



CITY OF
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CALIFORNIA



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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2020

Telephonic and Web Meeting

Approved October 19, 2020

Those in attendance: Aida Abkarians, Thomas Booth, Olivia Naturman, Margery Brown, Kian Gholibeik, Marie Javdani, Saif Mogri (arrive 6:30), Steve Randall, Anthony Scarce, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof.

Committee Co-chair Thomas Booth called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. A quorum was established.

The chairs decided to record the meeting.

The approval of minutes was tabled to October.

The Homeless Liaison report was tabled to October.

Numbers refer to agenda items.

4. Comments from the Co-Chairs: Thomas explained the purpose of tonight's program is to provide information about mental illness and substance abuse in the population experiencing homelessness.

7. Presentation on Outreach to High Utilizers of Emergency Services, by LA County Dept. of Mental Health, James Randall, LCSW, Assisted Outpatient Treatment, Garrett Lee, MPA:

Thomas introduce Jim Randall, who has ten-years of experience working for the LA County Department of Mental Health and is currently involved in the assisted outreach program. Two of Jim's main points were; the system does not treat people with mental illness until they are really sick, have a crisis, or become a danger to themselves or others and; people with mental health issues often do not realize it, and refuse treatment because they think they are doing fine.

Thomas introduced Garrett Lee, LA County Department of Mental Health Outreach and Mobilization Team/Home Team, who has both professional and lived experience with homelessness. Garrett said more mandated treatment is coming, which is a shift in policy. He explained housing someone takes time as the Housing Authority paperwork package is comparable to an escrow package to purchase a home. The pandemic has resulted in new programs and more resources becoming available.

Thomas moderated Q and A.

8. Update, discussion and possible action on Supportive Housing, Bridge Housing and alternative housing options, West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness, Olivia, Tom, Aida 1. WVNAH Election Debate, 2. Unhoused Town Hall, 3. Judge Carter Update Town Hall:

WVNAH has planned three events but only one has a scheduled date. Thomas explained the WHNC needs to approve use of their logo for each time it is used.

Request WHNC to allow use of name and logo at the WVNAH Election Debate

Passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment: None

Committee Co-chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:00 PM. Webinar and telephonic.