

**CLERKS RECORD OF THE MEETING
CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023
8:30 A.M.**

**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY HALL
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069**

- 1. A. CALL TO ORDER:** Councilmember Byers called the meeting to order at 8:32 A.M.

B. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmember Byers, Councilmember Heilman

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager David Wilson, Director of Human Services & Rent Stabilization Christof Schroeder, Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck, Facilities and Field Services Division Manager Helen Collins, Governmental Affairs Liaison Hernan Molina, Social Services Supervisor Leslie Isenberg, Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator Francisco Gomez, City Clerk Melissa Crowder, and Recording Secretary Alyssa T. Poblador.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Councilmember Heilman, seconded by Councilmember Byers, to approve the August 24, 2023 agenda.

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

- 3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

- 4. NEW BUSINESS:**

4.A. CURRENT OUTREACH PROGRAMS [C. SCHROEDER, C. PLANCK, L. ISENBERG]:

SUBJECT: The Council Subcommittee on Homelessness will receive information from staff on homeless services outreach conducted in the City.

Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated August 24, 2023.

Ms. Planck referenced and summarized the spreadsheet on the Outreach teams' schedule and service facilities availability per Councilmember Heilman's query at the last subcommittee meeting.

Councilmember Heilman commented that he saw neither evening hours nor early morning when he most often observed unhoused members of the community sleeping on the sidewalk or in doorways.

Ms. Planck pointed out that Ascencia service hours are noted as Tuesday through Friday from 3:00 P.M. until 11:30 P.M. COPPS and MET Teams are called for very early morning hours.

Councilmember Heilman stated that his understanding is that when Ascencia does outreach, they may transport someone to a service provider then that Ascencia staff member is no longer on the street.

Social Services Supervisor Leslie Isenberg replied that there are 3-4 outreach workers at Ascencia and Healthcare in Action starts at 7:00 A.M. Off-schedule special requests at 5:00 A.M. have been made with advanced planning.

Councilmember Heilman questioned the effectiveness of outreach and shared his personal experience of seeing people on the sidewalk at around 8:00 – 9:00 A.M., then seeing them an hour later with seemingly no contact. He also asked if there is a hotline to call if one sees an unhoused community member on the street.

Ms. Planck explained that outreach workers cannot forcibly remove anyone off public space. Individuals can be spoken to, provided direct assistance like given water, socks, hygiene kits, and PPE (during COVID-19) while building those connections. Therefore, if someone is still seen in the same spot, it does not mean they did have an outreach contact.

Councilmember Heilman mentioned the ordinance that prohibits people to sleep on the sidewalk in the City of West Hollywood and asked if there is follow-up with law enforcement.

Ms. Planck responded that law enforcement involvement brings up other issues per the State regarding forcible removal of human beings. Conversations at Sacramento, with the ACLU, with the Center for Disabilities, and Western Center on Law & Poverty oppose such forcible actions for people who are gravely mentally ill. After being asked to move off the public right of way, it has not been West Hollywood's practice to have the sheriffs forcibly remove a non-violent sleeping person. She further highlights that it has been tracked outreach requires 100-120 contacts to finally earn the trust of an unhoused member of the community and get them into housing. She acknowledged that this is not a fact we want to hear, nor the agencies want to hear, but each individual is different and complex so there is not a one size fits all formula to get people off the streets.

Director of Human Services & Rent Stabilization Christof Schroeder shared some examples of correspondence regarding the process of requests for outreach provider staff, and responses plus response time.

Ms. Planck mentioned the dedicated hotline that was established in 2016 called Homeless Concern Line at (323) 848-6590.

Councilmember Byers asked for examples of late night initiatives for outreach as well as for the MET Team hours.

Ms. Isenberg mentioned a week-long assessment during the LAHSA annual homelessness count. Ms. Planck responded that West Hollywood receives 40 hours per week of MET through LA County.

Ms. Planck further commented that getting an unhoused individual to say yes to anything is the goal, whether it be getting an ID at the DMV, getting a Social Security card, going to a doctor's appointment or mental health appointment, or looking for an apartment. Doing such outreach on Sunday shifts when these offices are closed is a challenge. She acknowledged that not seeing an outreach worker on the street may be frustrating, but having the understanding that if an unhoused community member agrees to go with the outreach worker to do anything productive, that's exactly the work we want them to do, like getting their documents, going to their appointments, and getting a haircut if they have a job interview. If the public does not see outreach workers on the streets, they may be mid-transport doing work like this.

Councilmember Byers inquired if providers see something that works that the City isn't doing or a resource we do not have. Ms. Planck responded it is more housing. She further shared data from Fiscal Year 22/23, Q1 & Q2 Homeless Services Provider Outcomes (attached).

Councilmember Heilman asked why we do not have tent encampments in the City, and Ms. Planck replied we have an ordinance prohibiting tents. Enforcing the ordinance is done delicately and the City provides services, so we have avoided the court cases that neighboring cities encounter regarding homelessness encampments. Councilmember Heilman expressed that he does not see coordination with law enforcement nor encouraging property owners to acquire a letter of agency.

Ms. Planck responded that the absence of tents speaks to the level of enforcement. She shared that there are many calls to the Homeless Concern Line and that there is ongoing communication with sheriffs and MET Team on a regular basis. Requests for service include eviction lockouts coordination so older adults or people living with disabilities don't go to the streets and avoid unsafe situations with the lockouts. Sheriffs, Fire, and Block by Block have been briefed on services available through Healthcare in Action, through UCLA mobile health unit, and briefed and involved with planning with the Care Team. The City has also worked with the business community, Chamber of Commerce, and business improvement districts about letters of agency.

City Manager David Wilson offered to meet with the homeless services agencies and sheriffs to discuss these topics, as well as offering to meet with the Councilmembers individually.

Councilmember Byers suggested ongoing public education and increasing awareness, since data shows that the outreach is working but perhaps the public doesn't understand *how* it is working. If the public heard that it takes 159 touch points until success is reached, and that success is achievable, it is possible to feel both frustration and empathy with the complicated process. She said we have a responsibility to help build trust and understanding in the work these agencies are doing while continuing to scrutinize and be accountable to the dollars spent. She sees the outreach is working, just in a slow and tedious manner.

ACTION: The Subcommittee received and discussed the item

5. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Councilmember Byers shared she is an alternate member on the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency Committee at the appointment of Supervisor Lindsey Horvath. She spoke of the exciting opportunities they have been discussing. If staff has perspective to share, she welcomes recommendations.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

- **Legislative Affairs: Ongoing Discussions Regarding Funding For Homeless Services in LA County**

Governmental Affairs Liaison Hernan Molina provided an update of Year 1 of a 2-year session. He shared information on AB 1679 (Santiago) Transactions and Use Taxes regarding local returns and support from the County's Homeless Initiative. The bill would allow the County to redo Measure H and Supervisor Horvath leads this community effort on AB 1679.

AB 1607 (Carrillo) Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency would authorize a transfer of a portion of the revenue for homeless support services.

AB 531 (Irwin) The Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023 which would amend the Mental Health Services Act of 2004 and allow funding to be used for substance abuse support and allow the legislature to place a ballot initiative for \$5B for 10,000 beds for dual diagnoses. A companion measure SB 326 (Eggman) The Behavioral Health Services Act which the City supports, has a hearing scheduled for next week.

In summary, a replacement for Measure H is being studied which ultimately would give more local control with funds and resources instead of waiting for or depending on the County to disperse those funds.

- **Holloway Interim Housing Program Update**

Facilities and Field Services Division Manager Helen Collins shared that the project is currently in plan check which means we are one step closer in starting to build. The bid packet is more complex since federal monies are involved and modifications have been made due to accessibility of entrance issues, parking spaces, and trash removal. Ms. Collins explained that the bid will go out in early September, a 6-week bid, and the cost that was estimated at \$4 million has changed due to being on an earthquake fault therefore foundation refortification must be done. The hope is to meet the schedule, with the biggest hurdle being acquiring the switch gear panel which has a long lead time of 8 months to 1 year.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT: None.**

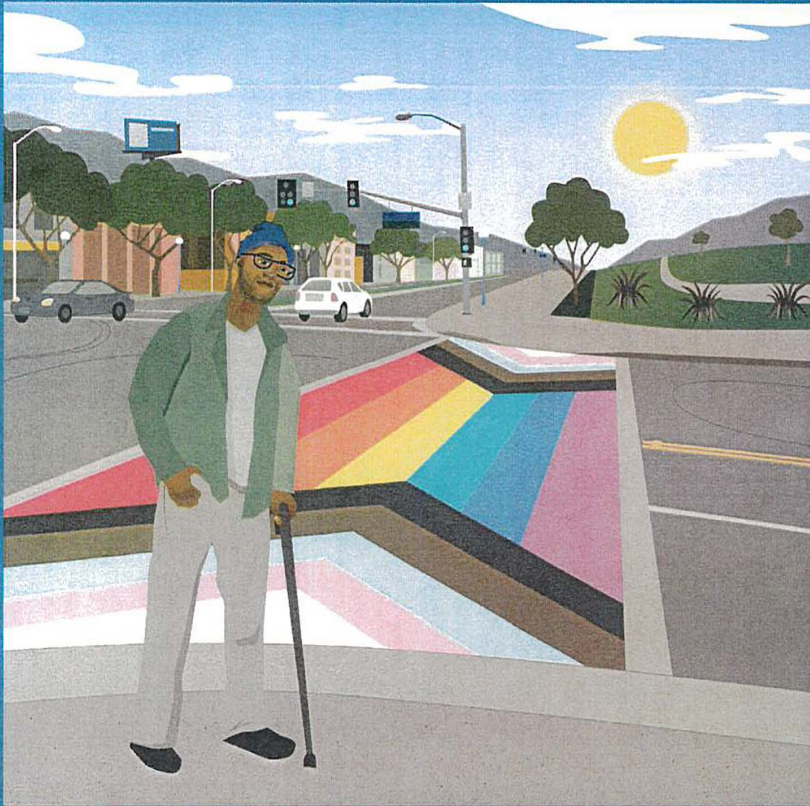
8. **ADJOURNMENT:** The City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness adjourned at 9:26 A.M. to its next meeting which will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 8:30 A.M. in the Community Conference Room, City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood CA 90069.



Alyssa T. Poblador, Recording Secretary

THESE INFORMATIONAL NOTES ARE PREPARED BY THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AND ARE NOT APPROVED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

Fiscal Year 22/23, Q1 & Q2 Homeless Services Provider Outcomes



- **Permanent Housing Placements**
- **Housing Retention**
- **Interim Housing, Shelters and Bed Nights**
- **Rental Assistance**
- **Continuum of Care Vouchers**
- **SUD Intake**
- **Direct Assistance & Mainstream Services**

FISCAL YEAR 22/23, Q1 & Q2 HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDER OUTCOMES

Permanent Housing Placements

- 10 with Ascencia
- 9 with Step Up on Second Street
- 9 with Los Angeles LGBT Center – Youth

Housing Retention Services

- Step Up on Second Street provided housing retention services to 35 community members.
- Ascencia provided housing retention services to 24 community members.



LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER FOR LIFE
50



FISCAL YEAR 22/23, Q1 & Q2 HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDER OUTCOMES

Interim Housing, Shelters & Bed Nights

- **41 New Unduplicated Persons in Interim Housing & Shelters**
 - 15 at Los Angeles LGBT Center
 - 24 at Ascencia
 - 2 at Step Up on Second Street
- **2833 Total Bed Nights**
 - 1185 at Los Angeles LGBT Center
 - 1633 at Ascencia
 - 15 at Step Up on Second Street



FISCAL YEAR 22/23, Q1 & Q2 HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDER OUTCOMES

Rental Assistance

- Rental Assistance, including the Covid-19 Emergency Subsidy, was provided on 94 occasions from National Council of Jewish Women and Alliance for Housing and Healing.
 - 40 Rental Subsidies
 - 54 Covid-19 Emergency Rental Subsidies

Continuum of Care Vouchers

- In Q2 Housing Works provided 16 Community Members with Continuum of Care Vouchers and Housing Case Management Services.



FISCAL YEAR 22/23, Q1 & Q2 HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDER OUTCOMES

Substance Use Disorders Intake

- 19 New and Unduplicated Patients in treatment with Tarzana Treatment Center.

Direct Assistance & Access to Mainstream Services

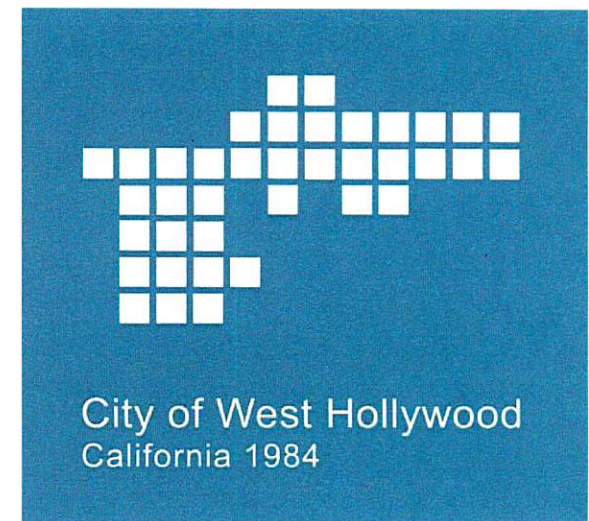
- Ascencia provided Direct Assistance to 173 Community Members while providing Access to Mainstream Services to 59.



A history of serving our unhoused community members

**Between October 2016 and March 2023,
West Hollywood has:**

- Helped 266 residents transition into permanent housing
- Provided Housing Retention Services to 282 Community Members
- Provided 426 Community Members with Interim Housing and Shelters Beds, totaling 36,347 bed nights.
- Dispersed Rental Assistance (including Covid-19 Emergency Rental Assistance) 1,632 times totaling \$1,880,021 between March 2020 and March 2023.
- Provided Substance Use Disorder Services 272 times.



West Hollywood City Council
Subcommittee on Homelessness
August 24, 2023

Homelessness-Related Legislation

AB 1679 (Santiago) Transactions and use taxes: County of Los Angeles: homelessness.

- Existing law authorizes cities and counties, subject to certain limitations and approval requirements, to levy a transactions and use tax for general or specific purposes, in accordance with the procedures and requirements set forth in the Transactions and Use Tax Law, including a requirement that the combined rate of all taxes that may be imposed in accordance with that law in the county not exceed 2%.
- Existing local transactions and use tax law for the County of Los Angeles, known as Measure H, establishes a local tax at a rate of 0.25%, and the revenue from that tax is dedicated to addressing and preventing homelessness.
- **Would authorize the County of Los Angeles to impose a transactions and use tax at a rate of no more than 0.50% that, in combination with other transactions and use taxes, would exceed the above-described combined rate limit of 2%, if the county adopts an ordinance proposing the tax and the ordinance proposing the tax is approved by the voters, subject to applicable voter approval requirements.**
- **The bill would also require all revenue from the tax to be dedicated to addressing and preventing homelessness, as provided, and would require the local ordinance, upon approval by the electorate, to repeal Measure H.**
- **The bill would specify that a transactions and use tax established pursuant to its provisions would not be considered for purposes of the 2% combined rate limitation.**
- **The bill would repeal this authorization on December 31, 2028, if an ordinance proposing the tax has not been approved by that date.**

Status: In the Senate's 3rd reading file.

City's position: No position

AB 1607 (Carrillo, W.) Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency

- The Los Angeles County Regional Housing Finance Act (act), establishes the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHS Agency) to increase the supply of affordable housing in the County of Los Angeles.
- The act authorizes the agency to place funding measures on the ballot in the County of Los Angeles to raise and allocate funds to the County of Los Angeles, the cities in the county, and other public agencies and affordable housing projects within its jurisdiction for purposes of preserving and enhancing existing housing, funding renter protection programs, and financing new construction of affordable housing developments, as specified.
- The act limits the agency's jurisdiction to acting in a supplemental capacity when a municipality has, as of January 1, 2022, an existing program that provides similar supports and services, and

prohibits any functions of existing programs from being transferred to or undertaken by the agency.

- The act also prohibits the agency from performing or undertaking any functions related to supports and services provided to people experiencing homelessness, except as specified.
- **This bill would authorize the agency to transfer a portion of the revenue raised by a tax measure adopted pursuant to the act to the County of Los Angeles for programs that provide supports and services to prevent and combat homelessness.**
- **The bill would exclude those transferred revenues from the annual expenditure plan and the annual programmatic budget and make other conforming changes.**

Status: In the Senate's 3rd reading file.

City's position: No position

Governor's behavioral health package

AB 531 (Irwin) The Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023 Existing law, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), an initiative measure enacted by the voters as Proposition 63 in the November 2, 2004, statewide general election, establishes the Mental Health Services Fund to fund various county mental health programs.

- **This bill would enact the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023 which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,680,000,000 to finance grants for the acquisition of capital assets for, and the construction and rehabilitation of, unlocked, voluntary, and community-based treatment settings and residential care settings and also for housing for veterans and others who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness and are living with a behavioral health challenge.**
- **The bill would provide for the submission of the bond act to the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.**

Status: In Senate Appropriations: Hearing scheduled for 8/28.

City's position: Support.

Companion measure:

SB 326 (Eggman) The Behavioral Health Services Act.

City's position: Support.

Status: In the Assembly: Asm Housing and Community Development: Hearing scheduled for 8/28.