

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024
PLUMMER PARK - ROOMS 5 & 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
6:00 PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Eyres called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and read the Land Acknowledgement.

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Davis
Commissioner Williams
Commissioner Wyville
Vice Chair Adolphson
Chair Eyres

Absent: Commissioner Borelli
Commissioner Palmieri

ALSO Derek Murray, Acting Social Services Supervisor
PRESENT: Maribel Ulloa, Social Services Program Administrator
Michelle Liberman, Social Services Program Administrator

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Eyres led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the Agenda for May 14, 2024.

ACTION: Approved the Agenda of Tuesday, May 14, 2024. **Motion by Vice Chair Adolphson seconded by Commissioner Davis and approved by roll call vote.**

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the minutes of the Human Services Commission meeting of Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

ACTION: Item was tabled to the next meeting, due to an abstention and insufficient attendance to achieve a quorum required for approving the minutes.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

2. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** None.

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**Commissioner Anne Marie Williams joined the meeting at 6:04pm*

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH PRESENTATION

The Human Services Commission received a presentation on Mental Health Resources available through the city from Jamie Baker, Executive Director of Being Alive, Noah Castro, Program Supervisor of LA LGBT Center's STOP Violence Program, and Kira Mintz, Assistant Director of Welcome Center of Maple Counseling on mental health services available through the City's contracted social services providers.

Commissioner Wyville thanked all the providers for services provided to the community and inquired about trends for increased services.

Commissioner Williams thanked all the providers for the services provided to the community.

Commissioner Davis thanked all the providers for services provided to the community and highlighted grief and abandonment issues many are facing from the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Vice Chair Adolphson thanked all the providers for services provided to the community and LA LGBT Center's STOP Violence program for working with aggressors. She inquired about transportation services. Specifically for Maple Counseling, she inquired about the assessment process when participants call.

Chair Eyres thanked all the providers for services provided to the community and inquired about data collection.

ACTION: Received and filed.

B. TRANSLATIN@ COALITION PRESENTATION ON ADRESSING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

The Human Services Commission received a presentation from TransLatin@ Coalition Program Coordinator & Community Specialist, Liza Ceballos, and Alexandra Magallon, Community Development Programs Manager about addressing the social determinants of health of transgender, gender nonconforming, and intersex community members.

Commissioner Davis congratulated TransLatin@ on their work and thanked them for teaching financial literacy to clients. He inquired about where they obtain clothing and hygiene items for unhoused clients.

Commissioner Wyville thanked TransLatin@ for their work, and highlighted outreach impacts from lived experience is powerful.

Commissioner Williams thanked TransLatin@ for their work, commended the mental health support and staff, and highlighted partnership opportunities with Maple, expressing the need for home health care.

Vice-Chair Eyres thanked TransLatin@ for their work, highlighted Maple's opportunity to connect, inquired if therapists are trauma-informed, and enrollment numbers.

Chair Eyres thanked TransLatin@ for their work and highlighted the opportunity for a pilot income program.

ACTION: Received and filed.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Michelle Liberman, Social Services Program Administrator, announced the Older Adult Health Fair, scheduled to take place on May 21st, from 10 am to 1 pm at Plummer Park, located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. The event will feature health screenings, group discussions, giveaways, and lunch. Additionally, Seniors in Action will take place on May 28th, at City Hall in the Community Meeting Room, starting at 2 pm.

Maribel Ulloa, Social Services Program Administrator, highlighted an agenda item for the upcoming May 20th City Council Meeting, the reallocation of funds to sustain the Bet Tzedek Eviction Defense Program. Initially funded in June 2020 as part of the Council's emergency response to evictions, the program has proven indispensable, particularly given the surge of 46,000 filings in Los Angeles County. This program provides free legal representation and

intervention services to West Hollywood residents. The program has aided 545 individuals, with 532 achieving positive outcomes for the tenant. Additionally noting, this figure doesn't include residents with partners, children, dependents, and other household members.

Derek Murray, Acting Social Services Supervisor, highlighted an additional agenda item for the upcoming May 20th City Council Meeting, a contract amendment for Health Care in Action to fund their rent at the new Harm Reduction Center set to open in June. This center, in partnership with Being Alive, located on Laurel and Santa Monica, will offer comprehensive harm reduction services, including syringe exchange, naloxone, risk reduction counseling, fentanyl test strips, and serve as a central hub for Health Care in Action, enhancing their response times to service calls.

Additionally, Derek announced that the Human Services Booth has been approved for Pride on June 1st and 2nd. Human Services Division will be distributing thousands of harm reduction items, including fentanyl testing strips, drink spiking test strips, xylazine testing strips, condoms, lubricants, dental dams, and more. The Human Services Division is currently seeking volunteers for afternoon or evening shifts, from 12pm to 8pm, lasting two to three hours each.

5. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Williams shared her positive experiences from attending the West Hollywood Leadership Academy, highlighting the valuable insights gained into the City's operations. Additionally, she inquired about admission tickets for the Out Loud Festival during Pride. Furthermore, Commissioner Williams requested a script for the upcoming Council Meeting to support the contract amendments being presented to the Council.

Commissioner Davis shared his appreciation for the rules of decorum outlined on the agenda. He thanked staff for the public comment script for April's Council Meeting. He also attended the Homeless and Housing Advisory Committee meeting at the county level, shedding light on relevant issues affecting West Hollywood. Among these, they discussed the escalating costs associated with parking of RVs and related fees, the financial challenges confronting assisted living and nursing facilities, and the resulting homelessness among their residents. Additionally, Commissioner Davis addressed the limitations of Medicare and underscored the necessity for streamlining healthcare processes.

Commissioner Wyville echoed Commissioner Davis's sentiment of the necessity


for streamlining healthcare process and announced that the County is reopening rent relief portal on May 20th.

Vice Chair Adolphson attended the Skoll World Forum exploration of polycrisis, stressing the interconnectedness of societal issues and the imperative for systemic change. She highlighted the ripple effect of addressing one problem, which often reveals interconnected challenges, underscoring the need for alternative approaches. Vice Chair Adolphson emphasized the importance of adopting a long-term perspective as the RFP process approaches. Additionally, she provided an update on her attendance at the May 6th Council meeting and confirmed participation in the upcoming May 20th Council meeting.

Chair Eyres joined National Council of Jewish Women on their lobby day, addressing guaranteed income, the West Hollywood pilot program and emphasizing the need for state senators and assembly members to rethink MediCal and Medicare systems. She highlighted the issue of individuals slipping through the cracks in the current system. Additionally, Chair Eyres attended the City's 2nd Annual Poetry Spa, the Women's Mini Film Festival, where she commended Larisaa Fooks for her outstanding curation of short films. Furthermore, Chair Eyres attended the WWII Memorial Veteran Day Pageant event and the Yom Hashoa Event with Larry Gross.

- 7. **ADJOURNMENT:** The **Human Services Commission** adjourned at 7:36pm to a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 6:00 pm** at the Plummer Park Community Center, Rooms 5 & 6, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ON THIS 11th DAY OF JUNE, 2024.

DocuSigned by:

 SA770380964C485...
 KAREN EYRES,
 CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:
 DocuSigned by:

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 STAFF LIAISON

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office

upon request.

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