



**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
MINUTES  
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025  
6:00 PM – REGULAR MEETING**

**PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOMS 5 & 6  
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.  
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Board Member Dore  
Board Member Green  
Board Member Leathem  
Board Member Nash  
Board Member Schwartz  
Board Member Semonco  
Board Member Watts  
Vice Chair Mann  
Chair Smith

**Absent:** None.

**ALSO** Maribel Ulloa, Social Services Program Administrator  
**PRESENT:** Dee Saunders, Social Services Program Administrator  
Isaac Arredondo, Social Services Program Administrator  
Derek Murray, Social Services Supervisor  
Joyce Britton, Recording Secretary, Administrative Specialist  
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3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Board Member Green led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *The Disabilities Advisory Board approved the agenda of the January 22, 2025, Disabilities Advisory Board meeting. Motioned by Board Member Dore, seconded by Board Member Nash and approved unanimously by roll call vote.*

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

6.A. **POSTING OF AGENDA:**

*SUBJECT: The agenda for the regular meeting of Wednesday, January 22, 2025, was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the Sheriff's Station, and at the West Hollywood Library on Wednesday, January 16, 2025.*

**ACTION:** Received and filed.

**6.B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*SUBJECT: The Disabilities Advisory Board approved the minutes of the prior Board meeting on December 11, 2024.*

**ACTION: Motioned by Board Member Dore, seconded by Vice-Chair Mann and approved unanimously by roll call vote with amendment to the spelling of the name Omanski during the Adjournment.**

**6.C. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE**

*SUBJECT: The Disabilities Advisory Board approved the 2025 meeting schedule.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Cancel the November 26, 2025, meeting due to its proximity to Thanksgiving (November 27, 2025).
2. Reschedule the December 24, 2025, meeting to December 10, 2025.

**ACTION: Motioned by Board Member Dore, seconded by Board Member Nash and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

**7. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

**\*\*\*Board Member Semonco arrived at 6:10 pm.**

**\*\*\*Board Member Leathem arrived at 6:21 pm.**

**\*\*\*Board Member Schwartz arrived at 6:24 pm.**

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

**8.A. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD 2025 WORKPLAN**

*SUBJECT: The Disabilities Advisory Board discussed ideas, presentations and action items to include in the 2025 Work Plan.*

**ACTION:** Received and discussed.

Proposals from the Board included promoting ADA technology advances through a dedicated expo, establishing guaranteed income for people with disabilities, and creating individualized disaster evacuation plans for the disabled community. Suggestions also emphasize addressing wheelchair accessibility with yellow caps on thoroughfares, ensuring ADA-compliant housing by updating older buildings, and reviewing building codes and evacuation plans. Additionally, the Board advocates for multilingual emergency preparedness publications in English, Russian, and Spanish, while prioritizing mental health and veteran services with liaisons to represent these needs.

**8.B. SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS PRIORITIES 2025-2028 FUNDING PROCESS**

*SUBJECT: The Disabilities Advisory Board discussed social services priorities for the 2025-2028 Human Services funding process.*

**ACTION:** Reviewed questions and discussed.

The most significant challenges or unmet needs currently faced by the community the Advisory Board represents include improving communication and understanding how the Care Team assists the homeless. There is a pressing need for emergency evacuation

planning, including home evaluations and equipment installation, as well as increased access to rental assistance and caregiver services for those not on Medi-Cal. Addressing food insecurities, providing financial literacy programs, and supporting individuals dealing with substance use and abuse are also critical. Additional priorities include expanding services for neurodivergent individuals, formerly incarcerated and undocumented people, and creating social opportunities that connect individuals to resources and advocacy.

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***\*\*\*Board Member Dore motioned to extend the meeting 15 minutes.***

If additional resources were available, priorities would include establishing an agency dedicated to addressing catastrophic illnesses, providing comprehensive support for those affected. Expanded end-of-life planning services and enhanced food planning and provision would also be critical. Additionally, increasing the number of ombudsmen to guide care recipients and individuals through various programs would improve accessibility and ensure that residents receive the services they need.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

10. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR:** None.

11. **ITEMS FROM STAFF:**

Staff informed the Board of the complimentary services that Maple Counseling Center provides for community members impacted by the fires.

12. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

***\*\*\*Vice-Chair Mann motioned to extend the meeting by 5 minutes.***

13. **ITEMS FROM BOARD AND LIAISON REPORTS:**

**Board Member Dore** expressed enthusiasm for better days and thanked everyone for the birthday wishes.

**Board Member Nash** expressed concern with APLA's gift card program.

**Board Member Green** wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**Board Member Schwartz** wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**Board Member Semonco** wished everyone a happy New Year.

**Vice-Chair Mann** expressed gratitude for the board, acknowledging how important their support has been during the last few weeks.

**Chair Smith** expressed optimism about tackling upcoming challenges and believes that a positive attitude will help make progress.

- 14. ADJOURNMENT:** The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 8:18 pm to its regular meeting which will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at Plummer Park Rooms 5 & 6, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

Signed by:

*Louise Smith*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
LOUISE SMITH,  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST: Signed by:

*Maribel Ulloa*

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STAFF LIAISON

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**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.)***