

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2004
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Ruth Cislowski at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, 2004, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Davis.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven Davis, Ponsella Gratton, Dr. Bill Griffin,
Charles Henry, Peter Mackler.

Excused: Shirley Roberts.

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioners Gratton and Henry joined the meeting in progress. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; and Jeff Book.

C. POSTING OF AGENDA

The Secretary reported that 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 request form.

II. MINUTES

The minutes for January 13, 2004, were approved, on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. There are no actual minutes for February 10, 2004, because that meeting was cancelled.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LA SHANTI

Jim Flood, interim executive director of LA Shanti, introduced himself and provided a brief update on the agency's leadership transition and programs. He

said he was a nine-year volunteer for Shanti, who has served on the board for the last three years. He is reviewing the agency's contracted programs in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Griffin asked how Shanti's performance numbers had been allowed to decline so far, and Jim Flood said that the previous executive director and the board had been on bad terms, and that there had been a lack of support. He said the board has become very involved in the direction of the organization, and that he is committed to making it work over the long term.

Commissioner Davis asked for the agency to return with updated program reports, for comparison with targets and expectations.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Tripp Mills of the Gay and Lesbian Center presented the most recent condom distribution report, and noted they are nearing the halfway point of the contract year. He responded to questions regarding whether any businesses had changed their willingness to participate.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING PROCESS

Daphne Dennis reviewed her memorandum on possible dates for the numerous meetings the Commission holds to determine social services funding for the next cycle.

Commissioner Henry asked how the Commission determines what proportion of funding should go to the various target populations. Daphne Dennis said the Commission previously has used needs assessments, demographic data, and related information, and will be provided with the best and most updated data possible.

Commissioner Cislowski reviewed the subcommittee process the Commission used last time, in which a three-member subcommittee reviewed target populations and presented a recommendation on funding proportions for the Commission's consideration.

Commissioners Cislowski and Henry recommended that the city's advisory boards be recruited to provide information about the needs and experiences of their populations, as part of the determination of social services funding priorities.

Commissioner Davis moved to invite the advisory boards to make 15-20 minute presentations at the next regular Commission meeting on April 13. This was seconded by Commissioner Henry. Commissioner Mackler presented a substitute

motion scheduling that agenda for March 25, March 30, or April 1, with the public hearing on social services priorities on April 13. Commissioner Davis then withdrew his motion for further consideration of the calendar.

Commissioner Henry moved to set a study session with the advisory boards, followed by the Commission's regular business, at the regular meeting of April 13. This was seconded by Commissioner Gratton, and approved.

Commissioner Davis moved to cancel the regular meeting of July 13. This was seconded by Commissioner Henry and approved.

After further discussion, the following calendar of dates was moved by Commissioner Cislowski, seconded by Commissioner Henry, and approved.

- Tuesday, April 13 (regular meeting): Study session with chairs of Advisory boards.
- Wednesday, April 21 (special meeting): Public hearing on social services funding priorities.
- Tuesday, May 11 (regular meeting): Commission priorities discussion and review of RFP document.
- Monday, May 17 (City Council meeting): Council priorities discussion and approval to release RFP.
- After May 17: Release RFP and hold bidder's conference.
- Late June: Responses to RFP due from agencies.
- Tuesday, July 13: Regular meeting cancelled. No meeting.
- Monday, July 26 (special meeting): Staff review of submitted proposals, question-and-answer session with applicants.
- Monday, August 9 (special mtg.): Commission recommendations.
- Tuesday, August 10: Regular meeting cancelled. No meeting.
- Wednesday, August 11 (special mtg): Staff recommendations, public hearing, final Comm. recommendations to the City Council.
- Tuesday, Sept. 7 (City Council meeting): City Council action on social services contracts.
- October 1, 2004: Social services contracts begin.

Commissioner Henry asked that the advisory boards be reminded to be prepared to discuss what's working in service provision, emerging trends, gaps in services, and their priorities, for both continuing and new services. He also asked that the boards be contacted by the Commission chair, to help build the opportunity for interaction between the Commission and the boards.

A subcommittee composed of Commissioners Cislowski, Davis, and Griffin was designated to review target populations and present a recommendation on funding proportions for the Commission's consideration.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Griffin asked if the City had received any information from CSW regarding their event, and Lloyd Long said that they were scheduled to present this to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. Commissioner Davis asked for Human Services Commissioners to be copied on this report when it is received.

Commissioner Mackler noted that since there was no meeting in February, this was the first meeting since the passing of Jodi Curlee, the City's former social services administrator. He spoke about her importance to the formation of the City's social services commitment, and said how much she will be missed.

Commissioner Davis asked about the City's approach to the same-sex marriage developments, and Lloyd Long said the City Attorney is considering what the city can legally do to recognize and assist with the recognition of same-sex marriages.

Commissioner Cislowski thanked staff for promptly responding to county equipment that was blocking access to a polling place on March 2, the day of the state primary election.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis reminded commissioners that their financial disclosure forms are due to the City Clerk.

Daphne Dennis mentioned several upcoming events, including Senior Month, a May 5 event at the Bel Age honoring seniors and those married for more than 50 years, and May 19 senior health fair.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

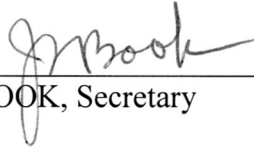
IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. in memory of Jodi Curlee.

Minutes approved April 13, 2004



RUTH CISLOWSKI, Chair



JEFF BOOK, Secretary