

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
JULY 27, 2005**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Cherner called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Bryan Dahlgren led the Pledge.

3. SWEARING IN:

Pamela Keevil-Grey and Tom Pavich were sworn in by Councilmember Jeffrey Prang.

4. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Norman Cherner, Jordan Chinich, Debra Chodash, Suzanne Dietrich, Bryan Dahlgren, Pamela Keevil-Grey, Dr. Harrison Kline-Aguado, Tom Pavich, Joel Ring

ALSO PRESENT: Leslie Isenberg and Kim Patterson

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda of July 27, 2005 was approved with the amendment that 10E be skipped due to lack of time.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 25, 2005 meeting were approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

8. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Isenberg informed the DAB that the exterior accessibility grant was from 2003, but if it becomes available again, we will look into the possibility of applying for that. Discounts for people with disabilities will be agendaized for the next meeting. She announced that Phyllis Coto resigned from the Board. Chairperson Cherner requested a draft application for the National Organization on Disabilities' access

award be brought to the August meeting for the DAB's review. Lastly, Ms. Isenberg distributed the Inclusionary Housing fact sheet and a new taxi brochure.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. HIDDEN DISABILITIES – HIV/AIDS:

David Giugni, Social Services Program Supervisor, presented a picture of the City's HIV & AIDS demographics and compared them to LA County and national figures. He reviewed the testing facilities that the City funds as well as counseling services offered by Being Alive and APLA. He also noted the rise in crystal meth and other drug use which is related to 50% of HIV transmission. He then fielded questions from the DAB.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PALM VIEW RENT SUBSIDY:

Mr. Giugni gave a brief overview of the situation with the 40 rent-subsidized units for HIV+ residents at West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation's Palm View Apartments. On Nov. 30, the project-based rental subsidies from HOPWA will end, and the average increased rent will be 60%, with the eleven Section 8 units remaining at the current rate.

Kelly Kent, coordinator for L.A. HOPWA (Housing for People with AIDS), added that the Actors Fund will increase their support for their clients, and Aid for AIDS will provide a short-term stop gap measure.

Ann Ehrental of WHCSC explained that the subsidies were projected to last five years, but they were able to get them stretched to seven years, so everyone knew the termination of subsidies was coming.

David Joseph, Chairman of the Resident Advisory Board at Palm View, requested emergency funds for the City to cover the \$78,000 shortfall.

David Nash, Resident Advisory Board member, talked about the catch-22 at the apartments where the people in 29 units who

were fortunate to get HOPWA grants now find their rents doubling and tripling, but the other 11 units who didn't get the grants but got Section 8 now have no increase.

Eric Johnson, speaking as an individual and not representing the housing groups he works with, suggested that the County change the grants from being project-based (which stays with the unit) to tenant-based (which leaves with the tenant).

Steve Wayland, of PAWS and LACHAC, spoke in support of a short-term rental assistance stop gap from the City to help the transition into a long-term resolution of the situation.

Jerome Boyce, resident of Palm View, suggested that the issue was structural problems with which the City is often not in compliance. He recommended seeking help from the Justice Department, as this situation is just the tip of the iceberg.

The DAB unanimously approved a recommendation to the City to pick up the short-term stop gap measures, and authorized the drafting of a letter signed by the next DAB Chairperson that the County issue the Palm Avenue residents Section 8 housing choice vouchers.

B & C. OCTOBER TELEVISED MEETING:

Ms. Isenberg gave an overview of previous Disability Awareness Month activities which include Disability Mentoring Day, service awards, PSA's, and a televised meeting. Pamela Keevil-Grey suggested that Anthony Kennedy Shriver, her boss, be invited to speak, but realized that the October date would be a conflict with the Hearst Castle Challenge bike ride. However he has expressed interest in being involved with any kind of social issues related to persons with disabilities. Dr. Harrison Kline-Aguado suggested that hidden disabilities be the theme this year, and that possibly a speaker from the Alfred Mann Foundation, a non-profit research organization, be invited to address the televised meeting. The DAB moved to table the discussion until next month due to a lack of time.

E. ELECTIONS

Dr. Harrison Kline-Aguado was elected Chairperson and Suzanne Dietrich was elected as Vice-Chair.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ann Semonco said that it was a pleasure serving on the Board for the past nine years, and was pleased to see the two new members, both of whom she knows well. She updated the Board on transportation issues that she's been involved in and encouraged the DAB to contact her if anyone needs her assistance.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON UPDATES:

Mr. Cherner thanked the Board for all their help during his past two years as Chairperson, and thanked outgoing members Ann Semonco and Phyllis Coto for their contributions to the DAB. He also noticed that on the City's phone list, there is no TTY phone number. Some Board members haven't received the list, so Ms. Isenberg will check into these items.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Kline-Aguado adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 24, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA.

Suzanne Dietrich
Suzanne Dietrich, Board Member