

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 8, 2015
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, September 8, 2015, in the Community Meeting Room of the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Yola Dore.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Sam Borelli, Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Barbara Meltzer, Jimmy Palmieri, Patrick Shandrick.

Not Present: Elizabeth Anderson.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Corri Planck, Leslie Isenberg, Derek Murray, and Jeff Book.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported that notices for the meeting were 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 August 11, 2015, meeting, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **LA LGBT CENTER SENIOR SERVICES**

Kathleen Sullivan, Director of Senior Services at the LA LGBT Center, spoke regarding the program's history and record. She said that repeated contacts is a better marker of the program's success than the number of individuals by itself. She disagreed with staff's recommendation that the funding for the program should be reduced to \$30,000 for the next year. Tripp Mills was also present.

B. **SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWALS**

David Giugni presented three staff recommendations regarding the third year of the current three-year cycle of Social Services programs. These were: (1) a 2%

cost of living increase for the agencies, as already budgeted by the City Council; (2) setting aside \$132,600 in a pool of funds for substance abuse treatment services to be provided through contracts with Safe Refuge and the Tarzana Treatment Center under a fee-for-service structure; and (3) rolling into the 2016-2019 Social Services RFP process the amount of \$32,385 from discontinuation of the LA HIV Law and Policy Project, and \$31,986 from a recommended reduction in the funding level for the LA LGBT Center's Senior Services program.

David Giugni said that Safe Refuge (formerly the Substance Abuse Foundation of Long Beach) and Tarzana Treatment Center use a fee-for-service structure with LA County, and returning to this format with the City of West Hollywood would be consistent.

He also said that the HIV Law and Policy Project continues through UCLA Law. Shawn Kravich, director of the Project since 2012, is now with Bet Tzedek Legal Services.

David Giugni reported that the LA LGBT Center Senior Services program has been challenged in meeting the goals set out in the contract with the City, and staff would like to meet with the agency to brainstorm ways to get the targeted population in the City connected with the programs.

Commissioner Cislowski said she hopes agencies will apply in the 2016-2019 funding cycle for the area of HIV law and public policy, and that she would be interested in how to work with the Senior Services program from their strengths in social and other activities.

Commissioner Palmieri said the goals for the Senior Services program may have been too high to start with, instead of allowing for participation to build up.

Commissioner Shandrick asked about McIntyre House, and David Giugni said that it has reached a maximum with regard to how many beds they can dedicate to West Hollywood. Commissioner Shandrick said the Senior Advisory Board should be encouraged to be involved with Senior Services programming.

Commissioner Borelli asked the LGBT Center Senior Services program what they would do differently if the funding from the City were not decreased. Kathleen Sullivan said the numbers for new and unduplicated clients were not the best representation of their success, and that they are committed to serving the community.

With regard to rolling funds into the 2016-2019 funding process, Commissioner Davis said he would like to have a proviso that the funds could be spent sooner than that if a need arises. Commissioner Cislowski asked if the funds from one-time savings could be applied to urgent needs funding, with the other funds being rolled over into the 2016-2019 process.

Commissioner Cislowski moved to support the staff recommendations with the addition that unspent funds be accessible for identified urgent needs that may emerge prior to releasing the 2016-2019 Request for Proposals, and that staff return to the October meeting with a one-time, urgent needs recommendation, for

expenditure of a portion of the funds.

Commissioner Cislowski said she would like to continue to receive monthly updates at Human Services Commission meetings from the LA LGBT Center Senior Services program.

C. PANEL PRESENTATION ON PSYCHIATRIC AND OTHER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

A six-person panel from City-funded Social Services agencies which provide psychiatric and other mental health services was introduced. Panel members were:

1. Daniel Robison, Programs Manager, Being Alive
2. Jeff Bailey, Director of Client Services, APLA
3. Lydia Szamraj, Clinical Services, APLA
4. Diane Kubrin, Program Director, LA LGBT Center
5. Rachel Donaldson, Director of Clinical Programs and Supportive Services, NCJW LA.
6. Marina Berkman, West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center

The panelists discussed services they provide to the West Hollywood community as well as challenges or barriers they experience in providing services. Several said that lack of space was a significant problem. In response to Commissioner Cislowski asking what one thing would help them the most, the panel said it is assistance with space and being able to afford rent for their programs.

Rachel Donaldson noted that the NCJW program Women Helping Women is now Community Mental Health Programs and Supportive Services. Commissioner Borelli said the City could look at helping to educate the community that a community member need not be Jewish to utilize services from NCJW and Jewish Family Service.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Commissioners reviewed opportunities to serve as liaisons to other Boards and Commissions, and accepted or agreed to continue in these positions:

- Disabilities Advisory Board – Commissioner Davis
- Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board – Commissioner Palmieri
- Public Facilities Commission – Commissioner Shandrick
- Public Safety Commission – Commissioner Shandrick
- Rent Stabilization Commission – Commissioner Palmieri
- Senior Advisory Board – Commissioners Meltzer and Davis
- Transgender Advisory Board – Commissioner Borelli
Alternate: Commissioner Davis.
- Women's Advisory Board – Commissioner Meltzer

There was no liaison at this time for Planning Commission. Commissioner

Cislowski said she would serve as an alternate, as needed, for any of the boards and commissions.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Borelli said he attended a training at the Alliance for Housing and Healing, and thanked Corri Planck for help with PATH.

Commissioner Borelli asked if packets can be printed double-sided, and there was no objection.

Commissioner Shandrick spoke about the annual report of WeHoX, the City's civic innovations program.

Commissioner Palmieri said he attended the City Council meeting to reiterate opposition to taking away parking from a social services agency providing testing in the city.

Commissioner Cislowski asked about next month's panel discussion on substance abuse. David Giugni said staff will invite Safe Refuge, Tarzana Treatment Center, McIntyre House, and KLEAN, and the panel will concentrate on residential and transitional services.

Commissioner Cislowski said she attended the Home Run Derby at Plummer Park, which was a fun thing to do as a city.

Commissioner Meltzer attended the Women's Equality Day event. She distributed an article from the 8/24/2015 Desert Sun, titled "Prepping for a daily dose of prevention: Desert AIDS Project readies PrEP campaign." She also said she'd like to accompany other Commissioners on agency site visits.

Commissioner Davis attended the service providers meeting on substance abuse. He asked about arranging a group of two or three Commissioners to visit the Tarzana Treatment Center and Safe Refuge. He said he will be away in October.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Derek Murray provided an update on the PrEP awareness campaign, and spoke about upcoming social services-related meetings, including a Job Fair by the Transgender Economic Empowerment Project (TEEP).

Leslie Isenberg spoke about the upcoming Children's Roundtable.

Corri Planck said staff can coordinate visits to Long Beach and Tarzana. She spoke about flooding at 838 West Knoll, and said that residents have returned to their homes.

David Giugni said September is National Alcohol and Drug Recovery Month. Social Services will be having a pop-up program at El Tovar Place on Sept. 19.

On behalf of Olivia Walker, David Giugni said that the City is currently reviewing and updating park rules and regulations which were adopted in 1990.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Stephanie Harker spoke about the Detroit bungalows, and asked staff or Commissioners to meet with residents there.


Cathy Blaivas spoke about the Detroit bungalows, and said the City should be able to have calendar items posted on its website more than one month at a time, so that people can plan what meetings and events to attend.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

David Giugni said there had been a request from Daniel Robison to adjourn in memory of Anthony (Chenez) Carter, a Being Alive participant.

In the absence of further business, the meeting was adjourned in memory of Anthony (Chenez) Carter at 8:56 pm.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THIS 13TH DAY
OF OCTOBER 2015


Barbara Meltzer, Vice Chair

Attest:



Jeff Book, Secretary