



**MINUTES
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY JANUARY 27, 2020 AT 7:00PM
KEN EDWARDS CENTER
1527 4TH STREET, SANTA MONICA CA 90401**

Call to Order

Chair Wechsler called the meeting to order at 7:02PM

Roll Call

The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:

Present: Chair Wechsler
Vice Chair Stedge-Stroud
Commissioner Akin (arrived 7:07PM)
Commissioner Ambriz
Commissioner Coleman
Commissioner Parent (arrived 7:07PM)
Commissioner Stoff

Absent: Commissioner Barringer
Commissioner Devermont

Also present: Setareh Yavari, Human Services Manager

1. Public Input

Public input was heard from Olga Zurawska.

2. Approval of the Minutes for the December 16, 2019 Special Meeting.

Commissioner Coleman moved and Commissioner Ambriz seconded to approve the minutes for the December 16, 2019 Special Meeting. The motion did not pass due to a lack of quorum of Commissioners in attendance at the December 16, 2019 Special Meeting.

Commissioners Akin and Parent arrived at 7:07PM.

Commissioner Parent moved and Commissioner Akin seconded to approve the minutes for the December 16, 2019 Special Meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

3. Update from Staff on the status of the Social Service Commission's Resolution, passed on November 25, 2019, recommending to the City Council changes to Section 2.60.030 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code.

Staff Liaison Yavari reported that Council received the Social Services Commission's proclamation as public comment to the City Clerk's proposals for Boards & Commissions. The proclamation will be considered as part of the larger review of Boards & Commissions by a new community working group, to be heard by Council at a later date.

4. Update from Staff debriefing the January 22, 2020 Santa Monica Homeless Count, including an estimate of when results will be available.

Staff Liaison Yavari reported on the event and stated that results will be available later this year.

5. Discussion and possible action on the general timeline for the City's budget process, including opportunities for public participation, through the end of the fiscal year.

Staff Liaison Yavari reported on the general timeline for the City's budget process, provided information on the City's Budget Task Force, and fielded questions from Commissioners around participation given the biennial nature of the budget.

6. Update and possible action on the op-ed submission written by the Ad Hoc Committee on Providence Saint John's Development Agreement and other Development Agreements, as approved on December 16.

The Commission reviewed the updated op-ed, as edited and approved by a majority of the Commission at the December 16 meeting. Commissioner Ambriz expressed approval of the revised version after an initial "no" at the December 16 meeting.

Commissioner Ambriz moved and Commissioner Stoff seconded to approve the op-ed to be submitted for publication by the Ad Hoc on behalf of the full Social Services Commission. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Chair Wechsler, Vice Chair Stedje-Stroud Commissioner Akin, Commissioner Ambriz, Commissioner Coleman. Commissioner Parent, Commissioner Stoff.

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners Barringer, Devermont

7. Reports from Ad Hoc Committees and Liaisons

- A. Ad Hoc Committee on the Canavan Project (Chair Wechsler, Commissioners Parent and Coleman).

Staff Liaison Yavari reported that a report from Canavan is expected in Winter 2020, with additional opportunities for involvement leading into a request for proposals for the Human Services Grants program in Fall 2020.

- B. Ad Hoc Committee on CDBG Consolidated Plan (Chair Wechsler and Commissioner Coleman).

The Ad Hoc will schedule a meeting with Claire Hester, Senior Administrative Analyst, Human Services Division, prior to a presentation at the February meeting.

- C. Ad Hoc Committee on Reimagining SAMOSHEL (Commissioners Akin, Parent, and Stoff).

There was no report.

- D. Ad Hoc Committee on the Budget (Chair Wechsler, Vice Chair Stedje-Stroud).

There was no report.

- E. Ad Hoc Committee on Mental Health (Vice-Chair Stedje-Stroud, Commissioners Akin, and Ambriz)

The Ad Hoc reported that several members of the Commission were in attendance at the LA County Department of Mental Health and Mental Health Commission's Service Area 5 Town Hall.

Looking forward, the Ad Hoc has plans to take a tour of The People Concern / SAMOSHEL facility, and an interest in education around language and stigma.

- F. Ad Hoc Committee on Addiction and Substance Abuse (Commissioners Akin, Devermont, and Parent).

The Ad Hoc is working on securing speakers and an agenda for their public hearing on the topic of methamphetamines

- G. Liaison Report on Homelessness Steering Committee (Commissioner Parent).

The Homelessness Steering Committee is now the Homelessness Action Network. The volunteerism side is going strong, with multiple opportunities for involvement coming up. The advocacy side is working closely with the City and will be invited to the Social Services Commission hearing on addiction.

- H. Ad Hoc Committee on the City Clerk's recommendations to Council on Boards & Commissions (Commissioners Ambriz, Coleman, and Parent)

- I. Liaison Report on Early Childhood Task Force.

Chair Wechsler and Commissioner Ambriz will coordinate liaising for the Early Childhood Task Force.

J. Liaison Report on Santa Monica Cradle to Career (SMC2C) (Chair Wechsler).

There was no report.

K. Liaison Report on Relevant California Legislation (Vice Chair Stedje-Stroud).

Vice Chair Stedje-Stroud reported on relevant proposed funds in the Governor's Proposed Budget and announced that he is no longer professionally involved in state legislation.

Commissioner Parent expressed an interest in hearing more about the City's legislative agenda and top priorities at the state-level.

8. Written Communication

Chair Wechsler reported on communications she has had with community member Michele Wittig.

Written communication was received from community member Olga Zurawska and discussed by the Commission.

9. Future Agenda Planning

The Commission reviewed their FY2019-2020 long range agenda, including priorities and guidelines set forth at their annual retreat. Future agenda items discussed include:

- Formation of an Ad Hoc to provide feedback to City staff regarding the City's Annual Report on Homelessness (February).
- Discussion with possible formation of an Ad Hoc to guide the presentation requested by the Santa Monica Public Library (February).
- National Foster Care Month proclamation (April/May City Council meeting)
- Discussion on City's FY2020-FY2021 budget (May/June).
- Presentation from Staff on the City's approach to behavioral health, including information on the Trieste model (TBD).
- Presentation from City Staff and state legislative offices on legislation as related to social services (TBD).

Adjournment

Chair Wechsler adjourned the meeting at 9:07PM.