

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – JUNE 9, 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 6:02 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 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 Michael Wojtkielewicz.

B. **ROLL CALL**

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

Not Present: Rob Bergstein.

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

The minutes of the April 14, 2015, meeting were corrected to reflect that the motion to approve the minutes had been seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, rather than Commissioner Cislowski. They were then approved on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Michael Wojtkielewicz spoke about Sierra Bonita Apartments.

Fred Summers, director of SOVA Food Pantry, thanked the City for its support over many years.

Jamie Baker, health educator at Being Alive, spoke about the LA PRIDE TLGB 2015,

about workshops on PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), and other aspects of their program.

Daniel Robison, program manager at Being Alive, spoke about a women's group at the Alcohol Center for Women, and other aspects of their program.

#### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### A. MID-YEAR REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES

David Giugni introduced the mid-year report on Social Services programs, and thanked providers for their work to date. He reviewed the agencies' progress toward goals, and noted several that have had challenges in this regard, including the LA LGBT Center's Mental Health and Youth Services, Safe Refuge transitional housing, and the Tarzana Treatment Center's in-patient medical detox and residential treatment services.

The LA LGBT Center's Senior Services program has had challenges in bringing a West Hollywood constituency into its services, and staff recommended that it be placed on probation for the remainder of the contract year. Probation involves increased technical assistance to the program as well as monthly reports from the program to the Commission.

Corri Planck discussed reports from substance abuse and HIV prevention programs, as well as PATH, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, the LA LGBT Center's TEEP program, and St. Thomas the Apostle's referral program.

Leslie Isenberg spoke about the homeless census count and discussed reports from the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center, JFS Nutrition, SOVA Food Pantry, West Hollywood Pre-School, and the Saban Community Clinic.

Derek Murray discussed HIV and substance abuse provider services, including AIDS Project Los Angeles, Being Alive, the HIV Law and Public Policy program, and WeHo Life.

Commissioners thanked agency representatives for their work, and discussed aspects of several of the reports, including Jewish Vocational Services, TEEP, Safe Refuge, Tarzana Treatment Center, LA LGBT Center's Senior Services, and the Center's Mental Health program.

Public comment on the mid-year reports was received from (1) Victor Omelczenko, who spoke about the fire at 9080 Santa Monica Blvd., and (2) Michael Wojtkielewicz, who spoke about West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation.

There was a brief recess.

Following the recess, Commissioner Oldershaw, who was serving as Acting Chair, had to leave the meeting. Commissioner Davis moved to designate Commissioner Cislowski as temporary Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

This was seconded by Commissioner Meltzer and approved without objection.

B. AGING IN PLACE SPECIAL MEETING

Corri Planck reported that staff continues to work with a consultant in development of an Aging in Place strategic plan based on information gathered at the special meeting last month. Staff will return to the Boards and Commissions, including the Human Services Commission, on this subject.

Elizabeth Savage said a contract for implementation of the Aging in Place strategic plan is on the City Council agenda for June 15.

Public comment was received from Michael Wojtkielewicz, who spoke about Eric Von Young, who died in a fire at 9080 Santa Monica Blvd., and Tom Yamashita, a long-time resident of the Detroit Bungalows.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. HIV PREVENTION MONTH

Derek Murray explained activities planned for HIV Prevention Month, and discussed information about Truvada (PrEP), and the training on PrEP for the community and medical providers that was held on May 13. Commissioners Shandrick and Meltzer spoke about attending that training.

David Giugni said there are plans to provide a training on PrEP for members of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board (LGAB). Commissioner Palmieri expressed interest in the same training being available to this Commission.

David Giugni reported that LGAB had recommended to the City Council that the City adopt a policy on PrEP, requiring social services providers that receive City funding or benefits to provide information about PrEP to persons who test negative for HIV. This item will be before the City Council on June 15, with staff's recommendation to refer this to this Commission.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Palmieri spoke about the #SIZZLE! pop-up party planned for Friday, June 12, and the event to be held during the Pride Festival, June 13-14.

Commissioner Meltzer spoke about the Senior Advisory Board's awards, the Senior Health Fair, and a new caregiver program at the Freda Mohr Multipurpose Center. She congratulated Commissioner Palmieri on receiving the Rainbow Key Award, and said she will be on vacation at the time of the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Shandrick spoke about the homeless services collaboration meeting, and about Mr. Von Young's death in the fire at 9080 Santa Monica Blvd.

Commissioner Cislowski also congratulated Commissioner Palmieri on the Rainbow Key Award, and acknowledged former Commissioner Rob Bergstein for his work on the Commission. She said that an opportunity is being missed at meetings where

many agency representatives are present, and asked that prior to future meetings of this kind, agencies be sent a form to provide one or two items they'd like the other agencies to be aware of.

Commissioner Davis said the Commission is losing a wealth of knowledge if Commissioner Cislowski does not continue as a member.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Leslie Isenberg spoke about Senior Month, the screening of "I'll Be Me," the Senior Health Fair, and the televised Senior Advisory Board meeting. She will distribute the homeless census report from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).

Corri Planck spoke about Pride Weekend, the Dyke March, and transportation on Santa Monica Boulevard during Pride.

Elizabeth Savage said the City budget is on the City Council agenda for June 15, and pending approval, includes funding for Home Secure's senior safety efforts. She introduced Stephanie Hernandez, a mentee who has been shadowing her today, and will be attending Cal State Northridge. She spoke about new chairs for the meeting room, and thanked Commissioners for their leadership at the Aging in Place special meeting.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC


Public comment was received from (1) Michael Wojtkielewicz, who spoke about the Aging in Place special meeting and about the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation; and (2) Victor Omelczenko, who spoke about the proposed City budget, funding for Special Events positions, and the Aging in Place process.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

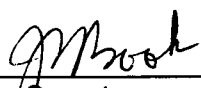
Commissioner Cislowski noted several requests to adjourn in memory of Eric Von Young. This was moved by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Shandrick, and approved, at 9:13 pm.

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APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY 2015.

  
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Andrew Oldershaw, Acting Chair

Attest:

  
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Jeff Book, Secretary