

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 11, 2014
LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Steven L. Davis at 6:02 p.m., Tuesday, February 11, 2014, in the Community Meeting Room at the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rob Bergstein.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Rob Bergstein, Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis,
Barbara Meltzer, Andrew Oldershaw, Anne-Marie Williams.

Not Present: Jimmy Palmieri.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included: Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Leslie Isenberg, Corri Planck, and Jeff Book.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported that notices for the meeting had been posted as required.

D. **PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to complete a form.

II. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 9, 2014, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Bergstein, seconded by Commissioner Oldershaw.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **PRESENTATION FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE FOUNDATION
OF LONG BEACH**

Jennifer Lundahl and Dave Wehrly spoke on behalf of the Substance Abuse Foundation of Long Beach, which is a social services contractor, on a fee-for-service basis. They discussed current activities at the agency and how it

provides a home-like environment for recovery, growing over 23 years into an agency with numerous properties and projects. Their services include residential and outpatient care, supportive services, aftercare, and drug- and alcohol-free transitional housing.

In response to questions from commissioners, they provided further information on mental health services, employment assistance, the number of clients from West Hollywood, reasons that people leave before completing the program, marketing, outreach, security, and visiting.

David Giugni said there will be a quarterly report on expenditure of designated funds for this project.

B. COMMUNITY MEMBERS ACCESS TO TREATMENT SERVICES

David Giugni provided an October-December 2013 report regarding Tarzana Treatment Center, Substance Abuse Foundation of Long Beach, McIntyre House, and KLEAN. An amount of \$125,000 had been approved for substance abuse treatment services, and about 24% -- \$29,691 -- has been expended by the end of December. This has ramped up month to month, which, if it continues, would indicate that the funds will be expended before the end of the contract year.

A limitation on transition time was not included in the contract, and there was discussion of how this could lead to a person staying longer than a year.

In response to a question, David Giugni said that residency is determined by a person's address, school, work, ownership of property, or, if a person is homeless, by description of the area where they are normally located.

David Giugni clarified that no funds are expended for KLEAN's services, which are a result of an agreement with the agency as part of licensing and permits. Up to 10% of beds in the 24-bed facility are designated to be provided to West Hollywood community members with low incomes.

C. REPORT ON HOMELESS SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

Anne-Marie Williams reported that three meetings have been held, and a fourth is planned. Held so far were meetings on (1) outreach, (2) joint meeting with the collaborative of agencies working on homeless issues, and (3) PATH and residential services. During the meeting at PATH, they did a SWOT analysis. The fourth meeting is planned for February 26, at 10 am, at the Sheriff's Office in West Hollywood

Commissioners discussed reports of bedbugs and difficulties in eradicating them when infestations can quickly recur from re-exposure. Commissioner Williams said the presence of bedbugs in housing for the homeless is unacceptable, and the City should work toward ending it.

Commissioner Oldershaw said if incoming clients are a vector for bedbugs, perhaps treatment kits be provided to the homeless to reduce this before they

reach the facility. He also asked for demographic information on the homeless. Commissioner Oldershaw left the meeting at this point.

Commissioner Davis said since PATH has an entry protocol for tuberculosis testing, why couldn't they have one for bedbugs also. He would also like to see grievance procedures in existence, and being followed. David Giugni said PATH does have a protocol for high-heat clothes washing. Clients are in and out of the facility daily, and could be bringing bugs when returning.

Commissioner Cislowski said she would like some social services providers to be present when the homeless services subcommittee presents its final report, and said that if food service can't be made acceptable in an agency, then the City's funding needs to be used for other services.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Corri Planck reported on the WeHo Cares pop-up community workshop held January 25 at Target/Gateway, with the Gay & Lesbian Center's youth program as agency partner. Another pop-up is scheduled for March 25 at the West Hollywood Library. A Twitter chat was held on January 30 to encourage registration for Covered California.

B. ATTENDANCE AT OTHER MEETINGS

Commissioners discussed attending meetings of other commissions and boards, as liaisons to help share information. Commissioners volunteered for these assignments:

Disabilities Advisory Board – Steven Davis
East Side working group (when formed) – Rob Bergstein
Public Facilities Commission – Steven Davis
Public Safety Commission – Anne-Marie Williams
Rent Stabilization Commission – Rob Bergstein
Senior Advisory Board – Barbara Meltzer
Transgender Advisory Board – Ruth Cislowski

Commissioner Palmieri will be invited to volunteer as a liaison as well.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Meltzer distributed flyers for One Billion Rising, which will be gathering at the Sal Guarriello Veterans' Memorial on the morning of February 14. She spoke about taking the tour of the Center's Youth program. She will be a speaker at one of the program's youth-employment programs. She met with Marina Berkman and would like the Senior Center to attract younger seniors as well as those from the west side of the City. She would like the Commission to explore providing assistance to family caregivers. She said Daphne Dennis is now on the board of the Friends of the Library.

Commissioner Williams spoke about the Human Rights Speaker series, and applauded Councilmember Heilman for presenting it. She plans to attend the Senior's Valentine Dance and the next homeless subcommittee meeting.

Commissioner Bergstein spoke about Urban Harvester, which works to connect unused but good food with areas in need.

Commissioner Davis spoke about Daphne Dennis's retirement party, and the many people she has affected positively during her career. He congratulated staff on planning such a good event. Also, he would like WHEST to be a speaker at an upcoming meeting.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Leslie Isenberg said plans are being formed for Senior Month in May, with the Health Fair already set for May 21 at Plummer Park. Further detail will be forthcoming.

Corri Planck spoke about the clothing drive for the youth program, which collected 5 vans' worth of clothing.

David Giugni said Cityline is now included as a transit option on Google Maps. He thanked Francisco Gomez and Perri Sloane Goodman for making this happen. He said the year-end report on social services will be going to the City Council at their Feb. 18 meeting.

Elizabeth Savage thanked staff and La Conversation for the success of Daphne Dennis's retirement event. She distributed information on the grand opening of La Brea Courtyard, spoke about the Human Rights Speaker program last evening, and invited commissioners to a joint event sponsored by the Russian, Transgender, and Lesbian and Gay Advisory Boards, to be held March 24.

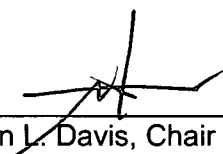
VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Signed:



Steven L. Davis, Chair

2-8-14

Date