



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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## COMMISSIONERS

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## COMMISSION STAFF

**Executive Director**  
LA FRANCE TOLIVER

**Commission Secretary**  
TINA PHAN

## MEETING MINUTES via TELECONFERENCE

**Thursday, February 17, 2022**  
**500 West Temple Street**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Please note this is a summary of the meeting not a “verbatim” transcription.

### 1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

Meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. A quorum was established.

### Roll Call/Commissioners Present:

Adele Andrade-Stadler  
Veronica Lewis  
Yvonne Chan  
Raúl Estrada  
Frank G. De Balogh  
Sue ElHessen  
Michael Flood

Mihran Kalaydjian  
Summer McBride  
Booker Pearson  
Paige Pelonis  
Lori Stein  
Mary Galvan Rosas  
Dynasty Taylor

### Commissioners Absent:

Joe Brown (U)

### Commission Staff:

La France Toliver  
Tina Phan

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Antonia Jiménez, DPSS  
Julia Almanzan, County Counsel  
Rosa Orozco, DPSS

Jackie Contreras, DPSS  
Nick Ippolito, DPSS  
Kristin Stranger, DPSS

Del Benavides, DPSS  
Silvia Valencia, DPSS  
Sherise English, DPSS  
Van Nguyen, DPSS  
Winna Crichlow, DPSS  
Vilma Cruz, DPSS  
Shawn Amiel, DPSS  
Khanh Vu, DPSS  
Rosueta Rodriguez, DPSS  
Frank Pineda, DPSS  
Carlos Soto, DPSS  
Jacqueline Larios, DPSS

Cynthia Schmidt, DPSS  
Christina Nguyen, DPSS  
Monique Nollner, DPSS  
Collins Nweke, DPSS  
Michelle Sepulveda, DPSS  
Marsha Bryant-Hurt, DPSS  
Tony Kwok, DPSS  
Barbara Watts, DPSS  
Frank Reyes, DPSS  
Shelby Stephens, DPSS  
Iveta Isayan, DPSS

## 2.0 **REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2022 MEETING**

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

**MOTION:** Commissioner ElHessen moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Chan seconded the motion. No changes. No further discussion.

**CALL FOR VOTE:** Minutes were approved by majority vote as follows:

Adele Andrade-Stadler - Abstained	Summer McBride - Aye
Veronica Lewis - Aye	Dynasty Taylor - Aye
Yvonne Chan - Aye	Paige Pelonis - Aye
Sue ElHessen - Aye	Booker Pearson - Aye
Raul Estrada - Aye	Lori Stein - Abstained
Michael Flood – Abstained	Mihran Kalaydjian - Aye

## 3.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)**

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

There were no written nor verbal comments from the public on Agenda / Non-Agenda items.

## 4.0 **ANNUAL PSS COMMISSION AWARD CEREMONY**

Veronica Lewis, Vice Chairperson

Commissioner Lewis welcomed all the awardees and guests to the Commission's 17th Annual Commission for Public Social Services Awards Ceremony. The Commission honored 14 DPSS employees for their outstanding achievements in 2021. The honorees are: **Henry Bermudez**, HSA II (DPSSTATS- Admin); **Maria Svajian**, Disaster Service Analyst (Office of Emergency Management - BAS); **Blanca Nguyen**, Senior Information Systems Analyst (Office Automation & Systems Support- BCTS); **Noaldo Montecinos**, ASM II (Property Management & Strategic Space Plan- BCTS); **Robert Wong**, ASM III (Risk Management & Safety Section- BHR); **Julietta Karapetyan**, Program Assistant (CalFresh Section- BPP); **Cindy Farias**, Senior Clerk (IHSS Call Center - BSO);

**Alfred Sarkisyan**, Eligibility Supervisor (Pasadena - BWS North); **Rebecca Bolaños**, Eligibility Worker I (Customer Service Center IV- BWS North); **Karla Warren**, Eligibility Supervisor (Metro North- BWS North); **Tomas Bailey**, Eligibility Supervisor (Metro Special - BWS North); **Nora Hernandez**, Staff Assistant, PSS (GAIN Region V South County Main - BWS South); **Stephanie Ramirez**, Eligibility Worker III (Belvedere-BWS South); and **Vazgen Shakaryan**, Eligibility Supervisor (Southwest Special - BWS South). Vice Chairperson Lewis thanked Director Antonia Jiménez, DPSS Executive staff and DPSS Honorees for their commitment to excellence and outstanding services assisting our most vulnerable in Los Angeles County.

## 5.0 **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Antonia Jiménez, Director

Ms. Jiménez thanked the Commission for recognizing the great talent in DPSS. She also thanked her leadership team for ensuring that the department's strategies and initiatives are carried out and completed. She congratulated everyone for a job well done.

Ms. Jiménez provided updates on the following topics:

The **Homeless Count** is scheduled to take place on February 22 - 24, 2022 and the **Youth Homeless Count** is scheduled to take place on February 23 - March 4, 2022. These are two distinct efforts, and we are all encouraged to volunteer and be part of these efforts which help to get an up-to-date picture of the state of homelessness countywide to inform local policies, strategies, and funding.

DPSS, in partnership with the IRS, has operated a local **VITA Program** since 2005. The VITA Program provides free tax preparation services to eligible DPSS participants, ensuring that low-income families and individuals have access to free and reliable tax preparation assistance. The 2022 VITA Program will launch this Saturday, **February 12<sup>th</sup>** and will run for 6 Saturdays, **February 12<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. VITA is being marketed to CalWORKs and CalFresh customers through in-office flyers and pamphlets, outbound calling, and YBN/BenefitsCal.

Ms. Jiménez provided an overall update on the department's role with Measure H. She discussed the B1 Strategy which provides subsidized housing to homeless disabled individuals pursuing SSI. She discussed C4/C5/C6 Strategies which provides SSI Advocacy Services for people experiencing homelessness-C4, Veterans-C-5, and Inmates-C6. These services are administered/delivered by the Department of Health Services.

DPSS is partnering with **Compton College** to match DPSS benefits to eligible students receiving financial aid. From the list, 185 students have no connection to DPSS services. **Medi-Cal Rollout for undocumented persons 50 years** and older begins May 1, 2022. This population will automatically transition from limited-scope to full-scope Medi-Cal if they are known to DPSS.

**Follow up item:** Provide update to Commission regarding American Rescue Plan Act Plan at next meeting.

Ms. Jiménez closed by expressing her gratitude towards Cynthia Schmidt, Division Chief of IHSS Line Operations, who will retire from DPSS. She has done tremendous work with our senior population, which are near and dear to her heart. She is a passionate leader and will be missed.

## **6.0 CONTINUED BUSINESS**

Chairperson Andrade-Stadler suggested that members of the Bylaws/Goals Committees meet with County Counsel to assist with definitions and to ensure that we are headed in the right direction with proposed Bylaw EDI language and goals. She suggested providing updates if ready at the March or April meeting. She encouraged Commissioners to participate and weigh in early if they can and let Ms. Toliver know if they are able to attend.

## **7.0 COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST FOR FUTURE TOPICS**

**Follow up Items:** (1) Preventative Services for Child Welfare, Commissioner Lewis would like to know if and how DPSS is participating in this effort. Chairperson responded that we could have Ms. Jiménez to provide an update at a future meeting when more information is known regarding DPSS' role with this taskforce. (2) Commissioner Elhessen suggested a presentation from the new department for Seniors and Disabilities and how DPSS can collaborate with them. Ms. Jiménez responded saying Ms. Laura Trejo is the new director. She is in the process of defining her mission and vision. We can invite her later when she has established what direction she is moving in. (3) Commissioner Lewis would like a presentation on GROW. How are they doing through the pandemic? and (4) DPSS Employment through the TSE Program.

## **8.0 CHAIR'S REPORT**

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

Chairperson Andrade-Stadler thanked all the honorees and everyone for participating in the meeting.

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.