

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2012
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Ruth Cislowski at 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, February 13, 2012, in Rooms 5 and 6 of the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Shink.

B. **ROLL CALL**

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

Not Present: Bob Shepard, Mark Zangrando.

A quorum was present at all times. Also present were Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Craig Rhea, 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 January 10, 2012, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Williams, with Commissioners Palmieri and Shink abstaining.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **YEAR-END REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS**

David Giugni reported on the first year of the three-year social services cycle (October 2010 through September 2011), saying agencies have faced fiscal challenges due to state cutbacks and eliminations. Two new locations have opened, for the employment program (WHEST) and SOVA Food Pantry. The City has had the opportunity to house 20 people in supportive housing. The \

Medi-Cal dental program has been eliminated. A back-to-work seminar is being developed. Medi-Cal patients are being required to participate in an HMO, in the absence of waivers. Agencies reported lower cost savings this year, in the area of \$7,000 to \$8,000, out of more than \$3 million allocated. All West Hollywood clients of Rainbow Bridge, which closed, have transitioned to McIntyre House. Transitioning of clients from the Russian Community Center to the Comprehensive Services Center are still in process.

The Commission accepted public comment from: (1) Vivian Sauer, Jewish Family Service; (2) Dustin Kerrone, director of sexual health program at Gay & Lesbian Center; (3) Fred Summers, program director at SOVA Food Pantry; (4) Marina Berkman, JFS Comprehensive Services Center; (5) Simon Costello, Gay & Lesbian Center; (6) Roger Coggan, director of legal services, Gay & Lesbian Center; (7) Drian Juarez, GLC Transgender Economic Empowerment Project (TEEP); and (8) Mariana Marroquín, GLC TEEP.

Also, from (9) Donzella Lee, operations director, Saban Free Clinic; (10) Ruben Acosta, WeHo LIFE program at Gay & Lesbian Center; (11) David Kruskall, WHEST employment program; (12) Stephanie Armes, PATH; (13) Katie Hill, PATH; (14) Octavio Olivas, Center for Civic Mediation; (15) Steve Wayland, PAWS/LA; and (16) Rev. Walter Johnson, St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

The Commission heard reports on current conditions and opportunities from Hillary Selvin, executive director, NCJW Los Angeles; Ava Rose, Women Helping Women; Diane Kubrin, director of mental health services, Gay & Lesbian Center; and Glenn Lindsay, director of clinical services, Gay & Lesbian Center.

Discussion with commissioners included the increasing difficulties of access to mental health care, due to reductions and cutbacks in funding; the importance of "face time" with a psychiatrist, resulting in better and quicker diagnosis; and medication management.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Shink spoke about Senior Month activities, and working with Commissioner Williams on a new lesbian discussion group. She requested the meeting be adjourned in memory of her grandmother, Stella Forer.

Commissioner Palmieri spoke about National Condom Month, new pamphlets for the Tweakers Project, and Tribe, the new ongoing gay men's program. He thanked Councilmember D'Amico for initiating Tribe.

Commissioner Williams spoke about working with Commissioner Shink on the new lesbian discussion group, and about the recent meeting of the Disabilities Advisory

Board.

Commissioner Davis attended the Tribe meeting, an HIV/substance abuse treatment providers meeting, and a focus group on public service campaigns. He said there were comments that men of color cannot afford to live in West Hollywood, and that materials should be available in Spanish in addition to English and Russian.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis said the seniors' Valentine's Lunch will be held Feb. 14 at the House of Blues; at Heart Health Walk will be held in Kings Road Park; Zip Cars are arriving in West Hollywood; and there is a pop-up art gallery near the Chamber of Commerce office on Santa Monica Boulevard.

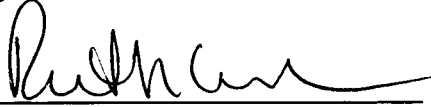
VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. in memory of Stella Forer.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Cislowski', written over a horizontal line.

Ruth Cislowski, Vice Chair