

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

**MAY 14, 2019  
6:00 PM**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL  
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
8300 SANTA MONICA 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** – Mike Rizzo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

David Giugni, Social Services Manager; Leslie Isenberg, Derek Murray, Joan Mithers, and Jeff Book.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Meltzer, seconded by Commissioner Shandrick, to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2019. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Clark, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote. The Calendar item was:

**A. HIV PREVENTION MONTH**

The Human Services Commission received an update on the activities planned for HIV Prevention Month.

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. REPORT FROM CAPTAIN RAMIREZ OF WEST HOLLYWOOD SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Captain Edward Ramirez, recently named to lead the Sheriff's Department in West Hollywood, spoke about the Department's close cooperation with the City of West Hollywood, as well as current trends in the nature of arrests and Sheriff's activities in the city. He spoke about the Department's approach to people who are homeless, and about trends in the number of criminal arrests of people who are homeless: 148 in 2015, 554 in 2018, and 187 to date in 2019. They refer people who are homeless to the City's contracted social services providers, namely, Ascencia, Step Up on Second, and Tarzana Treatment Center.

Captain Ramirez stated that mental health and substance abuse are the biggest factors in working with community members who are homeless. In response to a question on substance abuse, he said the most frequent abuse is occurring with crystal meth, cocaine, alcohol, ecstasy (MDMA), and GHB. Officers recently seized 1.5 pounds of fentanyl, enough to overdose 340,000 people.

**B. UPDATE ON SOCIAL SERVICES SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

Mike Rizzo of the Los Angeles LGBT Center discussed the Center's work on crystal meth and fentanyl, and reviewed the groups and programs the Center provides. Their treatment is based on harm reduction and helping people to stop, minimize, or use more safely. They serve about 2,000 unduplicated clients per year within Mental Health services alone. They provide daytime and evening outpatient programs to address crystal meth and opioid abuse. All substance abuse inquiries receive responses with 24-48 hours, with the goal of placing the individual in a group within a week.

Mike Rizzo also spoke about fentanyl test strips and demonstrated how they work. He spoke about carfentanil, which is 10 times as potent as morphine, and can create an overdose simply by inhaling its dust.

**C. DEMENTIA AND LGBT SENIORS**

Kiera Pollock of the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Senior Services program spoke about dementia and the way depression can be mistaken for dementia. She also spoke about the Center's workshop in "Skills for Savvy Caregivers," which reminds caregivers to maintain their own health and

well-being so they are better able to help others. They are providing that workshop three times this year, as well as a twice-monthly support group for caregivers.

She noted that many people do not respond in the affirmative when asked if they are a caregiver, but do when they are asked if they provide care for someone. Asked if there is a capacity to pair people looking for a caregiver with people who are interested in doing that, she said the Center does this on an informal basis and would like to increase its capacity for providing this service.

**D. PREPARATION FOR THE 2019 SOCIAL SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

Fifty or more applications to provide Social Services to the community are expected in response to the release of the 2019 Social Services RFP. The Human Services Commission will be reviewing the proposals and making recommendations to the City Council. Staff reviewed the format of the Exhibit A (Scope of Services), which provides a basis for monthly program reports from agencies that receive funds, and the Exhibit B (Budget Justification), which provides a basis for negotiations. Final budgets are likely to be different from the proposals.

**5. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

There were no items on Excluded Consent.

**6. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

David Giugni said the City Council received a recommendation on May 6, 2019, to augment contracts with the Los Angeles LGBT Center and APLA Health to address overdoses and opioids. The City was represented at the American Society on Aging convention in New Orleans, where the HIV Zero campaign was presented.

Staff spoke about the Senior Health Fair coming up on May 15, 2019, at the Community Center at Plummer Park; following WeHo Cares on Facebook; completing the Aging in Place/Aging in Community survey on the city website or on paper; participating in HomeWalk 2019, a 5k family walk/run led by United Way LA; and a May 21, 2019, program on vaccine preventable diseases at the Library Community Meeting Room.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

**8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Shandrick is now working at the Simon Wiesenthal Center / Museum of Tolerance.

Commissioner Palmieri spoke about the fentanyl and carfentanil crises.

Commissioner Meltzer attended the Senior Advisory Board meeting.

Commissioner Davis was at the Los Angeles LGBT Center, and noted that the pharmacy had posted notice that fentanyl testing strips were available for free. He also spoke about Lloyd R. Long, the City's founding Director of Human Services, and Jodi Curlee, the founding Social Services Manager.


Commissioner Borelli thanked Commissioner Palmieri for advocating to address the fentanyl crisis.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Human Services Commission was adjourned 8:39 pm to its next regular meeting, to be held at 6:00 pm, Tuesday, June 11, 2019, in the first-floor Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall.

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APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2019.

  
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Chair

Attest:

  
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Secretary