

MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MAY 9, 2017
6:00 PM

FIRST FLOOR COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Barbara Meltzer called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – David Giugni led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL -

PRESENT: Sam Borelli, Ruth Cislowski, Barbara Meltzer,
Jimmy Palmieri, Patrick Shandrick
ABSENT: Elizabeth Anderson, Steven L. Davis
ALSO PRESENT: David Giugni, Corri Planck, Leslie Isenberg,
Derek Murray, Joan Mithers, Diane Kahn-Epstein,
Corey Roskin, Jeff Book

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There were no requests to remove items from the Consent Calendar.

ACTION: Approve the Agenda for May 9, 2017, including the Consent Calendar as provided. Motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Shandrick, and approved.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of the April 11, 2017, meeting. Motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri, and approved, with Commissioners Cislowski Shandrick abstaining due to absence.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tory Berger, Public Safety Commission liaison, spoke about matters they have discussed, including dementia training, sanctuary cities, safety for the homeless, how well Ascencia and Step Up on Second are doing as new homeless services providers, and Corri Planck's work on homelessness with the Chamber of Commerce and business community.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

A. PUBLIC RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Public Relations Subcommittee is charged with studying and reporting back on communications and outreach strategies for Social Services planning. The Subcommittee is considering making a short video to highlighting available services.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. MID-YEAR REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACT AGENCIES

Staff introduced the mid-year report from the City's Social Services contract agencies. This is the first year of a three-year funding cycle. There are five agencies contracting with the City for the first time. There was a PowerPoint presentation of various demographics of the agencies' clients, including gender; ages by gender; ethnicities; and household languages.

Staff discussed successes and challenges faced by the agencies during the first six months of the contract year, including Planned Parenthood, SOVA Food Pantry, JVS employment services, NCJW youth and after-school programs, Pathways pre-school, and the Saban Community Clinic; agencies working on the HIV Zero project, including Alliance for Housing and Healing, APLA Health, Being Alive, Men's Health Foundation, the LA LGBT Center, Transgender Economic Empowerment Project, WeHo Life, Bet Tzedek, and JFS Nutrition; McIntyre House, Friends Research Institute, Safe Refuge, Tarzana Treatment Center, Project Angel Food, St. Thomas the Apostle's breakfast and information program, and PAWS-LA.

Public Comment:

1. Dr. Leigh Karns spoke about the programs and statistics that had been presented.
2. Jeff Bailey, Director of HIV Access and Community-Based Services at APLA Health, distributed a new report from that agency.

Commissioners discussed the narratives and statistics, and posed questions to a number of representatives from the agencies, including Keith Star of the medical detox unit at Tarzana Treatment Center; Cynthia Chavez of Safe Refuge; Ketlyn Henry of JVS WeHo Works; Sally Valenzuela and Martha Ortega of Pathways/West Hollywood Preschool; Jeff Bailey of APLA Health; Brian Risley of Men's Health Foundation; Diane Kubrin, Director of Mental Health at the LA LGBT Center; and Diane Schneider, JFS Nutrition.

Commissioners thanked all of the agencies for the work they do for West Hollywood community members.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

**A. PRESENTATIONS FROM NEW SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS:
ASCENCIA AND STEP UP ON SECOND**

The Human Services Commission received introductory presentations from two Social Services providers who are contracting with the City for the first time: Ascencia and Step Up on Second. Both agencies provide services to the homeless. Several Commissioners have visited Ascencia, and are planning to visit Step Up on Second.

Representing Ascencia were Natalie Profant Komuro, executive director; Marlene Muro, case management supervisor; and Jaime Raygoza, West Hollywood outreach case manager. On behalf of Step Up on Second the representatives were Barbara Bloom, chief operating officer; Clifford Roberts, lead social worker; and Jill Drenth, program manager.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR:

There were no Excluded Consent items.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Staff spoke about June as Prevention Month, which will include a testing blitz during Pride Week. #SIZZLE!, the alcohol- and substance-free portion of LA Pride, will be in operation all three days of the festival. Staff discussed Senior Month activities for the remaining days of May, and spoke about increased attention by homeless outreach teams to vacant properties and storefronts.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioners spoke about the Women's Leadership Conference; visiting Men's Health Foundation; #SIZZLE!; AARP California's first Age-Friendly Communities Conference, held in Pasadena; some cities adding Dementia as a ninth 'Domain of Livability' for seniors; the caregivers' meeting at Jewish Family Service; and staffing a Human Services Commission booth at the Senior Health Fair.

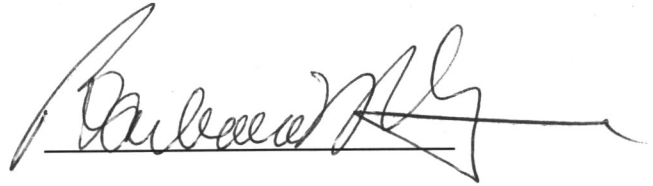
Commissioner Cislowski requested that items be placed on an upcoming agenda to track permanent housing outcomes and review substance abuse funding on a quarterly basis, and to review input from new Social Services providers on how the City can improve the experience of being a new provider in West Hollywood. There were no objections to placing these items on the agenda.

Commissioner Palmieri requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Angela Lee, who was a volunteer for the Tweakers Project, #SIZZLE!, and at the City's booth during the Pride Festival.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

In memory of Angela Lee, the Human Services Commission adjourned at 8:05 pm to their next regular meeting, which is at 6 pm, Tuesday, June 13, 2017, in the First Floor Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 13TH DAY OF JUNE 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Lee", written over a horizontal line.

Chair

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Book", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary