

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – MAY 8, 2012**  
**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM**

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Mark Zangrando at 6:03 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, 2012, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Heidi Shink.

B. **ROLL CALL**

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

Not Present: None

A quorum was present at all times. City staff members present included Sam Baxter, Human Services Director; David Giugni, Craig Rhea, and Leslie Isenberg.

C. **POSTING OF AGENDA**

Leslie Isenberg 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. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 10, 2012 meeting were approved.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **AGENCY PRESENTATION FROM JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE, WEST HOLLYWOOD COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES CENTER**

The Commission received a presentation on the services provided at the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center from Jewish Family Service staff members Vivian Sauer, Chief Program Officer; Marina Berkman, Program Director; and Sheila Moore, Director of Senior Center Services.

Vivian Sauer provided some historical context regarding Jewish Family Service's relationship with the City of West Hollywood. Marina Berkman, using the monthly Program Report as a guide, described the services offered at the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center and gave examples of types of services that fall under each specific category. Examples of the types of services being offered to the new category of clients, who are neither Seniors nor disabled adults and who would have otherwise sought services at the Russian Community Center, were also described.

Ms. Berkman explained that the Intake goal on their Program Report was increased this year by ten clients per month to accommodate the anticipated increase in clients due to do the closing of the Russian Community Center. The annual Intake number for April 2012 is 68 clients higher than April 2011, which shows an average increase of ten clients per month for the seven months of this contract year.

In addition to Senior Programs, Ms. Berkman also discussed the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center's Activity Programs, Disability Programs, and the CONNECT Program.

The West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center is contracted to serve only West Hollywood community members. As such, the questions pertaining to any difference in service to West Hollywood community members and situations/circumstances unique to West Hollywood do not apply.

Volunteer opportunities at the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center include: 1) being matched with a client through the CONNECT Program; 2) assisting the Activities Department in organizing field trips and lectures; 3) contributing to the Conversation Café discussions that help improve the English-speaking skills of the Russian-speaking participants; and 4) volunteering to make daily phone calls to clients enrolled in the Telephone Reassurance Program.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. NUTRITION SUPPORT SERVICES

Social Services Intern Andi Lovano and classmate Adriane Wynn, both of whom are Public Policy graduate students at UCLA, presented the findings of their graduate student policy research project.

The students were asked by the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV to conduct an in depth analysis of nutrition support services available to Ryan White clients in Los Angeles County. Findings show that Ryan White consumers report a high level of need for nutrition support services and have special characteristics that make them a particularly disadvantaged population. In addition, the food providers in Los Angeles County vary in size and resources and may not have the capacity available to meet the needs of Ryan White consumers. The study recommends that the Commission on HIV continue to allocate funding to nutrition support in the short-term, and in the

long-term, conduct further outcome evaluations to analyze the costs and benefits of nutrition support in comparison with other service categories.

B. HIV PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

David Giugni discussed the HIV Prevention Campaign which will be rolled out for CSW weekend in June and again later in the year for World AIDS Day. The campaign, which will be visible in West Hollywood and surrounding areas, portrays the many faces of people impacted by HIV and/or working in the realm of HIV prevention.

Commissioner Davis suggested the campaign be in Spanish as well as English. Commissioner Shepard thought Spanish speaking people in West Hollywood would likely be able to read English.

Commissioner Cislowski suggested having an HIV+ woman in the campaign to broaden the community of people the campaign seeks to educate. Commissioner Shink was pleased to see that women were represented in the campaign.

Commissioner Shepard suggested that people outside West Hollywood may not know that these ads refer to HIV and suggested "HIV" be prominently placed in the ad.

Commissioner Davis suggested that the Human Services Commission be presented the HIV Prevention Campaign prior to it being a finished product. David Giugni said he can include the Human Service Commissioners in focus group for next year's campaign.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Palmieri reported that he had visited McIntyre House several times over the past month.

Commissioner Williams recently toured APLA, SOVA, the LA Gay and Lesbian Center and Being Alive.

Commissioner Shepard toured Being Alive and expressed appreciation for their efforts to stay in West Hollywood, despite the appeal of lower rent in other communities.

Commissioner Cislowski attended the Kids' Fair and was pleased to see other Commissioner in attendance.

Commissioner Shink announced that "S.H.E." is Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Shink also toured McIntyre House, AFA, and PAWS. She commended Commissioner Williams on her work with "Young Women in Power".

Commissioner Davis toured Being Alive and attended the Food and Nutrition Planning and Coordination meeting.

Commissioner Zangrando toured five agencies and asked the Commission about televising next month's meeting. The Commission agreed it would be a good idea to have the June meeting televised. Commissioner Zangrando attended the Senior Awards Luncheon. He also mentioned the T.R.I.B.E. gatherings that continue to take place.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. BUDGET 2012-2014

Sam Baxter laid out the timeline for approval of the 2012-2014 City Budget. The Finance Department will bring the draft budget to the City Council at their June 4, 2012 meeting. It will be brought back to the Council as a Business Item at the June 18, 2012 meeting. The 2012-2013 budget will essentially "hold the line", but will include a 2% COLA increase for agencies, as well as approximately \$150,000 for the Community Study. The City Manager is planning to recommend that the 2013-2014 budget include an increase in the Social Service Contract budget. Though no dollar amount has been confirmed, this increase will be included in the draft budget being taken to the City Council on June 4, 2012.

The Human Services Commission discussed ways to provide input on the City budget. The following motion was made by Commissioner Shepard, and seconded by Commissioner Davis:

Authorize the Chair of the Human Services Commission, Mark Zangrando, to speak on behalf of the Commission to the City Council at the upcoming June Council meetings regarding an augmentation to Social Services Contract funding to be included in the 2nd year of the City's 2012-2014 budget cycle.

The following motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Williams:

Authorize the formation of a "Budgetary" task force composed of Commissioners Zangrando, Cislowski and Shink, to work with Human Services staff in making recommendations for an augmentation to Social Services Contract funding to be included in the 2nd year of the City's 2012-2014 budget cycle. Alternates for this task force will be Commissioners Davis and Williams.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Signed:

  
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Mark Zangrando, Chair

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Date