

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**MARCH 13, 2018
6:00 PM**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER AT PLUMMER PARK
ROOMS 5 AND 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Patrick Shandrick called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Cynthia Chavez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL –

PRESENT: Elizabeth Anderson, Sam Borelli, Nate Clark, Steven L. Davis, Barbara Meltzer, Jimmy Palmieri, Patrick Shandrick.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Derek Murray, Joan Mithers, Diane Kahn-Epstein, Jeff Book.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approve the agenda for March 13, 2018, moving Item 4.A. to be taken up before Item 3.C. Motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, and approved unanimously by roll call vote.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of the February 13, 2018, meeting. Motion by Commissioner Meltzer, seconded by Commissioner Clark, and approved unanimously by roll call vote.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Barry McQuade, who said he was speaking on behalf of Narcotics Anonymous, discussed awareness of addiction issues by the general public. He said they plan to be in the Pride Festival this year.

2. Jim Chud spoke about a nonprofit organization he has started to help disabled persons. He said he will be touring the country to do interviews and publicize the new effort.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. BEING ALIVE REPORT

Subject: Program staff from Being Alive will present a status report to the Human Services Commission regarding its programs.

Staff said they have standing meetings with the leaders of Being Alive. Garry George Bowie, Executive Director, and Jamie Baker, Program Manager, spoke about training their staff and specific efforts to meet goals established in the contract with the City. They also spoke about outreach.

B. LA LGBT CENTER'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REPORT TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Subject: The LA LGBT Center Mental Health Services program staff will provide a report to the Human Services Commission.

Staff said they are working with LA LGBT Center Mental Health Services to increase the number of women participating in the program. Mike Rizzo, director of addiction and recovery services, discussed their outreach efforts. There are plans to open a Trans Wellness Center in April.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. BE WELL WEHO UPDATE

Subject: The Human Services Commission will receive an update on the City's BeWell WeHo classes, a component of the City's "Wellness at Any Age" program.

Monica Dunahee said there are good classes happening soon through this program, including memory and mindfulness classes. Commissioner Davis said he was concerned that efforts in this area might drop off after the departure of Elizabeth Savage as Human Services and Rent Stabilization director. Monica Dunahee said the programs continue to receive excellent support. A flyer for the upcoming classes will be distributed.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT UPDATE

Subject: The Human Services Commission will receive a report and hear a presentation from substance abuse treatment providers serving West Hollywood community members.

The Commission heard discussion from a panel directly involved with substance abuse treatment. The members were: Keith Star, Director of Inpatient/Detox and Youth Outpatient Programs, Tarzana Treatment Centers; Cynthia Chavez, Grant Writer/Contracts Administrator, Safe Refuge; Brian Hardin, Executive Director, McIntyre House; Gary Seiden,

Program Director, McIntyre House; Mike Rizzo, Manager of Crystal Meth and Recovery Services, LA LGBT Center; and Andrew Lopez, Director of Programs, Friends Community Center.

Several of the panelists said they saw increased use of fentanyl, an opioid, as well as ongoing problems with opiates such as heroin. They described the different approaches and capacities of their organizations, including residential treatment of varying terms; inpatient and outpatient treatment; and detoxification.

Some saw continuing issues with crystal meth and alcohol, as well as nicotine addiction. In response to questions, they clarified some common terminology in their field, such as MAT (medically assisted treatment), and descriptions such as “pre-contemplative” and “contemplative.”

Public Comment: Jim Chud said he became sober at McIntyre House during its first year of operation. He spoke about the importance of how people are treated by the staff of the agencies.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

There were no items on Excluded Consent.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni spoke about February statistics on the outreach video recently completed; about other aspects of the City’s Aging in Place initiative; and about a recent restructuring of the City’s organizational chart, in which Recreation has moved to the Facilities & Recreation Services Department, while a new division on Strategic Initiatives has been created in the Department of Human Services and Rent Stabilization. He said he will be away for the April meeting, so Leslie Isenberg will attend as Acting Social Services Manager.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Clark said LAUSD Board of Education Member Nick Melvoin will be hosting a meeting on April 18 at West Hollywood Elementary School for all the schools in our area.

Commissioner Meltzer asked if the families who attend the Kids Fair are mostly from West Hollywood, and David Giugni said that it is difficult to say, because there is no sign-in list, so that data is not collected. She spoke about the Senior Advisory Board working on a project, Seniors in Action, in tandem with teens.

Commissioner Meltzer said she and Commissioner Borelli have set a meeting for the Public Relations subcommittee. She expressed concerns with the represen-

tatives in the last two videos both being from the LA LGBT Center. She said she wants to be involved in creating the final video. David Giugni said this is being done by the Communications Department.

Commissioner Palmieri said a preliminary meeting for this year's #SIZZLE!, the sober area at the Pride Festival, was held at the Library today. He asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Carmen Gloria Duran, mother of Mayor Pro Tempore John Duran, and a 16-year member of the Los Nietos School District Board of Trustees.

Commissioner Davis attended the Senior Valentine's Dance and attended the Transgender Advisory Board, which discussed trans women's concerns about shelter beds.

Commissioner Anderson reviewed recent minutes of the Transportation Commission, and said that a scramble (all way) crosswalk was being considered.

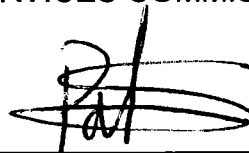
Commissioner Borelli spoke about the production of the promotional videos, and said the subcommittee is concerned that the final product would not be consistent with the original thought for the videos. He attended the Disabilities Advisory Board and passed out Social Services guides.

Commissioners discussed having the reports from the agencies on probation on the Consent Calendar, instead of having to report in person every month. David Giugni said the reports could be placed on Consent, with the agencies asked to report in person if particular issues emerge. Commissioner Palmieri said this can be discussed further after the mid-year report.

9. ADJOURNMENT

In memory of Carmen Gloria Duran, the Human Services Commission was adjourned at 8:50 pm to its next special meeting, which is at 6 pm, Tuesday, April 10, 2018, in Fiesta Hall, 1200 North Vista Street, 90046.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE
10TH DAY OF APRIL 2018.



Chair

Attest:



Secretary