



Human Welfare and Community Action Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

6:30 PM

2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Preliminary Matters

1. Roll Call
Present: Huchting, Lara Cruz, Lippman, Marisol, Sol.
Absent: Bohn.
Quorum: 4 (Attended: 5).
Staff Present: Mary-Claire Katz, Kat Larrowe.
Public Present: None.
2. Agenda Approval
No changes.
3. Public Comment
None.

Update/Action Items

The Commission may take action related to any subject listed on the agenda, except where noted.

Berkeley Community Action Agency Board Business

4. Public Hearing for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) 2026-27 Community Action Plan (CAP) and Community Needs Assessment (CNA) (Attachment A)

Public Comment:

- Commissioner Sol: I would not be alive today without LLMC. Their staff, doctors, referrals, all serve exceedingly well. LLMC has a welcoming environment for people, they are treated with respect and dignity. I cannot say enough about their services and how good they are. They provide referrals as needed. A lot of people will not seek medical care if they are not treated well and this service is so needed. Relationships with the doctor is so important, sometimes cannot happen if paired with a new doctor.
- Negeene Mosaed: I work in a physical therapy clinic in Berkeley that takes Medi-Cal. I take a lot of the LLMC patients that are referred. For a certain part of the community LLMC is a lifeline and the only resource. It is a hub to connect them to what people need. I hope to keep LLMC going as long as it can. Sad to see Ed Roberts Campus is closing. LLMC is doing things in the community that no one else does. We're at cross-roads in terms of

funding. This is where we can make a difference as compared to building homes. When clinics close, community may stop going to the doctor, and then we have to start all over again and re-build trust.

- Corinne Haskins: The health of the community and the services provided by LLMC are important. It is encouraging to hear that people are treated with dignity and their needs are met.
- James: The healthcare system does not seem to be up to par anymore. When I originally attended LLMC they were great, but more recently have not been attentive to individual needs. Feels that the health care was not really managed well and switched to another provider. Did not receive updates about the doctor change after a doctor left. Additionally, someone needs to review the city streets re: bike lanes and make it clear where the cars go as it impacts traffic in the city. Should be addressed through community planning project.
- Anonymous attendee: I had a similar experience with having different doctors every time I go to LLMC, and that is challenging for the care. I am an unhoused individual and have several medical needs. I have only gone to LLMC and the hospital. Being unhoused has exacerbated medical conditions. Berkeley spends a whole lot of money on homelessness services and the city is not acting responsibly to support the unhoused community. I have been assessed four times and told I would be housed, but have not been able to access housing due to the city staff. City staff in that position should be required to wear a body camera so it can be captured how unhoused individuals are actually treated.
- Michai Freeman: I am an advocate for the Center for Independent Living. It pains to hear about the experience for the previous speaker. I am hopeful for change. We have been remiss about the way it is addressed. Homelessness has become an industry and not handled appropriately. Building market rate housing is not the solution. Also need to look at those who are extremely low income, those who are on the verge of losing their rental. I attend continuum of care meetings – we are not putting effective plans together to address homelessness. Children, people with disabilities, folks with underlying medical conditions are not being prioritized for housing resources. People have to wait 6-8 months or more. Need transparency, honesty, and effective programs for those who are vulnerable and actually achieve housing access. Reduce silos and compartmentalization. It's wrong to operate this way. Ask that this commission writes a letter to Council to address this situation and streamline the process for transitional housing and accessible shelters. Create effective housing subsidy programs. Stop playing games because

we have to work with what we have – streamline, make it better, and get the most vulnerable people housed.

- Commissioner Lippman: I appreciate all of the public speakers. I attended the homeless encampment sweep in the morning and this is a problem. There was at least one arrest after trying to retrieve possessions. Next up is going to be at Ohlone Park. We need to insert the HWCAC into how homelessness is handled within the city and work with other commissions. Change needs to happen at the top of City leadership. LifeLong Medical Care (LLMC) is critical work. This document [Community Action Plan (CAP) and Community Needs Assessment (CNA)] has a specific purpose to meet the federal requirements and it is constrained to that scope and leaves larger questions – particularly on the community needs assessment. Key issues highlighted in the CNA include health inequities in Berkeley: poverty rate, income rate, disparities. We need solutions that go beyond on CSBG funding and LLMC. How can the community needs that are also highlighted in the CNA be addressed and what role can the HWCAC play?
- Commissioner Marisol: LLMC doctor inconsistencies could be due to the fact that LLMC often staff student doctors and are introductory jobs and not a job they will stay in for long-term. Disability is leading into poverty and vice versa – of course the data in the CNA showcases that this is an issue. I have seen how city staff treat the homeless community. There is no system of accountability for the homelessness response team. They have proven to be cruel to the community over and over again. Smoke bombs were used in today’s homeless encampment raid, in people’s tents, and shot at people if they were trying to get their stuff. It seems like the homeless services and police can operate how they want without City Council. There is no face-to-face forum with city staff in these positions to voice the issues to the team. No one could answer why this homeless encampment sweep was happening and why it was not announced or who okayed it. Dozens of city workers and police were there but no one could answer.
- Commissioner Huchting: I appreciate the public comments. Seems to be a failure on addressing homelessness. Needs to be a different approach and partner with other commissions so there is collaboration that starts with listening. As a tax payer, the idea that the police would use the force at the sweep needs to be addressed. Maybe we can add this item to the agenda.
- Commissioner Lara Cruz: Thank you to everyone for their comments. It is important to hear what is happening in the community. We need to find ways to provide stability in the community, a lot to do and may not be a lot of funding, so we have to be creative.

Adjournment

Action: M/S/C (Lippman/Lara Cruz) to adjourn at 7:49PM.

Vote: Ayes – Huchting, Lara Cruz, Lippman, Marisol, Sol. Noes –None; Abstain – None; Absent – Bohn.

Attachments

A. Draft 2026-27 Community Action Plan and Community Needs Assessment

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Secretary:

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Minutes Approved: 6/18/25

Substitute Commission Secretary: Emily Rose

