

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Anne-Marie Williams at 6:01 p.m., Tuesday, January 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 Councilmember John Duran.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Not Present: Jimmy Palmieri.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included: David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Leslie Isenberg, Derek Murray, Corri Planck, and Jeff Book. Councilmember John Duran and Council Deputies Ian Owens and Michelle Rex were also present.

C. POSTING OF AGENDA

The secretary 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

In the draft minutes for the Dec. 9, 2014, meeting, Commissioner Bergstein said he thought the statement that more than sixty 12-step meetings are held each month at West Hollywood Recovery Center was mistaken. With that noted, the minutes of the Dec. 9, 2014, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Bergstein, seconded by Commissioner Davis.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Councilmember John Duran spoke about a drive to have West Hollywood reporting a zero HIV transmission rate by 2016. He reviewed the initial spread of AIDS in the 1980s and 1990s, the development of a medical response, and the potential to prevent new cases through further effort, both medical and social. He suggested that the Commission may want to place this on an upcoming agenda for discussion.

Rachel Donaldson, new director of Women Helping Women, spoke about challenges they faced this year and about new things they are planning.

Robert Gamboa, Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board member, spoke about the success of the second year of #BOOM!, the sober New Year's Eve event held in West Hollywood Park; about issues that the Board's Addiction, Recovery and Sexual Health committee is working on; and about the 2015 Rainbow Key Awards.

Jennifer Lundell of Safe Refuge, formerly the Substance Abuse Foundation of Long Beach, introduced Cynthia Chavez, their new grant writer. A transgender client spoke about living in the agency's residential and transitional housing.

Garry George Bowie, executive director of Being Alive, spoke about their client increase this year. Daniel Robison, programs manager, spoke about plans for monthly PrEP workshops that will be open to the community, and about other programs, such as their group therapy and trans outreach programs.

Alla Chasnik of Bet Tzedek introduced their new CEO, Jessie Kornberg.

Marc Hauptert spoke about SST Nonprofit Services, which assists with board development and transition, and FindaLeader.org, which provides administrative support for leadership searches.

#### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### A. YEAR-END REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS 2013-2014

David Giugni introduced the year-end report on social services programs for the contract year, the first of a new three-year cycle which began with the City Council increasing funding for social services by \$250,000. While the economy has reportedly improved somewhat nationwide, many people locally are struggling, and there is high requirement for social services. The packet of reports from agencies provides a summary of how the agencies did with regard to their agreed-upon goals.

Corri Planck presented information about Bet Tzedek, Friends Research Institute, TEEP and Youth Services at the LGBT Center, McIntyre House, PATH emergency, transitional and permanent housing, St. Thomas the Apostle Church's informational program, Substance Abuse Foundation of Long Beach, and the Tarzana Treatment Center.

Derek Murray presented information on Aid for AIDS, APLA's dental, case management, and positive self-management programs, Being Alive, and the HIV Law and Policy Project, as well as the LGBT Center's Mental Health program, WeHo Life, PAWS, and Project Angel Food.

Commissioners thanked representatives from the agencies who were present for the services they provide to the community, and asked questions about specific information in the annual report.

Commissioner Bergstein asked whether landlords dropped out of the Section 8 program due to lower reimbursement rates. David Giugni said there had been anticipation that they might, but what was more common was tenants

being less able to pay the higher rates, and being in need of advocacy for exceptions to the lower rates.

Agency staff who discussed items with commissioners included Cathy Reback of Friends Research Institute, Lynda Alter of SOVA, Robert Boller of Project Angel Food, Alla Chasnik of Bet Tzedek, Diane Schneider of JFS Nutrition, Jeff Bailey of APLA, Marina Berkman of JFS, Marguerite Womack and Teri Maher of WHEST employment program, Celina Alvarez and Robert Morrison of PATH, Kathleen Sullivan of the LGBT Center Senior Program, and Rachel Donaldson of NCJW.

Commissioner Cislowski requested an agenda in February regarding feedback on psychological services planning and coordination.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE HOMELESS SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

David Giugni presented a progress report on implementation of the Recommendations from the Homeless Services Subcommittee, six months after their presentation to the City Council. Elements addressed included legislation, bedbug-resistant mattresses, humane responses by the Sheriff's Department; homeless courts; Section 8 housing vouchers; the IMHT (integrated mobile health team) model with Saban Community Clinic; public-private partnerships in housing; creative options for permanent housing; and increased efficiency of services.

Commissioners and staff spoke about prospects of whether the number of homeless in the City would decrease; about the possibility of a committee on homeless services which would include those who are homeless; immunizations; and other aspects of homeless services.

## VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Meltzer said that she and Commissioner Davis visited the Janet Witkin Center. She is going with Commissioner Bergstein to Being Alive and the Courtyard on La Brea, and will be going to Senior Advisory Board soon.

Commissioner Bergstein said the Aging in Place strategic planning meeting of the Commission should be postponed because the composition of the Commission will change after City elections.

Commissioner Davis asked about planning and coordination meetings being held at the same time, and asked if this could be avoided. He also spoke about the Janet Witkin Center, and said he thought she would be pleased with the building.

Commissioner Oldershaw said he and Commissioner Meltzer are hoping to visit McIntyre House.

Commissioner Williams said she attended the Transgender Advisory Board and Public Safety Commission. She congratulated Jimmy Palmieri and Robert Gamboa for their leadership on the sober New Year's Eve event, and thanked Recreation staff

for their work on it. She asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Clarence Huntley, Jr., and Joseph Shambrey, two Tuskegee Airmen, who passed away in Los Angeles on the same day, January 5, at the age of 91. She noted that Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and recommended the movie *Selma*.

Commissioner Cislowski said that when agencies are planning to attend the Commission meeting, it would be good if they brought printed materials that can be shared with other agencies and the public.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Derek Murray said there is a health-care enrollment popup tomorrow at the Library, regarding Covered California and MediCal.

Corri Planck said the third annual clothing drive for Youth at the LGBT Center is underway. The City is holding a Day of Service for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Leslie Isenberg said the Homeless Survey is scheduled for January 29.

Staff said that voter registration forms are available on the sign-in table, following the City's adoption of a policy to increase encouragement for registration and turnout.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Michael Wojtkielewicz spoke about the LGBT Center's Mental Health program, the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, and the placement of cell towers on the Sierra Bonita housing.

Stephanie Harker spoke about displacement of residents in the Detroit bungalows, about the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, and about cell towers on Sierra Bonita.

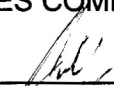
Cathy Blaivas spoke about the Detroit bungalows and about cell towers on Sierra Bonita.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm in memory of Tuskegee Airmen Clarence Huntley, Jr., and Joseph Shambrey.

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APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2015

  
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Andrew Oldershaw, Vice Chair

Attest:

  
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Jeff Book, Secretary