

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 20, 2011
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Mark Zangrando at 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, September 20, 2011, in Rooms 5 and 6 of the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Craig Rhea.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Bob Shepard, Heidi Shink, Anne-Marie Williams, Mark Zangrando.

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. City staff members present included David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Craig Rhea, and Jeff Book.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

The secretary reported notices for the meeting had been posted as required.

D. **PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to complete a form.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Dahlia Ferlito of Friends Community Center (a project of Friends Research Institute) introduced herself and congratulated the new and continuing members of the Commission

III. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWALS 2011-2012**

Commissioner Zangrando said he hoped agency participants were aware of how much the Commission appreciates their work.

David Giugni presented the staff report and recommendations on renewals for the second year (2011-12) of the current three-year funding process. Total is just under \$3.6 million, and includes a 2% cost-of-living adjustment, except on urgent funds, as directed by the City Council. The programs target populations of concern in West Hollywood. Current agencies have made very good progress toward this year's goals, and have noted a large increase in the

demand for some services, due to the economy.

Staff recommendation is: Aid for AIDS, \$92,806; AIDS Project Los Angeles – Positive Self Management, \$141,406; AIDS Project Los Angeles – Dental Program, \$80,013; AVIVA Family & Children's Services, \$33,285; Being Alive, \$98,298; Bet Tzedek Legal Services, \$115,431; Center for Civic Mediation, \$54,387; Friends Research Institute – HIV/AIDS Education through Street Outreach, \$108,438 plus \$2,500 in urgent funds; Friends Research Institute – Outpatient Methamphetamine Abuse Treatment, \$67,626; L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center – Legal Services, \$24,462; L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center – Mental Health Services, \$141,048; L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, Sexual Health Program, \$170,808; L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center – Transgender Economic Empowerment Project, \$78,395; L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center- WeHo LIFE, \$127,944; L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center – Children, Youth and Family Services, \$83,754; Jewish Family Service – Comprehensive Services Center, \$731,624 plus \$22,500 in urgent funds; Jewish Family Service – Nutrition, \$310,706; Jewish Family Service – SOVA Community Food and Resource Program, \$75,625; Jewish Vocational Service/West Hollywood Employment Services & Training (WHEST), \$163,657; McIntyre House, \$67,505; National Council of Jewish Women – Light Up a Library, \$18,717; National Council of Jewish Women – Women Helping Women, \$61,200 plus \$15,000 in urgent funds for rental assistance; PATH – People Assisting the Homeless, \$323,059 in general fund and \$44,000 in CDBG funds plus \$10,000 in urgent funds; Pathways, \$91,116; PAWS/LA, \$52,643; Project Angel Food, \$67,679; Saban Free Clinic, \$180,974; and St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, \$19,074.

David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, and Craig Rhea spoke about the programs they oversee as city social services staff members, and responded to questions.

Craig Rhea noted that one current program, Russian Community Center, is closing at the end of September, and its executive director, Helen Levin, is retiring. Staff will return with a recommendation on reprogramming the \$79,839 that would otherwise have been recommended for that program.

The Commission accepted public comment from 34 speakers: 1. Sandy Samuels, Bet Tzedek; 2. Velinda Mackey, Bet Tzedek; 3. Craig Coogan, St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church; 4. Deacon Johnson, St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church; 5. Hillary Selvin, NCJW/Los Angeles; 6. Ava Rose, NCJW/Los Angeles; 7. Leah Ziskin, NCJW/Los Angeles; 8. Melissa Tillman, Women Helping Children; 9. Terry Goddard II, Aid for AIDS; 10. Robert Boller, Project Angel Food; 11. Margaret Steel, Project Angel Food; 12. Curt Shepard, Gay & Lesbian Center; 13. Kris Nameth, Gay & Lesbian Center; 14. Mariana Marroquín, Gay & Lesbian Center; 15. Drián Juárez, Transgender Economic Empowerment Project; 16. Roger Coggan, Gay & Lesbian Center; and 17. Marina Berkman, Jewish Family Service.

Also: 18. Diane Schneider, Jewish Family Service; 19. Fred Summers, SOVA Food Pantry; 20. Nancy Coleman, Jewish Family Service; 21. Jackie Mizrahi, Center for Civic Mediation; 22. Octavio Olivas, Center for Civic Mediation; 23. Ed Kohler, McIntyre House; 24. Milton Maristela, McIntyre House; 25. Jeff Bailey, AIDS Project Los Angeles; 26. David Kruskall, WHEST; 27. Teri

Maher, WHEST; 28. Glenn Lindsay, Gay & Lesbian Center; 29. Steve Wayland, PAWS L.A.; 30. John Molloy, PATH; 31. Stephanie Armes, PATH; 32. Courtney Kanagi, PATH; 33. Donzella Lee, Saban Free Clinic; and 34. Ruben Acosta, Gay & Lesbian Center.

Commissioner Shepard asked how the Shelter Plus program at PATH assures that 20 allotted spaces go to bona fide West Hollywood clients, and whether it would make more sense to have a limit on the length of the assistance, so that more people can receive it. Leslie Isenberg said the PATH outreach team has familiarity with where they are most likely to locate particular people, and there is a 30-page application to verify homelessness and disability, for eligibility to the program. The program currently provides permanent housing assistance.

Commissioner Davis asked for PATH to do a presentation on the services they provide at an upcoming meeting.

Donzella Lee discussed Saban Free Clinic's new status as a "Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike," which imposes new requirements regarding sliding-scale fees and other aspects of the program. She stated that it is likely that the clinic will be changing names in a few months to reflect this. She invited commissioners to tour the program.

Commissioner Davis moved to approve the staff recommendations with the exception of the urgent fund amounts. This was seconded by Commissioner Cislowski. The Commission discussed the history of allocations for urgent funds. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Cislowski moved to approve the staff recommendations with regard to urgent funds. This was seconded by Commissioner Shink. Commissioner Davis said his concern was not with the capacity of the agencies administering the funds, or the purpose they go towards, but with having them awarded as additional funds, separate from the social services contracts. He said they should either be entirely separate, so all agencies can propose how they would use them, or folded into the social services contracts themselves.

The motion was approved 5 to 1, with Commissioner Davis dissenting.

Commissioner Cislowski recommended speaking to the Russian Advisory Board for their ideas on community needs, with regard to reprogramming the funding previously going to the Russian Community Center.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMISSION MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING AND COORDINATION MEETINGS FALL-WINTER 2011-2012

The item was postponed to a future meeting, in anticipation of a seventh member being appointed to succeed Commissioner Pendleton.

B. COMMISSION MEMBER LIAISONS TO CITY BOARDS AND

COMMISSIONS

This was postponed to a future meeting, for the same reason as Item IV.A.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Shink said October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The City is holding a press conference on Oct. 3 and an event on Oct. 26 as part of activities to recognize the month.

Commissioner Davis thanked staff for their work in preparing the recommendations.

Commissioner Cislowski said she was looking forward to the opening of the new library on Oct. 1, and the book fair on Oct. 2.

Commissioner Williams said she had an informative visit to PATH.

Commissioner Zangrando asked that the meeting be adjourned in celebration of the end of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which officially concluded today.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni said that as part of Recovery Month there is a presentation on meth tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. at the West Hollywood Park Auditorium.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m., in celebration of the ending of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Signed:


Mark Zangrando

