

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES - JULY 17, 1995**  
**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chairperson Michaeljohn Horne at 6 p.m., Monday, July 17, 1995, in Conference Room 1-A.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Those choosing to do so recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL:

The Recording Secretary called roll.

Present: Steven Davis, Michaeljohn Horne, Sandra Klein,  
Leslie Hull, Peter Mackler, John Nieto, Shirley Roberts

Excused: none

Absent: none

A quorum was present. Staff present included Jodi Curlee, Social Services Administrator; Daphne Dennis, Tom West, and Jeff Book.

C. POSTING OF AGENDA:

The Recording Secretary reported that notices were posted properly..

D. PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to indicate this on a speaker request form.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 13, 1995, meeting were unanimously approved upon motion by Commissioner Mackler, seconded by Commissioner Klein.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no Unfinished Business at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

To accommodate the schedule of Rabbi H. Rafael Goldstein, consideration of Items IV.B. and IV.A. were reversed on the agenda.

(B). Los Angeles Jewish AIDS Services

Rabbi Goldstein provided general information to the Commission about Los Angeles Jewish AIDS Services, a Jewish Family Services program which is a contracted social service provider.

(A). Proposed GLCSC Drop-In Center

Darrel Cummings, director of programs for the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, addressed the Commission on GLCSC's plan to open a Youth Drop-In Center. He said that they had been unable to find a site east of La Brea Avenue, and had signed a lease for space at Gardner Street at Santa Monica Boulevard. He said that communications to him from the community demonstrated no support for placing the project at this site, and that GLCSC will reconsider the location.

Cummings said the concept for the program is a welcome center staffed by peer workers who would engage youth in informal discussions and provide ways to meet basic needs such as food, showers, and laundry, as well as links to social services. They intend to provide anonymous HIV testing as well as counseling aimed at self-esteem and "coming out" issues. The center would be a base for outreach to bus stations and other transit sites so that GLCSC workers could greet youth immediately upon their arrival in metropolitan Los Angeles. The target age group is 23 and under, with the largest share expected to come from persons ages 12 to 18. The drop-in center is projected to be open from 4 p.m. to midnight, five days per week, with a goal of expanding to 24 hours a day, seven days per week. The anticipated first-year budget is \$170,000.

Commissioner Hull asked where youth would go at midnight when the drop-in center closed. Cummings said he was not sure that GLCSC could answer that question.

Craig Ritchie, vice chair of Alliance of Citizens for the East Side (ACES), said he thought a youth drop-in center was a good idea, but that the site proposed is in the middle of an area making remarkable strides in reducing prostitution, and therefore was not appropriate.

Ruth Williams, Public Safety Commissioner and chair of ACES, said she would support the program at another location. She said the proposed location is inappropriate because it is in a prostitution abatement zone.

Donna Saur, Public Safety Commissioner, said the program should be a 24-hour program and not expect youth to leave at midnight. She asked whether GLCSC could locate the program at its headquarters on Schrader Boulevard in Hollywood, and asked what the Human Services Commission could do to make sure that social service agencies do a better job of coordinating complex proposals with the local community.

Thomas Burroughs, who said he relocated to the area from New York, said GLCSC has correctly identified an extreme need for services to youth, particularly gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender youth who come to this area because they are throwaways in their home communities. He

said that West Hollywood is not isolated from problems of Los Angeles County, and that as a community which receives international attention for its nondiscrimination policies, West Hollywood is the likely destination of gay and lesbian youth arriving in the Los Angeles area. Nevertheless, he said, GLCSC has a responsibility to coordinate with the City and local residents in choosing a site for such a facility.

Commissioner Horne noted that GLCSC has been absent from a number of City planning and coordination meetings involving issues of homeless youth, and that much closer cooperation is required between GLCSC and the City in addressing this matter. Cummings said the GLCSC board is meeting later on July 17 to review the proposal.

(C) Social Services Contract Extensions for 1995-96

Jodi Curlee presented the staff report recommending extension of Social Services contracts for 1995-96, noting that the item should show only \$344,682 for West Hollywood Homeless Organization due to reductions in CDBG funding. She highlighted that staff is requesting a fiscal penalty for programs which submit contract documents in an egregiously untimely manner, and, while there are no major programmatic changes proposed, mentioned these items:

- (a) the type of reporting required from the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association (ADRDA/LA) has not been successful, and is being changed;
- (b) the Addiction Recovery and Counseling programs at GLCSC have merged, and the impact on their funding and program goals will be discussed at a meeting this week;
- (c) continuing problems with reporting from GLCSC Youth Services indicates that the scope of services is not appropriate, and this will be reviewed;
- (d) the JFS Disability Services program is in evolution; and
- (e) the City Attorney has instructed that contracts with Los Angeles Free Clinic not be submitted for approval until a matter of funds owed to the City is resolved.

Helen Levin of the Russian Community Center thanked staff for their close attention to the program, and the City for its support.

Jean-Michel Brevelle, Grass Roots Program Manager for APLA, thanked the City for its close coordination with APLA, and for continuing support of the Project's programs.

Steve Malone, recently appointed Executive Director of Aid for AIDS, was introduced to the Commission. He also expressed appreciation for the City's support, and noted that given the current direction of Congress, AFA and the community must be prepared for reduction or elimination of the HOPWA program. Commissioner Davis asked if AFA is now in compliance with City regulations on procedures for termination of services to clients, and Jodi Curlee said that it is.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:

HIV Subcommittee: Commissioner Klein reported that the Subcommittee is developing plans for public service announcements and video programs with an aggressive visual presentation of the safer-sex message. She also reported that the Subcommittee is considering a possible CityChannel program focusing on gay men who are HIV negative.

Library: Commissioner Klein reported that the suggested purchase of the Esprit building for use as the City Library does not appear to have necessary momentum on the City Council, and that Council is still considering a facilities master plan which would include new or improved library space. Library funding by Los Angeles County is expected to be cut, but the extent of the reduction is not yet known. Jodi Curlee said a report is forthcoming on a recently conducted library services survey, which drew about 150 responses from a random mailing list of 785 addresses.

Senior Advisory Council: Jodi Curlee said the next meeting of SAC will review last month's SAC meeting in Plummer Park, which featured a large number of Russian-speaking residents hoping to comment on public services.

Lesbian & Gay Advisory Council: Commissioner Horne reported that LGAC held a televised meeting on Russian issues, including gay and lesbian rights in the nations of the former Soviet Union, and in the U.S. He asked about the availability to social services agencies of sensitivity training on gay and lesbian issues, and said that Rabbi Hanoka of Chabad had expressed an interest in this.

Commissioner Mackler attended a meeting organized by Council Member Koretz to consider having neighborhood patrol groups connected by radio to the Sheriff's Department as an additional layer of public safety awareness. He said persons interested in this may sign up at the City Hall dedication ceremonies. The patrols would begin meeting 3-4 hours, one night per month, but could expand if the project is found to be valuable.

Commissioner Klein said her friend and neighbor Paul Hamel is the new principal of Fairfax Adult Education, and that he is a very community-oriented person who will be a valuable contact for the City.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF:

- (A) Disabilities Advisory Council: Jodi Curlee reported that appointments to the reorganized Disabilities Advisory Council will probably be made by the City Council in August, and that the question of who will provide lead staff support has not been resolved.
- (B) Council Actions: There were no other recent Council actions on Human Services issues to discuss. Jodi Curlee notified the Commission of the death of Thomas Crail, Executive Director of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. There will be a memorial service at Hart Park.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Rev. John Von Douris said the Disabilities Advisory Council should be activated as soon as possible because there is a continuing need for advocacy for persons with disabilities.

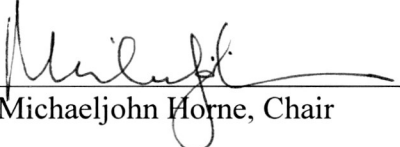
Donna Vega concurred, and also spoke about the regulations on availability of taxi coupons.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15 p.m., the Commission was adjourned in memory of Thomas Crail. The next meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, August 8, in City Hall Conference Room 1-A, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

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MINUTES APPROVED SEPTEMBER 12, 1995

  
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Michaeljohn Horne, Chair

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Date

  
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Jeff Book, Recording Secretary

8-11-97  
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Date