

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024
PLUMMER PARK - ROOMS 5 & 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
6:00 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Eyres called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and read the Land Acknowledgment.

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Borelli
Commissioner Davis
Commissioner Palmieri
Commissioner Williams
Commissioner Wyville
Vice-Chair Adolphson
Chair Eyres

Absent: None.

ALSO Wendy Barreno, Human Services Manager
PRESENT: Derek Murray, Social Services Program Administrator
Amy Valdepeña, Commission Secretary, Human Services Specialist

- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the meeting agenda for July 9, 2024.

ACTION: Approved the Agenda of Tuesday, July 9, 2024. **Motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Wyville and approved by roll call vote.**

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2024, Human Services Commission meeting.

ACTION: Approved the minutes of June 11, 2024, with the amendment

of **Commissioner Williams. Motion by Commissioner Davis** to approve, **seconded by Commissioner Wyville, and approved by roll call vote.**

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

YOLE DORE, CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD - Yola Dore, resident over thirty years and liaison from the Disability Advisory Board, announced that the Disability Advisory Board holds an annual Special Disability Awareness Month Services Awards at their televised meeting where they recognize individuals and organizations that have advocated for and assisted those with disabilities. Eligible nominees include non-profits, businesses, or individuals in the media who have demonstrated exemplary service. Current Commissioners, Board members, City staff, and employees are not eligible for nomination. Nominations for the 2024 Disability Service Awards are now open and will close on Friday, August 2, 2024, at 5:00 PM. She encouraged the Commission to participate by submitting nominations.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR: None

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER PRESENTATION

The Human Services Commission received a presentation from Marina Berkman, Program Director at Jewish Family Service LA, detailing the services provided to West Hollywood community members experiencing cognitive disabilities.

Commissioner Williams inquired about the workload of social workers, asking how many cases each social worker handles, the number of social workers available, their licensing status, and whether interns are utilized to assist with the caseloads. She also thanked Marina for her great work and compassion.

Commissioner Borelli thanked Marina and the team for all their hard work. He mentioned a conversation with another Board member, Dore, about catastrophic illnesses, services, and case management, noting how crucial these roles are. He recognized the hard work involved and expressed hope that social workers and caregivers are receiving the support they need for their health. He also thanked Marina for sharing the numbers of cases each social worker may take on.

Commissioner Palmieri inquired whether the descriptions of mild,

moderate, and severe dementia or cognitive disorders presented to the Commission were based on professional determinations. He also commented on the strictness of the Medi-Cal application process. Additionally, Commissioner Palmieri asked about a case Marina shared with the Commission involving a person who had issues at a young age, questioning why they weren't already receiving Social Security or Medi-Cal benefits. He thanked Marina for all their services, recognized the enormous number of cases each social worker handles, and expressed his admiration for their effectiveness.

Commissioner Wyville thanked Marina and expressed appreciation for learning about all the services they provide.

Vice Chair Adolphson thanked Marina for the important work being done and the respite care offered to caregivers. She inquired whether JFS or the City of West Hollywood can offer financial assistance to caregivers.

Commissioner Davis confirmed that the County did offer financial assistance but is unsure if the program is still in place.

Chair Eyres thanked Marina for her presentation. She expressed that her understanding of JFS and the available services was limited until now and appreciates the handouts provided. She inquired if regular presentations are given to the Older Adult Advisory Board.

ACTION: Received and discussed.

B. DISABILITY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER PRESENTATION

The Human Services Commission received a presentation from David Kruskall, Community Program Manager; Judith Davila, Independent Living Program Manager; and Sara Martinez, Disability Benefits and Personal Assistance Services Coordinator at the Disability Community Resource Center, regarding services for West Hollywood community members with disabilities.

Commissioner Davis mentioned that while the service seems great, the paperwork appears quite cumbersome. He inquired whether it can be streamlined for easier access. He also asked whether it would be more beneficial to come to DCRC from another organization with a Social Worker or case manager. Additionally, he inquired if there is an array of services to assist individuals when leaving a nursing facility and whether DCRC reaches out to nursing homes or assisted living facilities. He emphasized the importance of outreach, noting that many people in nursing homes or

assisted living facilities no longer have their apartments or basic tools to continue living independently.

Commissioner Palmieri mentioned that he knows many people who could benefit from this information and will send questions to staff to forward to David Kruskall for answers. He also inquired whether someone from DCRC could assist with filling out paperwork or if they would need to go through JFS.

Commissioner Wyville thanked David for the presentation and the informative information. He inquired about the number of clients served in West Hollywood and the overall size of DCRC.

Commissioner Williams thanked David for the work being done and expressed how dire the situation is. She mentioned that she has friends who live outside the service area and noted that the high costs are a significant issue.

Commissioner Borelli inquired about the duration of the IHSS enrollment process. He also asked for clarification on whether all these services are available to West Hollywood residents. He expressed his happiness to see emergency preparedness incorporated into the program and mentioned his hope for DCRC's numbers to increase now that they are in West Hollywood.

Vice Chair Adolphson thanked David, Sara, and Judith for the thorough presentation. She inquired about the number of clients DCRC serves annually. While acknowledging that the paperwork and entry process seem extensive, she greatly appreciates that each plan is individualized. She also recognized and praised the advocacy work being done around system change and individual advocacy, noting that they are providing people with the tools and skills they need.

Chair Eyres thanked David, Sara, and Judith for their presentation and appreciated how comprehensive the services are. She inquired for additional information on housing. She also inquired when transitioning out of nursing homes is anonymous, similar to rehab centers. She expressed her appreciation of their presence at the ARC twice a month but asked for details on what a typical day would like once accepted to the program. She also inquired about the set days and operating hours, and whether appointments are necessary or if drop-ins are allowed.

ACTION: Receive and discuss.

5. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Derek Murray informed the Human Services Commission that accessibility at Pride was discussed by Commissioners at the last meeting. The Disability Advisory Board will address this topic at their next meeting on July 24, 2024, at 6:00PM at the Plummer Park Community Center, Rooms 5 & 6. He encouraged attendance to provide feedback and speak during the public comment period. Alternatively, individuals that cannot make it in person can submit a speaker request for the secretary to read into the record.

Derek also informed the Commission that the City of West Hollywood is hosting a community meeting to gather feedback as part of the WeHo 40 Strategic Plan on Saturday, July 20 from 11:00AM to 2:00PM at the West Hollywood Aquatic and Recreation Center. This free event will include informational exhibits, community organizations, food, and live entertainment. Community members are encouraged to stop by at any point during the meeting to learn more about the project, to provide feedback, and to connect with fellow community members. There will also be an additional virtual community meeting on Monday, July 29 at 6 p.m. via Zoom. For more information, please visit engage.weho.org/wehostrategicplan.

Additionally, Since October 2023, the Human Services Commissioners have served as community ambassadors by providing information on the City's continuum of Social Services during the City Council Meetings under public comment. Commissioners have participated by providing public comment that bring awareness to various topics such as STI Awareness, Mental Health Awareness, Older Adult Month, LGBTQ Pride Month and more. Derek informed the Commissioners that they will discuss additional topics to address at their August meeting, such as Overdose Awareness, Disability Awareness, Domestic Violence Awareness, Transgender Day of Remembrance, World AIDS, and more.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Palmeri attended the recent council meeting to address security concerns at Pride event. Following the meeting, Commissioner Palmeri was approached and reassured by City staff that the incident is under investigation and City staff are developing a preventive plan for the future. He appreciated their attention and care. Additionally, Commissioner Palmeri requests that staff provide large print agendas for future meetings.

Commissioner Davis agreed with Commissioner Palmeri and requested that staff provide large print agendas for future meetings. He additionally inquired and asked clarifying questions regarding the current budget along with planning for future budgets, highlighting the rising cost of living.

Commissioner Borelli provided clarification to Commissioner Davis regarding City budget process and informed him of the finalization of the 2024-2025. Budget for the next funding cycle, he encouraged the Commission to keep an eye on the City's calendar in the spring. Commissioner Borelli also stated whether we advocate as a Commission or as individuals, the need to push for increased funding for Social Services. He thanked Boardmember Dore for her attendance and reminder about the Disability Advisory Board Awards. Commissioner Borelli challenged the Commission to review the nomination form and consider highlighting unsung heroes who often go unrecognized. He also highlighted that August is Overdose Awareness Month and given the impressive availability of life-saving medications, it would be impactful for the Commission to share information during City Council public comments. He expressed disappointment that the Community Meeting for the AIDS Monument coincided with the Human Services Commission meeting. Finally, he thanked Amy and expressed agreement with Commissioner Davis regarding the impressive meeting minutes.

Commissioner Wyville, none.

Commissioner Williams informed the Commission that she and Chair Eyres successfully completed their Civic Leadership Academy and received certificates. It was very educational and had the task of creating task and goals for loneliness and keeping the City engaged. She also welcomed Wendy and thanked everyone. She also confirmed as working at Project Angel Food, that information was never shared and has been three years now.

Vice Chair Adolphson, concurred with her fellow Commissioners and expressed appreciation for the meeting minutes. Earlier in the month, she volunteered at Project Angel Food. During her time there, a volunteer mentioned that he chose not to drive because he heard that parking in West Hollywood is difficult. Vice Chair Adolphson inquired if there was anything we could do to alleviate this issue.

Chair Eyres, shared with the Commission that she, Commissioner Williams, and others in the community had a fantastic time at the Civic Leadership Academy. She mentioned that another session is coming up this Fall and emphasized how grateful she was for all the effort the City Staff put into it. Chair Eyres highlighted that participants got to meet each department head and most of the team, gaining a deeper understanding of how the city operates. The academy was such a big hit that many Commissioners and Board members wanted to join this time, leading to a full house. However, she suggested that future sessions should leave some room for community members who are

eager to participate. She reminded the Commission to keep an eye out for when applications open. She also informed staff and the Commission that she is seeking to itemize a budget item to discuss Social Services funding at a future meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The **Human Services Commission** adjourned at 7:38 pm, to its next Regular Meeting on **Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm** at the Plummer Park Community Center, Rooms 5 & 6 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THIS 13th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Signed by:

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KAREN EYRES,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:
DocuSigned by:

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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.)

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Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	9/3/2024 4:20:16 PM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	9/6/2024 2:56:49 PM
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