

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – MAY 13, 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 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, 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 Jimmy Palmieri.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included: Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; Corri Planck, Leslie Isenberg, Corey Roskin, 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 April 8, 2014, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Bergstein, seconded by Commissioner Oldershaw.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION FROM WEHO LIFE PROGRAM

Brett Holland spoke on behalf of the WeHo Life program at the LA Gay & Lesbian Center, to present some new directions they are pursuing this year in the course of communicating a message of wellness to gay men, and men

who have sex with men (MSM), who live, work, or are part of the community, in West Hollywood. They are launching a new website coinciding with LA PRIDE this year. He showed three videos, still under development, which present animated information about PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) and an interview with Brent Corrigan. The website will also have a map of locations where free condoms can be picked up.

Commissioners discussed aspects of the videos and information, including possible topics such as syphilis, gonorrhea, PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), GHB, and other issues that could be included in the information campaign.

B. HOMELESS SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE FINAL REPORT

Commissioner Bergstein moved to approve the report. This was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Commissioner Meltzer asked what the report meant in referring to unique needs of homeless people in West Hollywood, and Leslie Isenberg said it refers to young LGBT people who are homeless and feel safer in West Hollywood than elsewhere.

Commissioner Oldershaw asked if the subcommittee met with homeless people directly. Commissioner Bergstein said they met with some who were formerly homeless, now on staff of agencies providing homeless services, but not with people who are currently homeless.

The Commission approved the report without objection.

Commissioner Davis said it may be good to revisit what is happening at PATH at an upcoming meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. SECTION 8 PROGRAM UPDATE

Peter Noonan, Rent Stabilization Manager, said Section 8 – which refers to Section 8 of the Housing Act of 1937, now codified at 42 U.S.C. § 1437(f) – is the program in which the County pays a landlord directly on behalf of a voucher holder, who pays the difference between the rent and what the County has paid. He provided an update on recent changes in Section 8, which involve cutbacks that may affect the ability of some residents to remain in their current housing units.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Davis said the Commission should see people from the social services agencies on an ongoing basis, so all commissioners will have a level of familiarity with the programs.

Commissioner Meltzer distributed a report on family caregiver support – “Policies to Better Support Informal Caregiving,” a November 2012 publication of the MacArthur Foundation.

Commissioner Meltzer spoke about possibly creating a program to help prevent chronic disease. There was interest in family caregiving as an upcoming agenda item.

Commissioner Bergstein had asked APLA why they had no office in West Hollywood for ADAP renewal, and the explanation provided was that records, including fax communications, must be locked for protection, and there is interest if any space of this kind becomes available.

Commissioner Palmieri said there is a new executive director at Being Alive, and said it would be good for him to attend a Commission meeting. He also spoke about visiting the Mission on Skid Row, and about #SIZZLE!, the sober event being planned for the LA PRIDE Festival in June.

Commissioner Williams discussed the Public Safety Awards. She also discussed working with women who were incarcerated and have been recently released, and would like the City to consider how to be of service to them.

Commissioner Cislowski attended the Kids Fair, and spoke about improving the mix of vendors who participate. She said the Train Ride at the event was good, and that children want to be able to take something home from the Fair. She spoke about how to include younger people in recreation activities.

Commissioner Oldershaw asked about being aware of objectionable material from social services agencies before it is made public; spoke about taking a workshop on domestic violence in the LGBT community; and spoke about hate crime. He said these should be considered as agenda items. He also asked that the agenda include a discussion of future subcommittees, like the subcommittee that reported on homeless services, with possible topics of hate crime, mental health, and others.

Commissioner Oldershaw said he has accepted two traineeships in clinical psychology at APLA and the Gay & Lesbian Center, as part of his master's degree program.

Commissioner Meltzer spoke about Older Americans Recognition Month, and asked whether Plummer Park draws participation from throughout the City.

Commissioner Bergstein said the new Eastside Working Group meets this week.

Commissioner Davis discussed the recent installation of Mayor John D'Amico, which was an open meeting held in Plummer Park. For the Commission agenda, he asked to revisit the method the City uses to pay substance abuse providers. He also commented on the cooperation and positive interaction of commissioners.

## VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Elizabeth Savage said staff is working on a study session, possibly for after summer. She announced that Corri Planck has been promoted to social services supervisor, thanked Leslie Isenberg for serving as acting manager, and said that Corri's former social services program specialist position will be posted for applications.

Leslie Isenberg said staff is working with agencies on annual site visits, and will be including questions about family caregiving where appropriate.

Leslie Isenberg said the Aviva Safe program at Gardner Elementary School will not renew in the fall, due to changing community needs, and not being requested as much. Two free afterschool programs are available. This means \$33,951 in social services funding will be available for possible reprogramming for the next year.

Leslie Isenberg spoke about the Senior Health Fair at Plummer Park on May 21, with participation from Cedars-Sinai, Saban Free Clinic, and other agencies. About 500 people are expected.

Corri Planck is in contact with APLA regarding their interest in West Hollywood space.

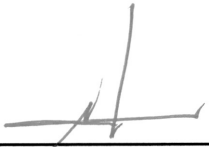
VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Signed:

  
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Steven L. Davis, Chair

7-8-14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date