

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025  
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PUBLIC MEETING ROOM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD,  
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90069  
5:30PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Adolphson called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm and read the Land Acknowledgement.

**A. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Commissioner Borelli

Commissioner Eyres

Commissioner Palmieri

Commissioner Steele

Commissioner Wyville

Vice-Chair Williams

Chair Adolphson

ABSENT:

ALSO Teree Carter, Human Services Manager

PRESENT: Maribel Ulloa, Social Services Program Administrator

DeeA'na Saunders, Social Services Program Administrator

Michelle Liberman, Social Services Program Administrator

Isaac Arredondo, Social Services Program Administrator

Amy Valdepeña, Commission Secretary, Human Services Specialist

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Adolphson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the meeting agenda for July 8, 2025.

**ACTION:** Approved the Agenda as amended of Tuesday, July 8, 2025, motion by Commissioner Borelli seconded by Commissioner Eyres and approved by roll call vote.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2025, Human Services Commission meeting.

**ACTION:** Approved the minutes of Tuesday, June 10, 2025, motion by Commissioner Eyres, seconded by Commissioner Wyville, and approved by roll call vote, noting the abstention of Commissioner Steele.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**TALI PERETZ (LOS ANGELES, WISP)** - Spoke in support of Wisp, a drink-spiking detection tool and app, and expressed interest in expanding its use in West Hollywood for nightlife and community safety.

**YOLA DORE (WEST HOLLYWOOD)** - Advocated for protecting health and disability services amid funding cuts and urged support for City staff and Commission efforts tied to RFPs.

**JOEY BACHARACH (WEST HOLLYWOOD, RAINBOW HILL RECOVERY)** - Supported Rainbow Hill Recovery's RFP to provide

culturally competent mental health and substance use treatment for the LGBTQ+ community.

**RUSSELL IBARRA (LOS ANGELES, CAPITOL DRUGS)** - Supported Capitol Drugs' RFP to offer PrEP and walk-in testing services, aiming to fill the gap left by the closure of the West Hollywood testing center.

**SOPHIE GOLSHANI (BEVERLY HILLS)** – Spoke in support of Wisp, highlighting its effectiveness in improving campus safety and preventing drink spiking.

**RODNEY PRAGASAN (WEST HOLLYWOOD)** - Expressed general support for community unity and speaking up for what's right.

**EUGENE MAISKI (CES)** - Requested continued funding for CES's tenant rights outreach and legal services to prevent evictions and support housing stability.

**LAURA DUNCAN (ASCENCIA)** - Supported continued funding for Ascencia's homeless services, including street outreach, shelter access, and long-term housing support in West Hollywood.

**STEVEN TRAPASSO (SANTA MONICA, SEEDS OF HOPE)** - Requested city funding to expand Seeds of Hope's free food distribution and wellness programs to additional sites and neighborhoods in West Hollywood.

**JOE GREEN (WEST HOLLYWOOD)** - Voiced support for Being Alive and Seeds of Hope, praising their services and urging the Commission to continue funding them.

**ELIZABETH STEVENS (NAMI WESTSIDE LA)** - Requested funding to expand LGBTQ+ peer-led mental health programs, including support groups and outreach in English and Spanish.

**OSHRI HAKA (MID-CITY, NAMI)** - Supported NAMI's mental health education work in schools and the expansion of youth-focused and community mental health initiatives in West Hollywood.

2. **CONSENT CALENDAR: None.**

3. **PUBLIC HEARING: None.**

4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.**

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION REVIEW OF SOCIAL SERVICES PROPOSALS**

The Human Services Commission will discuss proposals submitted as part of the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for 2025-2028 social services contracts to ensure transparency and public accountability in the allocation of resources.

Teree Carter, Human Services Manager, provided background on the RFP process and invited Commissioners to ask questions.

Commissioners had follow up questions for the listed agencies, **APLA Health & Wellness** (Not in attendance), **Ascencia (City Staff Member: Michelle Liberman)**, **Bet Tzedek** (Henrissa Basse, Directing Attorney), **Block by Block** (Chip (Division VP), Donovan Wilkes (Santa Monica Program Lead)), **Coalition for Economic Survival** (Eugene Maysky), **Community Bridge Housing** (Paul Dumont), **Defense Diagnostics** (Kevin Gordon, Public Affairs Manager), **Jewish Free Loan Association** (Representative from Jewish Free Loan Association), **Los Angeles LGBT Center** (Paul Chavez), **NAMI Westside LA** (Representative from NAMI Westside LA), **NCJW** (Marjorie Gilbert), **Project Angel Food** (Not in attendance), **Rainbow Hill LLC** (Not in attendance), **Rainbow Labs** (Representative from Rainbow Labs), **Tarzana** (In attendance), **Translatin@ Coalition** (Not in attendance).

**\*\*ACTION:** Motion to extend the Human Services Commission meeting was made by Commissioner Eyres, seconded by Commissioner Steele, and approved by roll call vote, with Commissioner Borelli voting no.

**ACTION:** Received and discussed.

**6. EXCLUDED CONSENT: None.**

**7. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

**Michelle Liberman** informed the Commission that DAB will host its annual Health and Wellness Fair on October 9. Nominations for the Disability Service Awards are now open and will close on August 15.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HANG (WEST HOLLYWOOD)** - Expressed support for expanding Pre-K programs in West Hollywood and thanked commissioners for their work across critical areas such as housing, addiction recovery, and food security.

**ASHLEY WEINBERGER (LACADA)** - Supported LACADA's harm-reduction-based substance use treatment proposal and clarified their capacity to provide West Hollywood-based outreach and services despite their central office being in downtown LA.

**ROB LESTER (MEN'S HEALTH FOUNDATION)** - Urged support for continued funding of PrEP navigation services, noting growing demand, strong local outcomes, and uncertainty in federal HIV prevention funding.

**PAUL CHAVEZ (WEST HOLLYWOOD)** - Provided data on drink-spiking and fentanyl test kit distribution, emphasizing program scalability and the need for continued support.

**PAUL DUMONT (COMMUNITY BRIDGE HOUSING)** - Requested support for

funding five emergency beds used regularly by the WeHo Care Team and partner agencies, though committed to continuing the service regardless of the outcome.

**LUCA DILEVA (SAN PEDRO)** - Spoke in support of funding for the Defense All-in-One fentanyl detection device, citing personal loss and the importance of accessible prevention tools.

**JEFFREY RODRIGUEZ (LA LGBT CENTER – SEXUAL HEALTH)** - Requested support to offset drastic federal HIV/STD prevention cuts following the closure of their West Hollywood location and emphasized the urgency to sustain testing services.

**GINA BIGHAM (LA LGBT CENTER – TRANS LOUNGE)** - Supported expansion of Trans Lounge programming in West Hollywood to reach more trans and non-binary residents through social events, support groups, and wellness workshops.

**SHANNON HOUSTON (PATHWAYS LA)** - Confirmed readiness to expand early childhood education services in West Hollywood once space is secured, including mixed-income enrollment options.

**SIRI PERLMAN (JFS)** - Spoke in support of senior nutrition programs, emphasizing their role in reducing food insecurity and social isolation, and described safeguards to ensure services reach those most in need.

**MICHAEL MCFADDEN (LA LGBT CENTER – SENIOR SERVICES)** - Requested continued support for senior congregate meal programs and wraparound services, citing increased demand due to an aging population and federal cuts.

**AMY NGUYEN (CAST)** - Requested support to expand CAST's anti-trafficking outreach and services into West Hollywood, emphasizing their ability to serve highly transient populations facing compounding vulnerabilities.

## 9. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

**Commissioner Borelli** - Noted the \$17 million in funding requests versus the \$8 million available and encouraged Council to consider increasing funds. He apologized for not having a clear public comment time limits early in the meeting. Expressed disappointment that no proposals were submitted for the animal services priority area.

**Chair Adolphson** – Thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication.

**Commissioner Steele** - Encouraged future Commission discussions on unmet community needs raised during public comment but emphasized the importance of evaluating all feedback collectively before acting on any one area. She also requested clarification on when the Commission would receive staff recommendations ahead of the **June 20** meeting, asking that the recommendations be provided as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for review.


## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Human Services Commission adjourned in honor of Sandy Hutchins and Jewel Thais-Williams at **9:50 pm to its next Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 5:30 pm at the Council Chambers.**

Notice: Written materials distributed to the Human Services Commission within 72 hours of this meeting are available for public inspection immediately upon distribution at the Department of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California, 90069, during normal business hours. They will also be available for inspection at the staff liaison's table during the Commission meeting.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THIS 22<sup>nd</sup>  
DAY OF JULY, 2025.

Signed by:  
  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
SARAH ADOLPHSON,  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:  
Signed 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.)***