



**MINUTES  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**SMI TRAINING ROOM  
330 Olympic Drive, Santa Monica, CA 90401**

**Wednesday, October 8, 2025  
3:00 PM**

Call to Order

Chair Morrow called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Present: Commissioners Einbinder, Kagel, Manvel, Nguyen, and Leddy

Absent: Commissioners Glover, Wells, and Yilmazer

Also present: Thomas Philbin (Staff Assistant III), Natasha Guest Kingscote (Human Services Manager), Alana Riemermann (Senior Admin Analyst)

1. Public Input (Non-Agenda Items):

Written public comment was provided from Jacob Wasserman.

2. Public Input (Agenda Items Under SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS and CONSENT CALENDAR Only)

Richard Hilton provided public comment via telephone. Pam O'Connor provided public comment in person.

3. Special Agenda Items

- a. Update to the Community on SaMo Bridge, a Diversion Program Led by the City Attorney's Office in Partnership with the Santa Monica Police Department, that Serves Homeless Adults with Justice System Involvement by Connecting them with Housing, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services

Jenna Grigsby, Chief Deputy City Attorney, provided an update to the Commission on the SaMo Bridge program. Covered topics included the Civic Center, program statistics from May 12-Sep 18, service overview, and several success stories.

A question-and-answer session between the City Attorney and commissioners followed, with discussion centered around learnings from the SaMo Bridge program's initial phase.

- b. Mobility on Demand (MODE) Program Update, Alfredo Torales, Transit Planning and Performance Manager and Jessica Saks, Administrative Analyst, Department of Transportation, City of Santa Monica (Attachment: [PDF](#), [PPT](#))

Alfredo Torales and Jessica Saks provided an update to the commission on MODE, discussed current program trends, total rides, and planned updates including Lyft Silver for Seniors, expanded service hours, and the rollout of a hybrid call center.

A question-and-answer session followed, with commissioners suggesting potential expanded clientele groups and asking about ways to continue to increase program participation, particularly for the low-income population.

- c. Presentation on Citywide Equity Plan, Lisa Parson, Equity and Inclusion Manager, City of Santa Monica

Lisa Parson presented on the Citywide Equity Plan. Topics covered included strategic priorities such as clean streets and safe neighborhoods, economic growth and opportunity, and affordable, livable housing for all.

Over more than sixty community-led listening sessions, members of diverse communities including African American, Latino, Ethiopian, Jewish, Muslim, Disability, Senior, Young Adult, Parent Groups, and LGBTQ+ shared their priorities with the City regarding economic development opportunities, housing affordability, diversity in leadership, Santa Monica-specific reparative justice for past harms, cultural competency training for staff, and improved ways for the public to participate in inclusive community engagement.

A question-and-answer session followed, with commissioners inquiring on topics such as language access and existing and potential budget constraints for DEI.

- d. General Update from Human Services City Staff
  - i. Remarks from Natasha Guest Kingscote, Human Services Manager and Allyson Crosby, Homelessness Prevention and Intervention Manager, City of Santa Monica

Natasha Guest Kingscote shared updates from the Housing and Human Services Department, covering topics such as funding for behavioral health investments and outreach, SaMo legal immigration support through LAFLA, project homecoming program through SaMo Bridge, and the Human Services Grants Program. The commission was also made aware of three new positions that Housing and Human Services Department will be adding, including a Communications Specialist, a Housing Navigator, and a Community Navigator.

- ii. Presentation and Discussion on Aging & Disability Action Plan, Alana Riemermann, Sr Human Services Analyst, Homeless Prevention and Intervention Division, City of Santa Monica (Attachment: [PDF](#))



Alana Riemermann presented on the Aging & Disability Action Plan. Covered topics included needs assessment findings, the plan's vision and goals, and next steps including its collaborative implementation.

A question-and-answer session with commissioners followed.

Commissioner Kagel left the meeting at 5:00pm.

5. Consent Calendar

a. July 9, 2025 Minutes

Vice-Chair Manvel moved with Commissioner Leddy seconding a motion to approve the July 9, 2025 minutes. Voice vote; all ayes, with Commissioners Glover, Kagel, Wells, and Yilmazer absent. The motion passed.

6. Public Input on Remaining Agenda Items

None

13. Human Services Commission Member Discussion Items

a. Discussion and Possible Action on Completing HSC Annual Review and Workplan – Due Early November  
(Attachment: [Annual Review and Work Plan, 2024 Final Version](#))

Due to time constraints, the Commission tabled the discussion of the annual workplan. Suggestions on topics to incorporate into the document were asked to be sent directly to the Chair and liaison.

b. Reports from existing ad hoc committees followed by discussion and possible action

None

c. Discussion and Possible Action on Future Agenda Planning

Future Agenda Planning was tabled due to time constraints.

**Adjournment**

Chair Morrow adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

