

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – JANUARY 14, 2014**  
**LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Steven L. Davis at 6:02 p.m., Tuesday, January 14, 2014, in the Community Meeting Room at the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Daphne Dennis.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Rob Bergstein, Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis,  
Barbara Meltzer, Andrew Oldershaw, Jimmy Palmieri,  
Anne-Marie Williams

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioner Cislowski joined the meeting in progress. Staff members present included: Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Manager; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Corri Planck, and Laura Schoonover.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary for the meeting reported that notices for the meeting had been posted as required.

D. **PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to complete a form.

II. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 10, 2013, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Bergstein, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri, with Commissioner Williams abstaining.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **YEAR-END REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS 2012-2013**

Daphne Dennis presented the year-end report on Social Services programs

for 2012-2013. She began by discussing the impact of the recession, which seems to be ending, although people will be dealing with the negative impacts for many years. Prices for housing and other necessities are rising again in the Los Angeles area. Many of the services the City supports are intended to help stabilize people in their residences, which assists the overall stability of the community. There is hope that some of the housing-related funding that was cut during the recession may be restored in future years.

She noted that the year-end report follows completion of an RFP process which ended with two programs that were the most challenged not being funded into the new contract year. She thanked Commissioners for their collaboration during challenging times, and introduced agency staff, who were present to respond to questions, in addition to city Social Services staff.

Fred Summers spoke on behalf of JFS/SOVA to thank the Commissioners for their continuing support of the program.

Diane Schneider spoke on behalf of JFS Nutrition. She said these programs are doing well, and expressed appreciation to the City for its support.

Marina Berkman of Jewish Family Service spoke about challenges in housing, including changes in Section 8 funding that have led to many landlords refusing to renew Section 8 vouchers, an outcome which imposes even greater financial challenges to residents.

Commissioners expressed thanks to agency representatives for the work they and their programs accomplish for the people, and posed questions about some particular aspects of the reports. Commissioner Bergstein confirmed how data submitted by agencies is verified by City staff, and distinctions between data covering only West Hollywood, as opposed to the entire area served by an agency.

Commissioner Cislowski noted that in almost all cases, the agencies' accomplishments have exceeded their projected goals.

Commissioner Palmieri asked how Bet Tzedek will handle its high volume of clients without additional funding, and an agency representative said they would seek to do this using additional resources, and by collaboration.

Commissioner Bergstein posed questions to Aid for AIDS; to AIDS Project Los Angeles, in which he expressed interest in making sure that negative comments received by the agency are not excluded from data; to Bet Tzedek, leading to clarification that the Center for Civic Mediation, although not funded by the City in the new year, nevertheless continues to provide services to the West Hollywood community; to Friends Research Institute, on how they collect information by follow-up questionnaires; to JFS Nutrition, regarding seeking to avoid overlap with other food programs such as Project Chicken Soup; to Project Angel Food, on requests for Kosher meals; and to St. Thomas the Apostle, on how they determine that participants have been motivated to improve their lives.

Commissioner Oldershaw noted that transgender is not a gender and asked why forms listed genders as male, female, and transgender, rather than male, female, transgender male, and transgender female. Daphne Dennis said this will be changed in the new quarterly reports.

With no further questions, agency staff were again thanked for their attendance, and a brief recess was held.

**B. PRESENTATION FROM TARZANA TREATMENT CENTER**

Tom Martinez, Director of Operations at Tarzana Treatment Centers, reviewed how the agency has grown across Los Angeles County since its founding in 1972, and now includes facilities in Lancaster, Long Beach, Northridge, Palmdale, and Reseda, as well as Tarzana. He spoke about their accreditation; how they provide a continuum of services including medical and other forms of support; and the services that are provided to West Hollywood residents under their contract with the City.

In response to questions from commissioners, he spoke about a need for volunteers, about the number of gay and lesbian clients, and clients with HIV; about West Hollywood community members served, and about the continuing challenge of meth and heroin.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. CHANGE TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT REIMBURSEMENT RATE**

David Giugni said that following the RFP process, the City has entered new contracts for substance abuse treatment with Tarzana Treatment Center and Substance Abuse Foundation of Long Beach. Funds will be placed in a pool for this kind of service, and can be paid to the agencies on a fee-for-service basis. In the course of negotiating the contract, Tarzana requested a rate of \$386 per night instead of the previous rate of \$237, and settled on a rate of \$325 per night, which it recommends for approval, despite concern that the funds will be used more quickly than planned. He said it's likely that the funds will be expended prior to the end of the contract year.

Commissioner Oldershaw left the meeting at this point. Commissioner Cislowski discussed possibly making a motion to approve the recommendation while also forming a committee to monitor the funding in this new method of fee-for-services. Daphne Dennis said staff has this information and can provide it in various formats.

Commissioner Davis moved to approve the recommendation to Council. This was seconded by Commissioners Meltzer and Palmieri, and approved.

**B. REAL-TIME TRIP ARRIVAL PROPOSAL FOR CITYLINE**

Daphne Dennis reported on behalf of Perri Sloane Goodman that in continuing effort to improve access to public transit, staff is recommending that the City contract with NextBus so people can know when the CityLine bus is coming.

This is a technology already in use by Metro and other providers, and which has been successful in encouraging ridership. There is a start-up cost and an ongoing cost. Transportation Commission, Senior Advisory Board, and Disabilities Advisory Board will also be considering the item.

Commissioner Meltzer moved to approve the recommendation to Council. This was seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

## VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

The next agenda will include consideration of attending other city meetings.

Commissioner Palmieri reminded about not texting during the meeting. He spoke about #BOOM!, the sober New Year's Eve event held Dec 31 in West Hollywood Park Auditorium, which was well attended and memorable.

Commissioner Palmieri asked staff to contact PATH about a bedbug problem and report back to him, because he has a message from a physician reporting PATH residents suffering from bedbug bites. He also expressed continuing concern about a situation in which a resident with diarrhea was refused to use the bathroom. David Giugni said that if residents communicate that they are ill, they are permitted to stay in the facility during the day. There was discussion about client confidentiality, and the role of commissioners.

Commissioner Williams was glad that #BOOM! went well. She spoke about the Homeless Services Subcommittee. She congratulated Daphne Dennis, who is retiring, for her work over many years on behalf of the LGBT community as a whole.

Commissioner Meltzer had distributed copies of a speech by Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez because it was interesting on the topic of aging in the state. She spoke about helping West Hollywood be an age-welcoming community. She spoke about an AARP article about a town seeking to make itself welcoming to persons with dementia.

Commissioner Bergstein congratulated Commissioner Palmieri on #BOOM!

Commissioner Cislowski asked if staff could bring a list of groups that the staff works on, such as intergovernmental task forces. She would also be interested in knowing more about agencies that provide services in West Hollywood although they are not funded by the City. She also congratulated Daphne Dennis.

Commissioner Davis spoke about Tribe, the gay men's group, which meets tomorrow evening. He also spoke about the pleasure of working with Daphne Dennis over many years. An interesting group of people have served on the Commission, and he said she'd done an excellent job of working with them, treating them equally, and accomplishing the goals.

## VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Corri Planck spoke about the clothing drive for the Gay & Lesbian Center's youth program.

The first WeHo Cares pop-ups will be held soon, on Jan. 25, to provide information to the community about social services, volunteer opportunities, and related topics.

Leslie Isenberg spoke about the Homeless Services Subcommittee meeting tomorrow at the GLC Youth Center. Also, on Feb. 21, there will be a recognition for Daphne Dennis in the Community Meeting Room.

Elizabeth Savage expressed congratulations on the huge success of #BOOM!, and there were no complaints from businesses, or about parking. She thanked Laura Schoonover for serving as secretary for the meeting.

Elizabeth Savage spoke about working with Daphne Dennis for two decades, and about the impeccable level of service that she has provided. Commissioner Davis recalled Daphne's role in building the City's entire approach to social services.

Daphne Dennis said Winter Sounds concerts are being held in the Council chambers. She spoke about the outreach pop-up workshops for social services and other City services.

Daphne Dennis thanked the Commission for working with them over many years, and said she is leaving the position but not leaving the City. She will be on the board of Friends of the Library, and work on an oral history regarding the role of Jodi Curlee in the development of the City, among other projects.

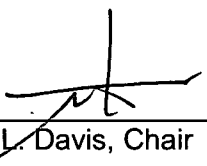
VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Signed:

  
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Steven L. Davis, Chair

7-8-14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date