

MINUTES
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022
6:00 PM

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Blood called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boardmember Friedman led the pledge of allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Patrick Blood, Yola Dore, Mikie Friedman, Danny Hang, David Nash, Anny Semonco, Louise Smith, Rick Watts and Danny Gomez.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Joan Mithers, Doug Nguyen, and Joyce Britton

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the May 25, 2022, meeting was approved by the Board. **Motion by Boardmember Smith to approve the Wednesday, May 25, 2022, Agenda, seconded by Boardmember Nash.**

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eva Angeloff, Grants Coordinator, City of West Hollywood, spoke about the funding opportunities available through the Arts Grant Program. She also mentioned the LGBTQ Pride Arts Festival coming up in June, along with other activities, and encouraged the Board to refer to the website for more information.

Diane Kahn-Epstein, Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator, City of West Hollywood, spoke about the revised West Hollywood Pilot for Guaranteed Income that removes the LGBTQIA

requirement and serves a broader population of older adult community members in need of financial support.

1. Written Correspondence

2. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ACTION: The minutes of April 27, 2022, were approved by roll call vote on the condition of a correction under Items from Board Members. **Motion to approve the Minutes by Boardmember Dore, seconded by Boardmember Watts.**

- 1) Received and approved minutes of the April 27, 2022, meeting.

3. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **UPDATES/CHANGES FOR MEDI-CAL AND MEDICARE**

The Disabilities Advisory Board received a presentation by Stephanie Fajuri, Center for Health Care Rights with an overview of the programs and services, as well as updates to Medicare and Medicaid.

ACTION:

- 1) Received and discussed.
- 2) Additional information provided by Stephanie Fajuri
 - a. Center for Healthcare Rights
 - i. Hotline: 1-800-824-0780
 - ii. Website: www.healthcarerights.org
 - iii. Fact Sheets: <https://healthcarerights.org/publications/>
 - b. California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR) – Information about medical recovery
 - i. Website: <http://www.canhr.org/>
 - ii. Fact Sheets: <http://www.canhr.org/factsheets/index.html>

B. **UPDATE ON THE DIAL-A-RIDE / MICROTRANSIT PROGRAM**

Doug Nguyen and Francisco Gomez, Transportation Program Administrators, provided an update on the Dial-A-Ride / Microtransit program. The Board voted on the recommendation that the City consider a transition from Dial-A-Ride to a Microtransit pilot program that prioritizes older adults and

community members living with a disability while providing service to the general public.

ACTION:

Received, discussed, and approved by roll call vote. **Motion to approve the recommendation by Boardmember Smith, seconded by Boardmember Hang.**

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Burton, Disability Community Resource Center, spoke about the efficiency of the Home Secure program and the progress they are making towards getting things done more efficiently by adding more vendors and contractors.

7. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Boardmember Dore briefly touched on the RFP process and encouraged Boardmembers to attend the Human Services Commission meeting to speak about services. She requested the Board to adjourn in memory of the victims of the tragedy in Uvalde, Texas.

Boardmember Friedman thanked the speakers for their presentations and reminded everyone to vote and keep their guard up due to increasing COVID numbers. She also asked if there was any movement on the request to have an all-inclusive directory and requested to adjourn in honor of the victims in Uvalde, TX, as well as the victims of the Buffalo.

Boardmember Hang thanked the staff and speakers and encouraged boardmembers to get out and vote. He briefly spoke about attending the Senior Advisory Board meeting and wished the Board a happy Senior Month and a happy Asian American Pacific Islander Awareness Month as well. Before closing, he mentioned that he briefly attended the Virtual Pet panel and wanted to adjourn in memory of the victims of the shooting incident in Uvalde, Texas.

Boardmember Nash spoke about the allotted Social Services budget and encouraged spending more money on social services. He mentioned the delay in opening the pool in West Hollywood and the desire for its re-opening. . He brought up concerns about transportation access to UCLA facilities.

Boardmember Semonco confirmed her attendance and indicated that she had a problem with the feed earlier in the meeting.

Boardmember Smith mentioned that she attended the Senior Advisory Board meeting and congratulated the Boardmembers on Senior Month. She spoke about the cancelation of the senior health fair in May due to the pandemic. She thanked the speakers and mentioned that the County will be formally switching the Disabilities Commission to a new department at the Board of Supervisors called Aging and Disabilities.

Boardmember Watts congratulated the Senior Advisory Board for their work during a difficult year and mentioned how COVID has disproportionately affected persons with disabilities and seniors. He spoke about the pending transition to in-person meetings and the importance of a hybrid form of meetings. He spoke about housing and the potential for Ellis evictions once the moratorium expires. He motioned to adjourn in memory of the Buffalo shooting victims and the Texas shooting victims.

Vice Chair Gomez spoke about his recent experience with COVID and how it has affected him and mentioned how he's looking forward to positive change in the country. He thanked the presenters for speaking.

Chair Blood thanked the presenters and the staff for their updates on transportation. He commended Vice Chair Gomez for all his accomplishments in the entertainment industry and providing representation for people living with disabilities. He read the names and ages of each of the people killed in the shooting in Uvalde, Texas and motioned to adjourn in their memory.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Joan Mithers, Program Administrator, spoke about the citywide mailing that went out to inform residents of social services. She mentioned the RFP process and that in September, it will be known what social services will be available in the City for the upcoming three years. She spoke about plans that are in place for how the community can learn

about social services that are offered. Proposals will be reviewed at the July Human Services Commission meetings and go to Council in September. She mentioned that she will miss June's meeting and that Derek will be filling in for her.

Joyce Britton, Recording Secretary, spoke about the calendar invitation to provide the Board with advance notice that it will be switching from Doug Nguyen's email account to her account.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned in memory of the Buffalo shooting victims and the Texas school shooting victims at 8:23 pm to its next meeting, which will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, via teleconference.

DocuSigned by:

Patrick Blood

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PATRICK BLOOD,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Joan Mitlers

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STAFF LIAISON

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.

(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore the recordings are not of commercial quality.)