

**MINUTES
OLDER ADULTS ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025
2:00 PM**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90069**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Allendorfer called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Board Member Carrel
Board Member Dixon
Board Member Hollingsworth
Board Member Leroy
Board Member Schemanski
Board Member Sutton
Vice Chair Holguin
Chair Allendorfer

Absent: Board Member Schemanski

ALSO

PRESENT: Christine Safriet, Assistant to the City Manager and Acting Human Services Division Manager
Francisco Gomez, Acting Strategic Initiatives Supervisor
Becca Lubin, Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator
Joyce Britton, Recording Secretary, Administrative Specialist IV

- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Board Member Walkup led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Older Adults Advisory Board is requested to approve the agenda for the meeting on January 22, 2024.

ACTION: Approved the agenda of Wednesday, January 22, 2025.
Motion by Board Member Walkup, seconded by Board Member Hollingsworth and approved by roll call vote.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Older Adults Advisory Board is requested to approve the minutes of

the December 18, 2025, Older Adult Advisory Board meeting.

ACTION: Approved the minutes of Wednesday, December 18th. **Motion by Board Member Dixon, seconded by Board Member Carrel and approved by roll call vote.**

*****Vice-Chair Holguin arrived at 2:03 pm.**

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Watts, member of the Disability Advisory Board, highlighted the need for cooperation as aging and disabilities often intersect in people's lives. He stressed the importance of preparedness, particularly for vulnerable populations like seniors and individuals with disabilities, referencing the recent fires near Runyon Canyon. He underscored the unique challenges faced by older adults and people living with disabilities during evacuations, especially those living in housing without elevator access. He emphasized the importance of preparation and community support to ensure safety in future emergencies.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. JFS COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE CENTER ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Jewish Family Service Staff provided information about recent and upcoming programs sponsored by the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center.

ACTION: Received presentation.

B. INPUT ON SOCIAL SERVICE PRIORITIES

Human Services Staff solicited feedback from the Older Adults Advisory Board on social services priorities for the 2025-2028 contract cycle.

ACTION: Received presentation and provided feedback to the questions below.

What are the most significant challenges or unmet needs currently faced by the community your Advisory Board represents?

- Boardmembers discussed challenges including r
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- How to find the people who are disabled, vulnerable, older in case of emergency, who they are and where they are.
- Marketing the services offered and reaching the individuals to provide services to.
- Phone/contact list of everyone over 50 to communicate services.
- City could stress voluntary information distribution from tenants of apartments from the managers.
- More information and access to transportation and accessibility services and get the word out. Let the older adults in the community

know about the services available.

- Is a Community Development Block Grant available to expand informing the community of these services.
- Can the cell phone companies issue a warning of an emergency and provide information on shelters if needed.
- Issues with leaving the area due to traffic and lack of knowledge on where to go.

What specific factors or obstacles make it difficult for your community to access existing social services in West Hollywood?

- Issues with public vs private access to community amenities. Ex. – people paying to use the pool and limiting access to community members.
- Health and Wellness – more variety of exercise programs and better use of the ARC for older adults
- Food & Nutrition
- Community
- Age discrepancies due to broad age bracket of people considered older adults.

If additional resources were available, what new or expanded social services would you prioritize for West Hollywood?

- Boardmembers Access to required identification documentation for older adults.
- Assistance with setup of living wills and trust.
- Advocacy for older adults in danger of losing their housing and are alone.
- A hotline where a live person answers and can provide information on evacuation centers, cooling facilities, etc.
- Expanding senior services to Plummer Park regardless of the day of the week.
- More conversations with Hernan Molina on legislative issues affecting the state and city.

C. OLDER ADULTS ADVIORY BOARD 2025 WORKPLAN DISCUSSION

The Older Adults Advisory Board established their 2025 workplan.

ACTION: Outlined the 2025 Older Adults Advisory Board Workplan.

D. OLDER ADULT ADVISORY BOARD ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The Older Adult Advisory Board Activities Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee presented a report on their first meeting.

ACTION: Received report.

3. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Starting in March, Francisco will no longer co-lead the Senior Advisory Board due to his focus on developing the Holloway Inter-Housing Program. His colleagues Maribel and Becca will take over staffing the board. Maribel will attend February's meeting and begin co-leading in March.

Flyers were distributed for the Maple Counseling Center, which is offering six free counseling sessions to individuals impacted by recent fires. This is in addition to the ten free sessions available to city residents.

Christine Safriet, currently serving as Acting Human Services Manager, introduced herself and expressed enthusiasm for working with the board and community. She shared information on wildfire assistance efforts, noting that the city council passed an urgency ordinance to provide short-term housing options for those displaced by the 2025 wildfires. Ms. Safriet shared the City's commitment to balance, emphasizing the City's aim to support evacuees while maintaining protections for tenants and local businesses. She welcomed collaboration, noting her past involvement with the Civic Leadership Academy, and offered an open-door policy for further discussions.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Watts praised the new brochure shared by staff, emphasizing its value as a resource and recommending distributing copies to neighbors. He advised residents of multi-family housing to learn how to manually open garage doors in case of power outages, as occurred during recent fires. He urged contacting building managers for guidance if needed. He highlighted the dangers of sepsis, particularly for seniors, sharing a personal account of his housemate's severe sepsis episode in December. Mr. Watts reinforced the importance of preparation, resource-sharing, and health awareness.

5. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Board Member Sutton emphasized the importance of sharing information that empowers older adults and contributing feedback to city officials. She raised concerns about the proposed changes to Fountain Avenue's bike lane, which could eliminate temporary parking in front of residences. Board Member Sutton highlighted that this change could increase isolation for older adults by reducing accessibility for visitors, deliveries, and essential services. She stressed the need to voice these concerns to city officials to address the issue and maintain social connections for older residents.

Board Member Carrel mentioned the upcoming LGBT Disability Fair at the LGBT Center on January 30 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. She suggested that those involved in organizing the Older Adult Month Health Fair consider attending for insights and inspiration.

Board Member Leroy shared several updates on local events and resources: free

matinee film screenings at the Academy Museum and American Cinematheque, including *The Iron Giant* on Saturday; a Polar Plunge event at the pool on Sunday afternoon with hot cocoa; and an ice rink at West Hollywood Park with \$20 sessions. He concluded by honoring the recent passings of Jules Feiffer, a renowned screenwriter, poet, and cartoonist, and Garth Hudson, the last surviving member of The Band.

Board Member Dixon criticized the City of West Hollywood for inadequate communication during the recent fire emergency, noting a lack of consistent alerts or evacuation instructions. She stated that while some residents received calls, she did not, and questioned how notifications were prioritized. Board Member Dixon emphasized the potential consequences had the fire worsened and expressed concern for older adults or those unable to evacuate independently. She urged the city to explain what she considered a failure in emergency communication.

Board Member Hollingsworth reported that it was good to be back.

Board Member Walkup announced that the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles will hold a benefit fundraiser at the Abbey on Tuesday, February 4, at 7:30 PM. Admission is \$20 and includes a complimentary drink, with proceeds supporting individuals displaced from their homes in recent weeks. The event will feature a performance by the chorus from 7:30 to 8:30 PM to aid those who have lost their homes, pets, and connections due to recent hardships.

Vice-Chair Holguin shared his experience during the recent fires, noting it was a fearful and tragic time for many. He emphasized the importance of personal responsibility and community communication. He also highlighted how he stayed informed through social groups, Facebook updates, and the Watch Duty app, which provided timely alerts and guidance. Vice-Chair Holguin expressed gratitude for feeling informed and relieved he didn't have to evacuate, while acknowledging the need to avoid unnecessary panic that could hinder those in urgent need.

Chair Allendorfer thanked staff for checking in during the fires, shared his personal evacuation preparation experience, and praised the City, John Erickson, and Lindsay Horvath for keeping the community informed. He highlighted concerns about potential federal policy changes affecting seniors, such as Medicaid and drug pricing, urging advocacy by contacting representatives like Senator Schiff and Laura Friedman. Chair Allendorfer also honored Cecile Richards for her advocacy for women's rights and mentioned former President Jimmy Carter before adjourning the meeting until February 26, 2025.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Older Adults Advisory Board adjourned in memory of President Jimmy Carter and Cecil Richards at 3:38 pm to its next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the Community Meeting Room at West Hollywood City Hall, located at 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE OLDER ADULTS ADVISORY BOARD ON THIS 5TH
DAY OF MARCH, 2025.



JOHN ALLENDORFER
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:



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.)