

**MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022
6:00 PM**

***TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

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

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Sam Borelli, Chelsea Byers, Adam Darvish, Steven Davis, Joy Freiberg, Jimmy Palmieri

ABSENT: Barbara Meltzer

STAFF: Christof Schroeder, David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Derek Murray, Francisco Gomez, Doug Nguyen, Joan Mithers, Katie Egan, Jenny Ivanova, Joyce Britton

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Derek Murray led the pledge.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Approval of the April 12, 2022, meeting agenda was motioned by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Byers, and approved by roll call vote.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rob Lester, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the impact of HIV on the LGBT community in West Hollywood. He mentioned that there is still an unmet need for care services and noted an increase in services provided at the HIV testing and STD treatment clinic.

David Nash spoke about the need for increased funding to Ambiance Transportation to cut down on transportation costs for those living with disabilities. He also asked for increased funding to DCRC and mentioned the need for more affordable housing for people with disabilities. He suggested having more simplified access to social services.

2. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approval of the March 8, 2022, meeting minutes were approved by roll call vote, with Commissioner Borelli abstaining.

ACTION: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B. SENIOR MONTH PROGRAMMING 2022

The Human Services Commission received information on events and activities taking place during May in recognition of Senior Month.

Recommendation: Received and filed.

3. PUBLIC HEARING

A. HEARING ON SOCIAL SERVICES PRIORITIES

David Giugni, Social Services Manager, provided an overview of the 2022-25 Social Services Request for Proposal (RFP) process and introduced the Public Hearing on Social Services priorities.

Rachel Resnick, Chief Program Officer, NCJWLA, spoke about the growth of their rental assistance programs through the pandemic and noted factors that highlighted a need for income and employment stability for community members.

Marina Berkman, Program Director, Jewish Family Service, spoke about challenges in accessing some benefits for their clients, such as meal programs, personal care and other services.

Yola Dore', West Hollywood resident, spoke about funding needs in addition to COVID, such as catastrophic illnesses, cancer and HIV. She also mentioned needs for younger community members that have been homebound during the pandemic.

Lena del Rio, Translatin@ Coalition, requested support for the Translatin@ Coalition.

Al Romero, Translatin@ Coalition, spoke about discrimination and lack of financial support for housing opportunities, as well as general financial support for the transgender community in West Hollywood.

Odales Rodriguez, Translatin@ Coalition, spoke about the lack of services for the trans Latina community, discrimination from law enforcement and others in West Hollywood. They would like more support from the City of West Hollywood.

Swanee Mendes, Translatin@ Coalition, spoke about the importance of connecting the transgender community to services and the need to invest more in the lives of transgender women experiencing homelessness.

Lisa Marie, Translatin@ Coalition, spoke about improving the availability

of services for the transgender community and investing in more resources.

Hermione Beard, West Hollywood resident, spoke about how Jewish Family Service has enriched her life and highlighted people and services that helped her.

Bamby Salcedo, Translatin@ Coalition, spoke about the need for funds to be allocated for transgender people and also to direct funds toward organizations that are doing the work that they do.

Michael McFadden, West Hollywood resident, spoke about the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Senior Services program and highlighted the many services they provide as the only LGBTQ comprehensive provider to seniors in the LA area. He requested additional support to continue those services.

Ashley Weinberger, Deputy Director, Friends Research Institute, spoke about the HIV risk reduction street outreach program, the methamphetamine program, and the supplemental case management program. She explained that due to the sharp increase in demand, more people are needed to provide services.

Clifford Roberts, Program Manager, Step Up on Second, spoke about the increase that he has seen in mental health needs and discussed the efforts that his organization puts forth in providing those services. He looks forward to another contract to continue providing services.

Richard Rosenthal, LA LGBT Senior Center client, spoke about the services provided to him by the Center and how they have positively impacted his life.

Brian Rogers, Men's Health Foundation, spoke about the services offered by Men's Health Foundation and explained how they could benefit from additional support.

Rob Lester, Men's Health Foundation, spoke about the vital services they provide for patients with sexually transmitted diseases and explained how continued financial support would help them to continue addressing these needs.

Jamie Baker, spoke about the need for continued funding for HIV.

4. NEW BUSINESS

There are no items under New Business.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**A. NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOCUSING ON THE SOCIAL SERVICE
NEEDS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF COLOR FINAL REPORT**

The Human Services Commission received a presentation from Maroon Society detailing the final report for the Needs Assessment Focusing on the Social Services Needs of Community Members of Color.

ACTION: Received presentation and discussed.

6. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

7. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Derek Murray, Social Services Program Administrator, spoke about the activation of weho.org/wehoresponse in response to the war in Ukraine. The website provides resources for support and humanitarian assistance to refugees.

David Giugni, Social Services Manager, reminded commissioners of the next meeting in two weeks and mentioned the discussion of funding priorities on the agenda, as well as opportunities to provide input on the final draft of the RFP. David also mentioned that Christof Schroeder, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization, was in attendance.

Christof Schroeder, recognized the staff of the department and the Commissioners for all the work that they do and expressed appreciation for their commitment.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Borelli mentioned the recent passing of community member Bill Gordon and motioned for the Commission to adjourn in his memory.

Commissioner Freiberg asked about the following: a status update on a report regarding support services for sexual assault victims; a report on domestic violence and the City's support services, especially since a large percentage of LA County residents experience homelessness due to domestic abuse; if the City provides parking passes/permits for people who work in the City. She spoke about the new DEA press release reporting a 26% increase in Fentanyl deaths in one year, killing more people than guns and car accidents combined, and asked for an update on how Fentanyl is affecting residents.

Commissioner Byers asked for a cost breakdown on transportation, based on the comments from David Nash. David Giugni will follow up with the Transportation administrators.

Commissioner Darvish spoke about wifi access for older adults and people living with disabilities. He also spoke about transportation challenges that people living with disabilities encounter.

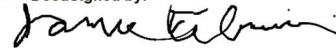
Commissioner Davis expressed concern about the placement of the Approval of Minutes on the agenda. Social Services Staff will follow up with the City Clerk.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Human Services Commission adjourned at 8:25 pm, in memory of Bill Gordon, to its next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 6:00 pm via teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE 12TH DAY OF APRIL 2022.

DocuSigned by:



980DB95DE7F2480...

Chair

Attest:

DocuSigned by:



F27233CAA891478...

Liaison