

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

**APRIL 9, 2019  
6:00 PM**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Sam Borelli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mikie Friedman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Sam Borelli, Steven L. Davis, Barbara Meltzer,  
Jimmy Palmieri, Andrew L. Reback, Patrick Shandrick.

**ABSENT:** Nate Clark.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Mayor Pro Tempore Lindsey Horvath; David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Corri Planck, Strategic Initiatives Manager; Leslie Isenberg, Derek Murray, Joan Mithers, Diane Kahn-Epstein, Elizabeth Anderson, Corey Roskin, and Jeff Book.

**WELCOME FROM MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

Mayor Pro Tempore Horvath welcomed the Human Services Commission, the audience present at the Council Chambers, and those watching the meeting through the City's TV services. She spoke about the importance of Social Services programs to the community, and looked forward to this year's process of input, discussion, and action on the City's Social Services for 2019-2022.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll-call vote.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Meltzer, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2019. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll-call vote.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment under this agenda item.

## 2. HEARING ON SOCIAL SERVICES PRIORITIES

David Giugni reviewed the purpose of the meeting, to hear public input on what the City's priorities for Social Services should be in the period of 2019 to 2022. The following comments were made:

1. Mikie Friedman, Chair, Disabilities Advisory Board, spoke about food insecurity, community members suffering from catastrophic illness, the rising number of people who are older and/or disabled, and allowance for better food choices.
2. Yola Dore, resident, supported a general increase in Social Services funding, to reflect costs in care, such as IHSS, and spoke about service availability and financial support for community members suffering from catastrophic illness.
3. Fred Summers, Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, spoke about food insecurity and better meeting the nutritional needs of older adults by supplementing congregate meal sites with groceries from SOVA, and also discussed an increase in clients and client visits to the SOVA food pantry.
4. Diane Schneider, JFS Food and Nutrition Director, spoke about balanced nutrition and oral health, how congregate meals decrease social isolation for older adults, and supplementing congregate meals through the food pantry.
5. Stewart Prosize, resident, spoke about the wide variety of Senior Services programs provided by the LA LGBT Center, about community members who are HIV+ and/or veterans, and about the need for older LGBT people to have a place where they feel accepted and worthwhile.
6. Steven Guy, resident living with HIV, and Senior Director of External Affairs, Men's Health Foundation, spoke about community education, availability of PEP and PrEP, the need for creative outreach strategies to reach gay youth, and additional services targeting older men living with HIV.
7. Dr. Frank Galassi, resident, spoke about the Senior Services programming of the LA LGBT Center.
8. Steve Wayland, Director of Programs, PAWS LA, spoke about maintaining funding for pet services, which continue to be in demand, and the role of animals in improving quality of life and mental health, especially for older adults and those living with HIV.
9. Jamie Baker, Program Manager, Mental Health & Wellness Center, Being Alive, discussed two client scenarios to show the importance of the agency's services, and gave examples of how the agency collaborates with substance abuse treatment providers.

10. Garry Bowie, Executive Director, Being Alive, spoke about Being Alive's Mental Health Services and services for older adults living with HIV.
11. Robert Morrison, Housing Works program director, with Rogelio Cisneros, Housing Works team leader, spoke about the agency's wraparound services for formerly homeless community members, and the range of services provided.
12. Emily Brennen Lord, volunteer at the JFS Comprehensive Services Center, spoke about the volunteer program, which provides assistance with filling out applications and paperwork related to public benefits.
13. Tripp Mills, Deputy Director, Senior Services, LA LGBT Center, spoke about Phase II of the Center's Anita May Rosenstein Campus, which will include 99 units of affordable housing as well as health, wellness, educational, and recreational services for seniors.
14. Kiera Pollock, Director of Senior Services, LA LGBT Center, spoke about the intergenerational culinary arts program planned at the Anita May Rosenstein campus, and said for older LGBT adults, social isolation is twice as high as for straight older adults.
15. Marc Hauptert, Friendly House, introduced that program's treatment center for women and spoke about heroin addiction, prescription drug misuse, and the need for drug treatment services.
16. Eleshia Brown, Ascencia, reviewed that program's success in meeting goals to assist clients in obtaining benefits, shelter, and permanent housing, and said they reach out to homeless community members and respond to calls from constituents, businesses, and City staff.
17. William Seegmiller, political action director, Sex Worker Outreach Program-Los Angeles (SWOP-LA), spoke about the importance of Trans-led programming, substance abuse treatment, evidence-based programs, harm reduction, and needle exchange programs.
18. Simon Costello, Director of Children, Youth and Family Services, LA LGBT Center, spoke about Queer Awareness and the Center's increase from 60 to 120 youth shelter beds, and about underserved youth of color, of whom more than 50% left home due to family rejection of their sexual orientation.
19. Eden Anaï Luna, Program Manager, Transgender Economic Empowerment Program (TEEP), spoke about increased need for Trans services including crisis intervention, harm reduction, rehabilitation, food, shelter, and showers for the homeless that would accommodate non-binary community members,

located closer to Plummer Park in order to reach the Trans community.

20. Ronda Dixon, Program Manager, WeHo Works, Jewish Vocational Service-Los Angeles, reviewed upcoming programming.
21. Joe Rodriguez-Fritts, Program Coordinator, Friends Research Institute, spoke in support of the agency's crystal meth out-patient treatment programs.
22. Brian Risley, APLA Health, spoke about the agency's HIVE (HIV Elders) program; about gaps in services for older adults with HIV including senior care navigation and psychosocial case management; and about the share of clients over 50 facing housing and food insecurity, social isolation, cognitive decline, stigma, trauma, and PTSD.
23. John Allendorfer, resident, recommended that the City use a "Welcome Brochure" that includes information on Social Services available to new and ongoing residents.
24. Triana Maldonado, Research Assistant, Friends Research Institute, spoke about the need for housing for Trans youth.
25. Karol Silverstein, resident, spoke about her appreciation for JFS's Disability Advocate.
26. Ethan Mazur, resident, spoke about dangers posed by simultaneous crises in homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse, including encounters with community members displaying symptoms of these while refusing treatment, and said isolation was a major issue in addressing this.
27. Eleanor Barrett, resident, spoke about the LA LGBT Center's Senior Services.
28. Michaé Pulido, Trans Latin@ Coalition, spoke about ongoing safety issues experienced by Trans community members in West Hollywood, as well as the need for job readiness and expungement programs, safe community shelter, and spiritual health.
29. Joy Freiberg, resident, spoke about requiring Nutrition programs to provide healthier food choices, such as the "Healthy Eating Plate" guidelines created by nutrition experts at Harvard School of Public Health and editors at Harvard Health Publications.
30. Josh Portillo, Saban Community Clinic, spoke about the Clinic's homeless services.

David Giugni said that a written statement in support of JFS's services had been received from Ruth Williams, and her remarks would be noted.

**3. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

David Giugni said Edward Ramirez, newly in the position of Sheriff's Captain for the West Hollywood Station, will attend the May 2019 meeting.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional Public Comment under this agenda item.

**5. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Davis thanked everyone who provided input this evening.

Commissioner Palmieri said that navigating the systems for Social Services programming is not the easiest, and speakers' input is very helpful.

Commissioner Meltzer thanked speakers for their courage in telling their stories.

Commissioner Shandrick thanked the speakers. He attended a substance abuse coalition meeting, and asked if there should be an agenda item regarding an increase in deaths by overdose in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Reback thanked the speakers, and said it was helpful to hear their comments. He also thanked the commissioners for welcoming him as a new member.

Commissioner Borelli noted that the next meeting is in two weeks, at 6 pm on Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The Human Services Commission was adjourned at 7:35 pm to its next special meeting, to be held at 6:00 pm, Tuesday, April 23, 2019, in Rooms 5 and 6 of the West Hollywood Community Center at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, 90046. Parking is in the adjacent lot.

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APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2019.



Chair

Attest:



Secretary