide regular reporting with findings and recommendations.

Vice-Chair Lau requested that campaign metrics be included in future reports to the Board.

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

There being no further comment, Board Member Grajeda moved, and Vice-Chair Lau seconded, to approve Resolution No. 841 awarding the Agreement for Marketing Services for Recruitment Video Production and Digital Ad Campaign to VMA Communications, and authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Agreement, in the amount of \$66,000.00, beginning March 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026. The motion was carried by the following vote: Board Members Canales, Grajeda, Lantz, and West; Vice Chair Lau; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Ontiveros-Cole.

13. CONSIDERATION TO FORM AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO INTERVIEW APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO TCMHA MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos reported on recent resignations from the Mental Health Commission (MHC) and ongoing recruitment efforts to fill vacancies, including positions designated for youth under the age of 25. It was noted that recruitment for youth representation continues to be challenging, and this marked the second extension of the recruitment period. Staff recommended establishing an Ad Hoc Committee in advance of the recruitment deadline to allow the selection process to proceed without delay once applications close.

Board Member Lantz asked whether an interview process had historically been used. JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos confirmed that an interview process has been standard practice, noting that in prior recruitments two Governing Board members volunteered to participate, with up to eight candidates interviewed in a single day. Interviews typically lasted 25 to 30 minutes and followed a set list of pre-selected questions, with interviews conducted over one or two days as needed.

Chair Leano inquired about Board Member Grajeda's availability. Board Member Grajeda indicated availability after March and confirmed her willingness to volunteer, pending verification of the date.

Chair Leano then asked for additional volunteers. Vice-Chair Lau expressed concern regarding time commitment based on prior experience serving on similar committees. Board Member Canales indicated interest but also noted concerns regarding scheduling. JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos stated that interview times could be adjusted to accommodate availability. Board Member West requested additional information regarding the Board and committee responsibilities.

Chair Leano confirmed participation by Board Members Grajeda and tentative participation by Vice-Chair Lau and Board Member Canales, subject to quorum availability on the interview date, and asked whether this approach was acceptable. JPA Administrator/Clerk Olmos responded in the affirmative.

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

There being no further comment, Chair Leano moved, and Vice-Chair Lau seconded, the selection of Board Members Grajeda and Canales and Vice-Chair Lau to participate in an Ad-Hoc Committee to interview MHC Membership Applicants. The motion was carried by the following vote: Board Members Canales, Grajeda, Lantz, and West; Vice Chair Lau; and Chair Leano. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Board Member Ontiveros-Cole.

GOVERNING BOARD COMMENTS

Vice-Chair Lau requested that an email be distributed to announce the extension of the Mental Health Commission recruitment period. JPA Administrador/Clerk Olmos confirmed that the email would be sent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Three community members addressed the Board in support of continued Wellness Center (WC) services. Speakers emphasized that WC group programs provide a safe and supportive environment for recovery and stated that service consistency is critical. Community members shared personal experiences describing the positive impact of WC services on mental health, grief support, and community connection, and expressed concern that reductions in services would have serious consequences. Speakers urged the Board to continue WC programming.

Chair Leano thanked the community members for their comments and asked whether WC services were subject to budgetary changes. Executive Director Placide responded that the Board packet included a timeline related to the Integrated Plan (IP) and explained that, under BHSA, funding categories are being restructured, including shifts in Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funding back to the State. He stated that TCMHA was in the process of developing a three-year plan and encouraged stakeholders to provide comments during scheduled stakeholder meetings. He noted that recommendations will be made to the Governing Board and the Mental Health Commission and then submit them to the State as part of the planning process. Executive Director Placide further stated that funding decisions are complex and that staff are currently in the planning phase, but that current services are anticipated to continue at this time.

Chair Leano asked for clarification regarding PEI-funded activities. Executive Director Placide stated that PEI currently funds WC services and that while services are not eliminated, funding may be significantly reduced. Chair Leano asked whether a reduction in WC services was anticipated, and Executive Director Placide responded that reductions are possible and that further discussion would occur once the Integrated Plan was posted, with additional opportunities for Board and stakeholder input.

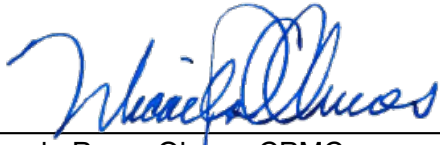
Board Member Canales asked whether WC services could be cut, and Executive Director Placide confirmed that this was a possibility. Director of MHSA & Ethnic Barford noted that informational flyers had been distributed. Chair Leano requested that WC participants be provided alternative avenues to submit feedback if unable to attend stakeholder meetings. Executive Director Placide confirmed that staff would create additional options for public input.

Chair Leano asked when the matter would return to the Board. Executive Director Placide stated that stakeholder feedback would be reviewed at the March meeting, with Board approval anticipated at the April meeting, subject to quorum. Board Member West inquired if there was enough time to offer feedback before the 30 day posting, Executive Director Placide clarified that the public posting period would not limit Governing Board feedback and that the State would also provide feedback following posting.

Chair Leano directed that the complete timeline of stakeholder meetings to be shared publicly.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:57 p.m., on consensus of the Governing Board, its Regular Meeting of February 18, 2026, was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in the MHSA Administrative Office, 2001 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, California.



Micaela Perez Olmos, CPMC
JPA Administrador/Clerk