

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 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 Acknowledgment.

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Borelli
Commissioner Davis
Commissioner Palmieri
Commissioner Williams
Commissioner Wyville
Vice-Chair Adolphson
Chair Eyres

Absent: None.

ALSO
PRESENT: Derek Murray, Acting Social Services Supervisor
Dee'Ana Saunders, Acting Social Services Program Administrator
Maribel Ulloa, Social Services Program Administrator
Michelle Liberman, Social Services Program Administrator
Amy Valdepeña, Commission Secretary, Human Services Specialist

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the meeting agenda for June 11, 2024.

ACTION: Approved the Agenda of Tuesday, June 11, 2024. **Motion by Commissioner Borelli, seconded by Commissioner Wyville and approved by roll call vote.**

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Human Services Commission is requested to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2024, and May 14, 2024, Human Services Commission meetings.

ACTION: Approved the minutes of April 9, 2024. **Motion by Commissioner Davis** to approve, **seconded by Commissioner Wyville, and approved by roll call vote, noting Commissioner Williams and Vice Chair Adolphson abstained.**

Approved the minutes of May 14, 2024. **Motion by Vice Chair Adolphson** to approve, **seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved by roll call vote, noting Commissioner Borelli and Commissioner Palmieri abstained.**

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

YOLE DORE, CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD- Over a thirty-year resident and liaison for the Disabilities Advisory Board. She reminded the Commission that October is Disability Awareness Month. Service awards are given out and nomination forms will be available at the next meeting. She encouraged the board to vote. Any further questions can be directed to Staff 323-848-6510.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR: None

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2023-2024 MID-YEAR REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

The Human Services Commission received the Mid-Year Report on Social Services programs for 2023-2024. Derek Murray, Acting Social Services Supervisor, gave a presentation on the 2023-24 Mid-Year Report on Social Services Programs Client Demographics. A brief report on the following agencies were given, APLA Health & Wellness, Being Alive, Healthcare in Action, Jewish Family Services – West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center, Los Angeles LGBT Center – Mental Health Services, and Step Up on Second. DeeA’na Saunders, Acting Social Services Program Administrator, gave an update on the following agencies, Awakening Recovery Inc, Jewish Family Service – Senior Nutrition, Los Angeles LGBT Center – Senior Services, Los Angeles LGBT Center – Sexual Health & Education Program, Los Angeles LGBT Center – WeHo Life Program, Los Angeles LGBT Center – Youth Services, West Hollywood Recovery Center. Maribel Ulloa, Social Services Program Administrator, gave an update on the following agencies, Bet Tzedek Legal Services- Eviction Defense and Prevention Program, Bet Tzedek Legal Services- West Hollywood Project, JVS SoCal-WeHoWorks, LA LGBT Center – Legal Services, Maple Counseling, Men’s Health Foundation, National Council of Jewish Women, Planned Parenthood Los Angeles, Tarzana Treatment Center, Translatin@ Coalition. Michelle Liberman, Social Services Program

Administrator, gave an update on the following agencies, Ascencia, Disability Community Resource Center, Jewish Family Services - SOVA Community Food and Resource program, Pathways, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles – Seeds of Hope, and Project Angel Food.

Commissioner Wyville inquired whether the percentage of goal is current time or this year. He inquired how goals are set at the beginning of the year, and if there is data to identify who lives, works, goes to school or has a business accessing resources. He also thanked staff for the report. He also inquired if there is data on who attends school, who is a business owner, who works, etc.

Commissioner Williams expressed gratitude towards the staff for their presentation and enjoyed the data. Inquired if there is a way to track duplicated numbers, and which are being duplicated.

Commissioner Borelli was pleased to see that 5,992 people have been helped. He praised the housing success and found the stories about Bet Tzedek and Holocaust survivors phenomenal and impactful. He acknowledged HIA's accomplishments, especially in providing schizophrenia medication, and was excited about JFS's successful meal program. He highlighted the benefits of fresh produce from Seeds of Hope and appreciated the initiative teaching people about fruits, vegetables, and cooking. He applauded the LGBT Center's GED program for homeless youth. Commissioner Borelli expressed concern about the Disability Service Resource Center's numbers and is hopeful for alternative outreach methods. He highlighted opportunity for WeHo Life to expand their night life safety kit distribution to more venues that serve non LGBTQ+ members of the public. He inquired about staffing turnovers and emphasized the need for specialized staff to support for people experiencing homelessness in the LGBTQ community. He also praised the Older Adult Health Fair for its significant attendance.

Commissioner Davis inquired about Awakening Recovery's progress in reaching their goals and suggested adding an addendum to clarify the reporting structure for better understanding. He inquired on various agency categories such as Health Care in Action Mental Health Consultation, Identified the low numbers of field trips in WeHo Comprehensive Services for Older Adults, Highlighted the low placement rates in both the JVS WeHo Works Program and the youth program, emphasizing the importance of transitioning from job training to job placement. Raised concerns about the low numbers in vocational training within Youth Services. Expressed appreciation for Jeffrey Rodriguez's insights into the WeHo lifestyle and Pride events. He also commended staff for their efforts in compiling and distributing a significant amount of new information for review.

Commissioner Palmieri expressed satisfaction with Ascencia and

commended their positive impact. He additionally raised the opportunity to remodify Awakenings reporting procedures as Fee Services should be differently assessed. He highlighted the significance of Pride as a time for reflection and change. He also highlighted the positive outcomes of LA LGBT Center youth services. He extended gratitude to the Jewish Family Service – SOVA Community Food and Resource Program, as he recommended individuals there and only received positive remarks. He also inquired how long the wait for the Jewish Family Service Comprehensive Service Center at home delivered meals. He thanked all the attendees.

Vice Chair Adolphson expressed gratitude towards the staff and partners for their hard work despite limited resources. She acknowledged the challenges of working with data and commended the efforts being made. She emphasized the importance of long-term impact and praised the utilization of services by newer residents. She requested that staff provide demographic information about the city as a whole to understand trends, particularly regarding age demographics. She especially expressed curiosity about the utilization of services by younger residents and noted the potential impact of harm prevention initiatives on the data. She also expressed excitement over the success of the WeHo Recovery Center and highlighted the decrease in the distribution of PEP as a sign of effective prevention work. She acknowledged the initial challenges Healthcare in Action faced and praised their positive impact on the community, particularly in supporting the sheriff's department. She thanked them and expressed satisfaction with their continued involvement in the community.

Chair Eyres highlighted the city's social service achievements, stressing the need to share successes to inspire similar efforts elsewhere. She praised the normalization of harm reduction, emphasizing the role of service providers in saving lives by removing stigma. She highlighted organizations like the Translatin@ Coalition for impactful work with marginalized groups. Chair Eyres emphasized the effectiveness of involving individuals with lived experiences in service provision. She emphasized healthcare initiatives, including street delivery psychotropic medication delivery to people experiencing homelessness, Jewish Family Services' surge in home care clients was acknowledged, as was the success of the WeHo Life program in harm reduction distribution partnerships. She noted upcoming legislation requiring businesses to offer drink spiking test strips, stressing the importance of continuing in overcoming stigma. She also highlighted the impact Project Angel Food's customized food programs, catering to specific dietary needs like cancer treatment have on the community they serve.

Chair Eyres concluded by stating that Pride is a reminder of self-worth and is a great way to get these resources out to all.

ACTION: Received and discussed.

B. PRESENTATION ON PREP AND PEP SERVICES

The Human Services Commission received a presentation from Rob Lester, Senior Director of Public Programs at the Men's Health Foundation about PrEP and PEP services available to West Hollywood community members.

Commissioner Wyville shared personal experiences. He thanked staff and appreciated the information on 2-1-1. He also inquired if there is a push from advocates to change the approval and status of 2-1-1 and if - advocacy will continue.

Commissioner Borelli requested a copy of the Prep and Pep presentation. He thanked Rob Lester for the valuable detailed information. He inquired on the importance of flexibility in service delivery, suggesting that services should be tailored to what works best for each individual. He inquired whether daily reminders or other forms of support like texting or emailing are sent out to participants. He also inquired on what services are provided on Santa Monica Boulevard, how it differs from other locations and whether it offers all necessary services.

Commissioner Davis expressed his opinions on various topics related to HIV, stigma, and preventive measures like PrEP. He highlighted the importance of using PrEP as a proactive step to protect oneself and the community from HIV. He also mentioned how attitudes towards HIV have changed over time and expressed support for reducing the stigma associated with HIV-positive individuals. He addressed and acknowledged the differences between facility locations and the broad clientele, noting the importance of outreach efforts in Santa Monica to reach those who may need services the most.

Commissioner Palmieri expressed the concern of lack of awareness and education among younger, straight individuals regarding HIV prevention methods like PrEP. He also noted that this demographic may not perceive themselves at risk and thus may not seek out PrEP. He inquired on insurance coverage for the injectable form if there's an issue with tolerating various medications. He expressed gratitude to Rob Lester for the services provided and all the great information.

Commissioner Williams thanked and expressed gratitude to Rob Lester and the commissioners for their vulnerability for educating.

Vice Chair Adolphson thanked Rob Lester for their presentation and expressed interest in learning more about 211. She highlighted that she has been involved with the field but didn't have much information on it

prior to this presentation.

Chair Eyres inquired if the city could support a 211-education campaign. She highlighted the opportunity of educating the public.

ACTION: Receive and discuss.

5. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Amy Valdepeña, new Commission Secretary, Human Services Specialist, gave a brief introduction and shared her excitement to produce great work with this team and commission.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

7. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Borelli expressed gratitude towards the staff for their presentation and gave a shoutout to the Older Adult Health Fair, noting its significant attendance. He mentioned having a few conversations with Boardmember Dore about catastrophic illness and how we can be more helpful, he will address them in the next meeting.

Commissioner Davis shared his experience attending Pride, emphasizing its profound personal and collective significance. He highlighted the importance of celebrating progress while acknowledging the challenges ahead. However, he noted accessibility issues with the float, suggesting improvements for future events. He also commended the city for street cleaning efforts.

Commissioner Palmieri advocated for two floats at Pride, expressing disappointment in their emptiness and questioned the rules of participation. He raised concerns about vandalism at the #SIZZLE booth and security measures, urging accountability. He also shared that he emailed Council, Mayor Erickson and Vice Mayor Byers responded. He acknowledged the positive impact of Supervisor Horvath's work.

Commissioner Williams reflected on the enjoyment of participating in the WeHo Pride festivities, mentioning specific moments such as Jeff Prange's dance on the float. She discussed potential collaboration with the LGBTQ+ County Commission, highlighting the wealth of experience within the board.

Commissioner Wyville briefly mentioned discussions at the council level regarding services and praised the success of Pride celebrations.

Vice Chair Adolphson had a great experience volunteering at Pride, emphasizing the joy of engaging with the community and offering assistance through various programs.

Chair Eyres echoed the sentiments of a successful Pride event and thanked those involved in organizing it. She also mentioned helping set-up with the Transgender lounge and spending time at the WeHo 40 booth and shared they received a great turn out. She also highlighted the importance of the Older Adult Health Fair and acknowledged the efforts of outreach providers. She also shouted out Men's Foundation who had a booth at Pride.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The **Human Services Commission** adjourned at 8:32pm its next Regular Meeting on **Tuesday, July 9, 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 9th DAY OF JULY, 2024.

Signed by:

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KAREN EYRES,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

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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.

(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore, the recordings are not of commercial quality.)