

**MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PUBLIC MEETING ROOM /
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 NORTH SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD 90069**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Jimmy Palmieri at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 19, 2016, in the West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room / City Council Chambers, 625 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood 90069.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ruth Cislowski.

B. ROLL CALL

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

A quorum was present at all times. Also present were Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Corri Planck, Leslie Isenberg, Derek Murray, Corey Roskin, and Jeff Book.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Staff requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Muriel Schoichet, who had been a member of the Senior Advisory Board, as well as a labor and political activist.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Meltzer, seconded by Commissioner Anderson.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING, 2016-2019

Elizabeth Savage introduced the topic, which is the Commission's decision on recommending Social Services funding to the City Council. She said the staff report accompanying this item has been revised, and copies of the new staff report were available to the Commission and those attending. This meeting follows extensive public outreach; input from Boards and Commissions; a 10-hour meeting on June 28 at which commissioners discussed proposals with applicant agencies; and a public hearing on July 12.

Staff reviewed a chart containing staff's recommendations to the Commission regarding the 41 proposals received from agencies that would like to provide Social Services to the City at this time. Of these, there were 28 proposals from agencies that currently receive City funding, and 13 from agencies which do not.

Based on the current budget allocation of \$4,512,324, staff recommended funding for these current City-funded social services providers: Aid for AIDS, APLA Health and Wellness, APLA Positive Self-Management, Being Alive, Bet Tzedek, Friends HIV, Friends Outpatient, Housing Works, Jewish Family Service (JFS) Comprehensive Services, JFS Nutrition, JFS Sova, Jewish Vocational Services, LA LGBT Center Mental Health, LA LGBT Center Sexual Health, LA LGBT Center Transgender, LA LGBT Center WeHo Life, LA LGBT Center Youth, McIntyre House, NCJW CMHSS (National Council of Jewish Women – Community Mental Health and Support Services), NCJW YEPS (National Council of Jewish Women – Youth Educational Programs and Services), Pathways, PAWS/LA, Project Angel Food, Saban Community Clinic, St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, A Safe Refuge, and Tarzana Treatment Center. Staff also recommended funding for these applicants who are not current City-funded providers: Ascencia, Men's Health Foundation, Planned Parenthood, and Westside Center for Independent Living (WCIL). The recommended funding includes \$67,630 in Urgent Funds, to be administered by Friends HIV, JFS Comprehensive Services, LA LGBT Center Youth, McIntyre House, NCJW CMHSS, and Ascencia.

As part of its report, staff also identified the need for additional funds to fully cover the costs of substance abuse treatment (\$177,000) to avoid service interruption, based on actual and projected expenditures incurred over the course of the 2015-2016 contract year, and also identified \$230,114 as an allocation to provide street-based programming focused on community members who are chronically homeless and mentally ill.

The Commission received public comment on this agenda item from:

1. Natalie Profont Komuro, on behalf of Ascencia.
2. Brian Hardin, on behalf of McIntyre House.
3. Robert Boller, on behalf of Project Angel Food.
4. Cathryn Friedman, on behalf of Project Chicken Soup.
5. Joseph Warren, on behalf of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.
6. Brian Risley, on behalf of Men's Health Foundation.

Saban Community Clinic:

Commission Chair Palmieri recused himself from discussion of funding for Saban Community Clinic. He passed the gavel to Vice Chair Meltzer, and left the room.

Commissioner Davis moved to adopt the staff recommendation of funding for Saban Community Clinic, in the amount of \$192,051. This was seconded by Commissioner Borelli, and adopted by a vote of 6 to 0.

Commissioner Palmieri returned to the meeting, and resumed the chair.

Men's Health Foundation:

Commissioner Davis recused himself from discussion of funding for Men's Health Foundation, and left the room.

Commissioner Cislowski moved to adopt the staff recommendation of funding for Men's Health Foundation, in the amount of \$93,751. This was seconded, and adopted by a vote of 6 to 0.

Commissioner Davis returned to the meeting.

Jewish Vocational Services:

Commissioner Borelli recused himself from discussion of funding for Jewish Vocational Services, and left the room.

Commissioner Meltzer moved to adopt the staff recommendation of funding for Jewish Vocational Services, in the amount of \$173,673. This was seconded by Commissioner Cislowski, and approved by a vote of 6 to 0.

Commissioner Borelli returned to the meeting.

Remaining Recommendations:

Staff spoke about the remaining slate of recommendations.

Commissioner Cislowski moved to adopt staff recommendations regarding all the other agencies applying for funds. This was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Each commissioner had the opportunity to comment or raise additional questions regarding the proposed recommendations.

Commissioner Borelli said that although he may like to see some recommendations somewhat different, staff did a good job of matching funds to the needs identified by the City Council and the community.

Commissioner Cislowski discussed aspects of the proposals from Aid for AIDS, Being Alive, and Project Chicken Soup. She asked whether staff had any suggestions about supporting Project Chicken Soup even if they are not funded in this process. Staff discussed information from Project Angel Food and JFS Nutrition about their relative capacity to provide hot meals and follow-up support to people receiving meals.

Commissioner Borelli said that since nutrition and food scarcity were strongly identified as issues in the input from Board and Commission representatives, and in public comment, was there a way to provide the public with more information about what is and will be available. Staff said there are plans to work with the City's Communications Department to highlight what is available from both new and continuing programs.

Commissioner Meltzer asked that someday soon the City find a program to support family caregivers.

Commissioner Palmieri spoke about the importance of addressing food insecurity. He thanked staff for close attention to whether there are gaps in the City's services for this. He said he was glad Project Chicken Soup is in the city, and hoped the City could form a collaboration with them on providing information and other support.

Commissioner Palmieri said that staff's recommendations are well thought-out, and that he is confident that the Commission has exercised due diligence in requesting, reviewing, and reaching determinations on recommendations for providing social services.

The motion to adopt staff's recommendations on the remaining agency proposals was adopted unanimously, 7 to 0.

4. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of New Business.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no items from Excluded Consent.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff thanked the Commission members for their time and effort during the lengthy process of reaching these recommendations, and said that they look forward to working with the new partners who have been proposed for funding.

Elizabeth Savage said the staff had done an excellent job of matching funding to

needs within the budget allocation. Staff is highly engaged on the topic of homelessness and mental health challenges, and is coordinating with the Public Safety Department in this regard. She said the Request for Proposals had been very well crafted, and served to guide the process.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cislowski said she had been impressed by the number and quality of proposals from agencies which would be new to funding by this City. She said one difficulty with proposals was an inconsistency in response to certain questions, which reflected agencies' different approaches, and made it challenging to compare, across the board.

Commissioner Shandrick thanked citizens, Advisory Board and Commission members, staff, and fellow Human Services Commissioners for their care and commitment to the City during this process. He said he felt due diligence had been provided, and said there was a good balance of agencies with track records with the City, as well as agencies who will be new partners in serving the community.

Commissioner Anderson thanked staff and Human Services Commissioners for their work on these recommendations, as well as non-profit agencies.

Commissioner Meltzer said it had been a difficult and challenging process, but that it was exhilarating to see the final result developed.

Commissioner Palmieri asked if it is possible in the future for the City to identify the number of members of the Middle Eastern/Persian community in West Hollywood, as well as those who are family caregivers. He said this was his second Social Services funding cycle, and first as chair, and that it had been great to work with his colleagues on the Commission.

Commissioner Cislowski asked what role the Commission should play with regard to the additional needs that have been identified, and asked for this to be placed on the next agenda. Staff said they will provide more information on this. Because the City's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, the mid-year point is at the end of December.

Commissioner Davis said that the Commission agrees with the path being taken on identifying the need for additional funds.


9. ADJOURNMENT

The Human Services Commission was adjourned at 7:15 pm in memory of Muriel Schoichet.

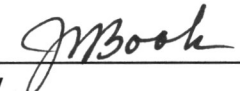
The next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2016, in the

Community Conference Room, City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West
Hollywood, CA 90069

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 13TH
DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2016


Chair

Attest:


Secretary