

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

**MAY 8, 2018
6:00 PM**

**FIESTA HALL
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Patrick Shandrick called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Jasmine Duckworth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL –

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

ABSENT: Elizabeth Anderson.

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Davis asked that Item 2A, Being Alive Report to the Human Services Commission, be pulled from the Consent Calendar. There was no objection.

ACTION: Approve the agenda for May 8, 2018, moving Item 2A to appear under Item 5, Excluded Consent. Motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, and approved unanimously by roll call vote.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of the April 10, 2018, meeting. Motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Clark, and approved 5 to 0, with Commissioner Palmieri abstaining.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: Approve the Consent Calendar (Items 2B and 2C). Motion by Commissioner Meltzer, seconded by Commissioner Clark, and approved unanimously by roll call vote.

B. LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM REPORT TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Subject: Social Services Division staff will provide the Human Services Commission with a written status report.

ACTION: Receive and file. Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.

C. HIV PREVENTION MONTH

Subject: The Human Services Commission will receive an update on the activities planned for HIV Prevention Month.

ACTION: Receive and file. Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS PRESENTATION

Subject: The Human Services Commission will receive a presentation from the City's Community Affairs Coordinator on her work engaging the community.

Jasmine Duckworth, Community Affairs Coordinator, spoke about City events that are designed to engage the community, including the NextGen initiative, which is meant to encourage people under the age of 40 to be more involved. She responded to questions from Commissioners about the events and programs.

Commissioner Meltzer said that civic engagement is needed from all groups, not just those who regularly attend City events such as Neighborhood Watch meetings. Commissioner Clark spoke about encouraging discussion of education inside the City. He also asked about the possibility of digitizing neighborhood outreach. The coordinator she was open to new ideas. Commissioner Borelli said he finds that a lot of people don't participate much until there is a particular issue of concern. He spoke about a need for more messages from City leadership to Neighborhood Watch captains, who then will relay information to community members. The coordinator said they expect to be doing more training for block captains. Commissioner Shandrick spoke about getting word to the public about available social services.

B. PRESENTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Subject: The Human Services Commission will receive a presentation from the City's contracted mental health services providers.

David Giugni introduced a panel of representatives from the City's mental health program and service providers which included Sean Boileau, behavioral health services director, APLA Health; Jamie Baker, mental

health and wellness program manager, Being Alive LA; Marina Berkman, program director, Comprehensive Service Center of Jewish Family Service Los Angeles; Amy Kane, clinical programs manager, LA LGBT Center; Charlie Padow, community mental health and supportive services for the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW); and Paul Gore, director of behavioral health, Saban Community Clinic.

Each member of the panel spoke about their agency's programs and services for mental health, as well as challenges and barriers to service. Sean Boileau spoke about the needs served by APLA Health, and how different aspects of their programs have been developed in response. Jamie Baker described a client's experience in engaging with Being Alive, which can include long-term therapy in an LGBTQIA-affirmative context. Marina Berkman said that providing traditional mental health services is a small but important part of what JFS does. They also provide supportive therapy, and develop approaches to Russian-speaking older adults who do not know about psychological care. Amy Kane spoke about cooperation between the agencies, and how the LA LGBT Center is able to hand off clients with particular long-term needs to Being Alive. Charlie Padow spoke about NCJW's individual, couples, and group therapy, noting some difficulties because they are not open 24 hours a day, and do not have psychiatric staff on site. Paul Gore noted the 50th anniversary of the Saban Clinic, which now operates in three sites and is able to provide full medical and behavioral care at all of them, as well as dental and pharmacy services at one.

In response to a question from Commissioner Palmieri, Jamie Baker confirmed that Being Alive is no longer for HIV-positive clients alone, because their mission statement speaks about ending HIV, rather than only serving the HIV-positive.

Commissioners thanked the panelists for the work their agencies do for the community.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

2A. BEING ALIVE REPORT TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Subject: Social Services Division staff will provide the Human Services Commission with a written status report on Being Alive regarding its programs.

Staff presented the written report from Being Alive, with Jamie Baker present to respond to questions. Commissioner Davis spoke about delays in approval of their pharmacy's status with Medi-Cal.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff spoke about the City's compassionate use program for medical cannabis,

providing a 25% discount at a local cannabis provider for low-income residents with a finding of therapeutic necessity from their primary care provider. Being Alive is currently the screener for people seeking this discount.

Staff spoke about an upcoming WeHo Life focus group, and the HIV Zero survey; discussed May as Senior Month, with the upcoming Senior Health Fair.

In response to Commissioners' question about the possibility of providing a round of Commissioner comments following the first Public Comment opportunity, the City Clerk said that instead, Commissioners could direct staff to follow up with a speaker when particular issues needing attention were raised.

David Giugni said he met with the City Clerk and the former Public Relations subcommittee. Moving forward, all ad hoc committees of Commissions and Boards must be approved by the City Council.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Clark provided a handout with results from the parents survey at the Kids' Fair. He also spoke about a Los Angeles Unified School District public elementary school symposium at which LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin spoke. Commissioner Clark asked what actions the Human Services Commission can take with regard to disseminating the survey, and what a broader forum on public education would look like. He asked for the next agenda to include discussion of this, in connection with how to distribute the survey to a wider audience. There was no objection to this being on the agenda.

Commissioner Palmieri was on a panel at the Women's Leadership Conference. He spoke about #SIZZLE! and the City booth at LA Pride, and said that Steven Reigns is presenting a reading this week.

Commissioner Davis said the meeting had been very beneficial, and thanked the panel members. He spoke about the disruption of curb and driveway changes on Hayworth Avenue.

Commissioner Meltzer attended a panel discussion on how to build a movement, moderated by former Mayor Abbe Land, with Commissioner Palmieri as one of the panelists.

Commissioner Borelli said he would like to have the WeHo Life videos shown at a Commission meeting. There was no objection to placing this on an upcoming agenda. He said that he and Commissioner Meltzer are encouraging people to participate in National Night Out, the first Tuesday in August, as an opportunity to share information on Social Services.

Commissioner Shandrick thanked staff for organizing the Mental Health panel. He attended the homelessness services collaborative recently, and spoke about the very large attendance at Homeless Connect Day.

9. ADJOURNMENT

In memory of Gilbert Valenzuela, Jr., the Human Services Commission was adjourned at 9:02 pm to its next special meeting, at 6 pm, Tuesday, June 12, 2018, in Rooms 5 and 6 of the West Hollywood Community Center at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, 90046.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE
12TH DAY OF JUNE 2018.



Chair

Attest:

Secretary

