

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – OCTOBER 13, 2015
LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Barbara Meltzer at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 13, 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 Commissioner Anderson.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Sam Borelli, Ruth Cislowski, Barbara Meltzer, Jimmy Palmieri,
Patrick Shandrick, Elizabeth Anderson.

Not Present: Steven L. Davis.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Corri Planck, Peter Noonan, and Laura Schoonover.

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. **AGENDA**

The agenda for the October 13, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Cislowski.

III. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 8, 2015, meeting, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Cislowski, seconded by Commissioner Borelli.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Michael Wojtkielewicz of West Hollywood spoke regarding Being Alive, National Council of Jewish Women, West Hollywood Comprehensive Service Center (JFS), Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, and Aids Project Los Angeles.

Kathleen Sullivan and Tripp Mills of LA LGBT Center spoke regarding updates recently implemented in their Senior Services program.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES

Staff member Corri Planck provided the Commission with a brief overview of how tonight's topic of Substance Abuse Treatment Services came about. She introduced the representatives who were in attendance from McIntyre House, Tarzana Treatment Center, and Safe Refuge. Each organization had been provided a list of three key points that they were to address: 1) Summarize the services provided by your program. 2) Summarize the services provided to West Hollywood community members (if different from question 1). 3) Describe any challenges or barriers that have been encountered.

Executive Director Brian Hardin and Program Director Gary Seidan of McIntyre House were in attendance, addressed the three key questions and answered questions from the Commission.

Director of Community Programs and Services Tom Martinez of Tarzana Treatment Center was in attendance, addressed the three key questions and answered questions from the Commission.

Clinical Services Director Jennifer Lundahl and Grants Manager Cynthia Chavez of Safe Refuge were in attendance, addressed the three key questions and answered questions from the Commission.

B. REPROGRAMMING 2014 – 15 CONTRACT SAVINGS

David Giugni provided a detailed report to the Commission regarding reprogramming \$31,220 in contract savings and unspent funds and concluded with the following staff recommendations: 1) A \$30,260 augmentation of the Bet Tzedek Legal Services contract and 2) A \$960 augmentation of the LA LGBT Center's WeHo Life contract. Mr. Giugni then introduced Jessie Kornberg and Shawn Kravich of Bet Tzedek and Darnel Green from the LA LGBT WeHo Life Program and opened the floor to questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Borelli made a motion to approve staff recommendation.

Commissioner Palmieri also supported the recommendations.

Commissioner Shandrick recommended that more funds be allocated for the WeHo Life Program to allow them to be able to work more on social media outreach.

Commissioner Cislowski requested that if more funds were allocated to the WeHo Life program that a clear definition of what the City funds are used for and what the City's expectations are should first be in place. Commissioner Cislowski also asked for clarification regarding the Bet Tzedek LA Help program.

Commissioner Palmieri seconded Commissioner Borelli's motion to accept staff's recommendations and the motion was passed 6-0-0.

Commissioner Shandrick asked for clarification on how the remaining contract savings and unspent funds will be allocated. David Giugni explained that any remaining funds will be rolled over into the next RFP process or allocated on an as needed basis as approved by the Commission. Commissioner Shandrick asked for consideration for the need of transportation for the homeless to reach winter shelter destinations.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. ANNUAL REPORT OF RENT STABILIZATION AND HOUSING DIVISION

Rent Stabilization and Housing Manager Peter Noonan provided a summary of the 2014 Rent Stabilization and Housing Annual Report.

Commissioner Shandrick spoke about the loss of rent stabilized units and asked Mr. Noonan what the City is doing about securing the existing housing stock.

Commissioner Cislowski spoke about unit swapping and asked Mr. Noonan what the City is doing to help aging community members stay in their homes.

Commissioner Palmieri asked for clarification on the purpose of rent adjustment hearings. He also requested information on when a landlord could request a rent increase of more than the Annual General Adjustment.

Commissioner Borelli asked about what outreach efforts the City is doing regarding tenant rights under the Rent Stabilization Ordinance.

Commissioner Anderson spoke about the mediation services that are offered by the City.

Commissioner Meltzer asked about the frequency of the newsletter mailings.

Commissioner Cislowski asked about how the Annual General Adjustment is calculated.

Michael Wojtkielewicz of West Hollywood spoke about Item 4B and Item 5A.

B. EXPANSION OF MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELESS POPULATION

David Giugni provided a report on mental health resources for the homeless population. He spoke about the organization Step Up on Second, a homeless services organization that recently received federal funding through PATH Dollars for a multi intervention team. The Social Services division has reached out to this organization to ensure that they are providing services for the West Hollywood homeless population. He also reported that the West Hollywood Social Services Division is talking to Cedars Sinai about providing funding to create an additional multi intervention team that would focus on West Hollywood homeless community members.

Commissioner Borelli asked about possibly adding a law enforcement agent to the intervention team.

Commissioner Anderson asked about the ages of the most vulnerable and if there were any seniors included in the initial five identified "hard to reach" homeless community members.

Commissioner Shandrick asked if the five "hard to reach" homeless community members had already been identified and asked for clarification on what services they may have received.

Commissioner Cislowski spoke about law enforcement programs in Gardena and Burbank that work with mental health professionals to assist the homeless.

Michael Wojtkielewicz of West Hollywood spoke regarding item 5B

VII. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Anderson asked if she could be appointed as liaison to the Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Borelli said that he attended the recovery pop-up held by staff on September 19th and he attended the Transgender Advisory Board meeting on October 7th at which the topic of discussion was that November is Transgender Remembrance month. He also participated in a PATH visit on October 9th and spoke of it being a very positive experience. He also spoke of his participation in Aids Walk LA on October 11th.

Commissioner Palmieri asked if the City was looking into finding funding for assisting the homeless population during the anticipated El Nino weather. He also stated that he has seen a significant increase in homeless people at Kings Road Park and asked if any outreach efforts could be focused on that location. He spoke about his experience getting Prep at Saban Clinic. He spoke about the Lesbian Gay Advisory Board. He spoke about the high attendance at the recent Meth Forum.

Commissioner Shandrick spoke about his attendance at the addiction and HIV seminar held by the Alliance for Housing and Healing. He spoke about his attendance at the Public Facilities and Public Safety Commissions and his recent visit to McIntyre House and PATH.

Commissioner Meltzer spoke about her attendance at the Children's Round Table meeting and about her visit to PATH. She also talked about her participation at the AARP California Livability Community Advisory Team meeting in Sacramento.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Corri Planck spoke about two events being hosted by the Disability Advisory Board in October which is Disability Awareness month. The first event will be the Health and Wellness event on October 20th and the second event the Disability Advisory Board

Awards Presentation that will be held on October 28th. She also announced that APLA will be having an open house at their La Brea location on October 17th. Author Lillian Faderman will be speaking at Council Chambers on October 18th.

David Giugni thanked the Commissioners who attended the annual orientation meeting. He also announced that the Hollywood/Highland shuttle program is about to be implemented to provide transportation to the public from Hollywood and Highland into West Hollywood.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Public Safety Commissioner Tory Berger announced that he is the new liaison to the Human Services Commission and spoke to the Commission about his enthusiasm for working with them and being a helpful liaison.

X. ADJOURNMENT

In the absence of further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THIS 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2015



Steven L. Davis, Chair

Attest:



Jeff Book, Secretary