

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 12, 2013
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Ruth Cislowski at 6:03 p.m., Tuesday, November 12, 2013, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Rob Bergstein, Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis,
Barbara Meltzer, Jimmy Palmieri, Anne-Marie Williams.
Not Present: Andrew Oldershaw.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff members present included: Elizabeth Savage, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Manager; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Corri Planck, and Jeff Book. Council Deputy Michelle Rex was also present.

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. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 8, 2013, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Bergstein, seconded by Commissioner Meltzer.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **UPDATE FROM PATH AND APPOINTMENT OF A SUBCOMMITTEE ON SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS**

Daphne Dennis said that Joel Roberts, the PATH executive director, was unable to be present this evening, and would be invited to attend an upcoming meeting. She said there was interest in forming a subcommittee on homeless

services, which would address issues raised with past services, and look into best practices for residential programs for at-risk populations. The subcommittee would seek to complete its work by February 2014.

After discussion of what the mission for the subcommittee would be, and of whether to act at this meeting or later, the Commission voted unanimously to form the subcommittee, on a motion by Commissioner Bergstein, seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Commissioners Bergstein, Davis, and Williams were designated as members of the committee, with Commissioners Cislowski, Meltzer, and Palmieri as additional members who would participate when possible. All members of the Commission will be welcome to attend and participate. Meetings will comply with Brown Act requirements of public notice and posted agendas.

B. INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

Council Deputy Michelle Rex reported on the 2013 United States Conference on AIDS, which was held Sept. 8-11, 2013, in New Orleans, and which she attended with Councilmember John Duran and Council Deputy Ian Owens. There were panels on the cure for HIV, aging, transgender issues, engagement and stigma, mobile phone applications, and PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) and PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis).

She discussed data about the rate of new infections among people over age 50; depression as a major challenge to people aging with HIV, many of whom lack supportive social networks; results of surveying men 18 and older who use mobile applications such as Grindr and Scruff; and other topics covered at the conference.

C. UPDATE FROM RECREATION PROGRAMS

This item was postponed to a later meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION TO COMMISSION FROM NEW SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDER (LA HIV LAW AND POLICY PROJECT)

Shawn Kravich, director of the LA HIV Law and Policy Project (HLPP), spoke about the agency, which is a first-year social services contractor for the City of West Hollywood. HLPP is a cooperative project of four major partners (UCLA Law School, Los Angeles County Bar Association, the Disability Rights Center, and the Inner City Law Center) and many other supportive agencies, to centralize a legal clearinghouse for people living with HIV/AIDS, and engage in preventive work by educating about a wide variety of legal issues involving HIV/AIDS. He also discussed how the agency is handling privacy and HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) issues.

HLPP is creating a community advocacy board, as well as seeking volunteers, including people living with HIV, to assist its work in a variety of ways.

Commissioners offered suggestions for new links to volunteers.

B. SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT REFERRAL PROCESS

David Giugni reported on a planning and coordination meeting held with substance abuse treatment providers, which included a discussion of how people can access the programs, resulting in designation of a specific contact/intake person for each of the programs, as well as attention to coordinating bed availability.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Bergstein, who is also a volunteer at the Sheriff's Department, spoke about talking with a Polish-born woman who was a Holocaust survivor sheltered by a Swedish family, and who went on to lead a long life in this area.

Commissioner Palmieri spoke about #BOOM! The Alcohol- and Drug-Free New Year's Eve event being held in West Hollywood Park Auditorium from 9 p.m., Dec. 31, 2013, to 2 a.m., Jan. 1, 2014.

Commissioner Davis noted this was his 20th anniversary meeting of the Commission, and recalled people such as Jodi Curlee, Social Services Manager, and Mac McCoy, Commission Secretary. He also spoke about the open forum on Christopher Street West and the Pride Parade and Festival which was held Oct. 30 by the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.

Commissioner Williams expressed appreciation to Commissioner Davis for his years of service, and spoke about a disability training at the Library.

Commissioner Meltzer attended the new Los Angeles Alliance for Community Health and Aging, which included remarks by Jonathan Fielding, M.D., director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and Health Officer for Los Angeles County.

V. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The floor was opened for nominations for Chair. Commissioner Cislowski nominated Commissioner Davis. In the absence of further nominations, Commissioner Bergstein moved to declare nominations closed, and Commissioner Davis elected. This was seconded by Commissioner Williams, and unanimously approved.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Williams. In the absence of further nominations, Commissioner Cislowski moved to declare nominations closed, and Commissioner Williams elected. This was seconded by Commissioner Palmieri, and unanimously approved.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni spoke about World AIDS Day on December 1, and distributed a list of activities recognizing the day. The Paul Andrew Starke Warrior Awards will be presented on December 2 in a reception prior to the City Council meeting, with the recipients then being honored by the City Council.

David Giugni thanked the Commission for their thoughts regarding the passing of his mother, Lennis Giugni.

Corri Planck spoke about the Transgender Resource Fair, and about plans to do outreach for social services using some methods that worked for the recent Community Study, including a pop-up meeting which will probably be held Dec. 7.

Daphne Dennis said in January the Gay & Lesbian Center's Youth program will be collecting clothing appropriate for interviewing and jobs. She spoke about the FrankenRide shuttle on Halloween, which demonstrated that people are very interested in alternative ways to get around town. She thanked Commissioners Cislowski and Davis for their year as chair and vice chair, and welcomed Commissioners Davis and Williams to those roles.

Elizabeth Savage said meetings of the Commission will be relocated from City Hall during the construction of the automated parking garage on Sweetzer. She congratulated Commissioner Davis on his 20 years, and welcomed the new chair and vice chair. She said the report on the CSW Open Forum meeting, held by the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, will be going to City Council at its Nov. 18 meeting.

Elizabeth Savage said the City Attorney had advised that if board members send text messages during meetings, they may be subject to public records requests.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

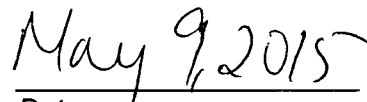
IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Signed:



Ruth Cislowski, Chair



Date