

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 8, 2011
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Hywel Sims at 6:04 p.m., Tuesday, February 8, 2011, in Art Room 2 at the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Farmer.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Debra Farmer, Hywel Sims, Mark Zangrando.

Not Present: Steven L. Davis, Chuck Henry.

A quorum was present at all times. City staff members present included Sam Baxter, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, 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. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 11, 2011, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Farmer, seconded by Commissioner Cislowski.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Rick Watts, vice chair of the Disabilities Advisory Board, introduced himself as liaison from that board, and spoke about several issues including upgrading crosswalk protections at non-signalized intersections.

Rick Witso, who said he was a 30-year resident, addressed the board about the need for financial and medical assistance.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **PRESENTATION ON "HOUSING FIRST" PROGRAMS**

Speakers from People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) spoke about the “housing first” model of assistance. They spoke about apartments and group locations their program uses in Southern California. Leslie Isenberg spoke about the 20 Shelter Plus housing vouchers that have been granted to the city. The City is working with PATH, Saban Free Clinic, and Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles on these.

B. TWO FEDERAL GRANTS RECEIVED BY GAY & LESBIAN CENTER

Curt Shepard, director of children, family and youth services at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, spoke about two Federal grants that have been awarded to the Center, including \$1.2 million regarding aging in place, and \$13.3 million to improve outcomes for LGBTQ foster youth. He introduced Cathy DeBuono, who is the program manager.

C. OUTREACH AND PUBLICITY TASK FORCE

Daphne Dennis said the task force was formed several months ago at the request of the Commission, and brought together city staff and members from agencies. The group met twice to discuss ways to improve outreach and publicity for publicly-funded social services in West Hollywood.

The city updates its Social Services Guide every three weeks, and distributes 250 copies on the same schedule. David Giugni spoke about the task force’s idea for refrigerator magnets providing social services contact information, and methods for personal outreach. Commissioners discussed the volume of information that is distributed, and why some community members remain unaware of available services.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. PROPOSED TOPICS FOR JOINT STUDY SESSION

Daphne Dennis said that after the General Plan update is completed, the City Manager will schedule joint study sessions.

Topics previously suggested by Commissioner Henry include the possible use of the former Partners Adult Day Health Care center as a space for non-profit agencies; review of Social Services funding over time; and permanent supportive housing. Health initiatives from Council were also suggested.

Sam Baxter said that as the time of a joint study session approaches, the amount of time available will help guide prioritization of topics.

Commissioner Farmer focused on public health topics, including anti-smoking efforts. Commissioner Sims spoke about the percentage of the city budget allocated to Social Services contracts, and the need for affordable housing.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Farmer spoke about the Silver Ribbon campaign, and about women and reproductive rights.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni said the In The Moment series had released its first new webisode of the season, including a launch party at Here Lounge.

Leslie Isenberg said the recent Homeless Census counted 57 homeless in West Hollywood in the evening.

Daphne Dennis presented greetings from Commissioner Davis.

Sam Baxter said the new library is proceeding on schedule, with the parking facility scheduled to open in February.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Rick Watts spoke about Council's adoption of a direction that the General Plan include the West Hollywood Recovery Center. He also spoke about the Homeless Census.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Signed:



Ruth Cislowski