

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – JULY 14, 2015**  
**LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Acting Chair Andrew Oldershaw at 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in the Community Meeting Room of the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jeffrey Rodriguez.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Rob Bergstein, Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Barbara Meltzer, Andrew Oldershaw, Jimmy Palmieri, Patrick Shandrick.

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included: Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Leslie Isenberg, Derek Murray, and Jeff Book.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported that notices for the meeting were 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 May 9, 2015, meeting were amended to reflect that Commissioner Bergstein was not present, and that the reference to "Eight Domains of Aging" should refer to "Eight Domains of Age-Friendly Cities."

The minutes of the May 9, 2015, and June 9, 2015, meetings were then approved on a motion by Commissioner Bergstein, seconded by Commissioner Davis, with Commissioner Bergstein abstaining with regard to May 9<sup>th</sup>.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Michael Wojtkielewicz spoke about West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation.

Robert Gamboa, liaison of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, spoke about the statute of limitations on sexual assault; honoring the intersection the historical significance of the Santa Monica/San Vicente intersection; historical kiosks; and PrEP.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LA LGBT CENTER SENIOR SERVICES

Leslie Isenberg introduced Kathleen Sullivan and Tripp Mills from LA LGBT Center's Senior Services program, which is providing reports and information to the Commission over the next three months due to being placed on probation regarding progress toward goals in its social services contract with the City.

Tripp Mills and Kathleen Sullivan discussed increased efforts for outreach and improved information at intake, as well as partnering with the City on events such as concerts. They believe the new monthly report will show improvement.

Commissioner Shandrick spoke about the potential for a workshop on Social Security issues. Commissioners Cislowski and Davis asked for data to be provided to the Commission each month, including information available if the meeting date precedes the filing of the monthly report.

Commissioner Bergstein asked what age is required for the Center's Senior Services, to which the answer was 50.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. INCLUSION OF PrEP AS PART OF HIV TESTING/COUNSELING PROTOCOLS

David Giugni reviewed how this matter came to the Commission, beginning with the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board's urgency recommendation to the City Council that the City adopt a policy requiring information on PrEP be shared with persons who test negative for HIV by agencies which have Social Services contracts and/or receive public benefit from the City. The City Council expressed agreement with the concept and asked the Commission to return to the City Council with recommendations on the policy and how it could be implemented.

The Commission heard discussion from a panel directly involved with HIV testing and related issues. The members were: Richard Lamanna, Mobile Testing Unit Program Manager, AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Sonali Kulkarni, Medical Director, Division of HIV and STD Programs, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health; Victor Crisanto, HIV Coordinator, Saban Community Clinic; Corinne (Corie) Benisians, PA-C, MS-PA, HIV Research Clinician, LA LGBT Center; and Jeffrey Rodriguez, Sexual Health and Education Program Manager, LA LGBT Center.

Richard Lamanna says his agency works out of a mobile testing unit on the corner of Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevards, usually during evening hours. They typically deal with people who have been to, or are going to, the bars, and therefore their procedure is extremely fast. He said California law does not require pre- or post-test counseling, so they do not provide that, but they do respond to questions a client may have. They are onsite every day. Year-to-date they have done 7,687 tests in West Hollywood, with 84 persons testing positive.

Sonali Kulkarni of LA County said they fund many organizations in LA County, including AHF. She said that since 2011 there has been a shift away from required post-test counseling, and toward more case-finding and linkages to care for people who test positive. She said there is no required post-test counseling, but they leave it to test counselors to create a patient-centered approach, which tailors the services to the patient. They require a full-day training for test counselors, which includes values clarification and training in how to talk with patients. All of their agencies are required to submit quality management plans.

Victor Crisanto of Saban Community Clinic said they conduct HIV screening routinely for persons 13 to 64. Their providers do not bring up any counseling, because the HIV test is routinely included in the services. However, they do provide prescriptions for PrEP when the patient requests this.

Corie Benisians of the LA LGBT Center will be the lead clinician for the new testing center at The Spot. She said their staff is well-trained on PEP and PrEP and works to get this information out to the clients. They have integrated this into the training they provide for counselors.

Jeffrey Rodriguez of the LA LGBT Center noted they have been providing PEP since 2009, with counselors talking with every client about PEP and PrEP for at least the last five years. He said PrEP has had a rapid increase in use over the last year. They seek to balance mental health counseling and biomedical education to insure their clients receive both. Risk assessment is part of their routine HIV counseling, and PEP and PrEP have recently been included as part of the standard questions involved in the risk assessment.

Panelists discussed several questions regarding PrEP, including whether providing the information would be possible under the current design of their programs, and how such a requirement would be implemented, if adopted.

Richard Lamanna said that because of the speed with which they see clients, one way to provide information would be to provide a number which could be texted to receive information about PrEP. This would be a way to get more information into the hands of the community without slowing the speed of testing.

Public comment was received from: (1) Larry Block, and (2) Whitney Engeran of AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

Commissioner Palmieri noted that AIDS Healthcare Foundation provides testing services free of charge to the City. David Giugni said AHF is a collaborative agency that serves a target population. The City waives the fees for the encroachment permit that allows AHF to place its testing vehicle on Santa Monica Boulevard near San Vicente.

Commissioner Shandrick asked whether requiring agencies that receive public benefit to provide information on their provision of information on PrEP would affect other agencies, such as Planned Parenthood. David Giugni said it may, depending on how the requirement is worded.

Commissioners discussed numerous aspects of the use of Truvada as PrEP, including the length of time a patient would stay on Truvada; the percentile effectiveness of Truvada; the nature of what is said in counseling, depending on the personality of the client; what steps to provide information can be taken without affecting the speed of testing; potential medical implications of long-term use; affordability of treatment; and the City receiving benefit from testing which far exceeds the cost of waiving a parking encroachment fee.

Commissioner Cislowski moved that the Commission make the following three recommendations to the City Council:

1. The City of West Hollywood's contracted providers of HIV Testing and Counseling services will have information available and on display regarding Truvada as PrEP as part of a complete prevention strategy in addition to always practicing safer sex by using condoms correctly, during pre- and/or post-test counseling sessions.
2. Beginning with the 2015-16 Social Services contracts for HIV Testing and Counseling services, the Exhibit A: Scope of Services/Narrative document will include this requirement.
3. The City of West Hollywood will provide its collaborative HIV Testing and Counseling partners information on Truvada as PrEP through various mediums in order to make available to clients during pre- and post-test counseling sessions.

These recommendations to the City Council were seconded by Commissioner Davis and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Shandrick said the moment of testing is an important touchpoint for the opportunity to provide this information, and that this topic is one that will continue to be a focus, including with regard to affordability of PrEP treatment.

Commissioner Palmieri said he wished to be on record as opposed to taking punitive action against AHF, such as taking away the encroachment fee waiver.

Commissioner Oldershaw said the presentation from the panel was educational and that the subject is likely to come up for further discussion.

David Giugni said the Council report from staff will include the background that this topic was raised initially as an urgency item by the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.

The Commission expressed a strong desire to encourage all grant recipient collaborators to ensure that they are providing proper staff training.

## **B. PLANNING AND COORDINATION MEETINGS SCHEDULE**

This item was moved to the next agenda without objection, on a motion by Commissioner Cislowski, seconded by Commissioner Davis.

C. CONSIDERATION OF CANCELING AUGUST MEETING

The Commission discussed whether to cancel the August meeting. There was no motion in this regard.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Meltzer provided copies of the July-August 2015 issue of Aging Today, a publication of the American Society on Aging, which she guest edited and for which she wrote several articles.

Commissioner Bergstein said it has been an honor to serve on the Commission.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Commissioner Shandrick spoke about an article on data-driven statistical modeling on PrEP.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Leslie Isenberg spoke about the revised card to give to people who are homeless. The collaborative of service providers for the homeless meets tomorrow. Commissioner Shandrick said the Sheriff's office should address the recent fire at 9080 Santa Monica Blvd. Commissioner Davis said he believed there has been a visible increase in the number of homeless persons in the city.

Derek Murray said an advertisement developed by APLA regarding zero transmission of HIV will run in Frontiers and Adelante, as well as bus stops and social marketing. He spoke about Los Angeles hosting the Special Olympics; a planning and coordination meeting on social media; and a training of social services agency staff on working with transgender people.

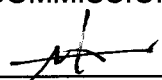
VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

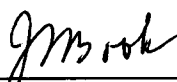
There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

In the absence of further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2015.

  
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Steven L. Davis, Chair

Attest:   
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Jeff Book, Secretary