

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – DECEMBER 14, 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 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, December 14, 2004, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Mackler.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Gary Augeri, Ruth Cislowski, Steven Davis, Charles Henry,  
Peter Mackler, Shirley Roberts.

Excused: Ponsella Gratton.

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioner Henry joined the meeting in progress, and Commissioner Mackler left after item V.C., due to another obligation. 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 of the meeting of November 9, 2004, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Mackler, seconded by Commissioner Augeri, with Commissioner Davis abstaining due to his absence.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Tripp Mills of the LA Gay & Lesbian Center provided a condom distribution update. They will be comparing 2004 data with figures from 2003. He mentioned the Club Freedom celebration on Dec. 31, which will again be alcohol- and drug-free.

#### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### A. LA SHANTI UPDATE

Shanti reported that the City Program has been approved for a grant by the University of California, and will be looking for operational space in West Hollywood. Shanti has started a crystal methamphetamine group for HIV+ persons, meeting Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. They also participated in the Models of Pride event at Occidental College in November.

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. URGENT NEEDS FUNDS

Susan Alexman from Jewish Family Services reported on the city's contract for installing grab bars, purchasing orthopedic shoes and medical supplies, and assisting with other household needs, such as heavy cleaning, for those in need. Clients are screened for functional level, income, residency, and means of support.

From an original \$11,236, they have approximately \$7,000 left at this time. Daphne Dennis discussed possible ongoing funding for Lifeline services.

Commissioner Davis asked for a presentation to the Senior Advisory Board about the Life and NORC programs, which he said were being confused by some.

Ms. Alexman said as of January 1 she will become director of senior services at JFS, while Vivian Sauer will become in charge of all programs. She introduced Marina Berkman, clinical coordinator for counseling programs, who will be replacing Ms. Alexman as director of West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center. Ms. Berkman said she looks forward to working with the Commission in this new capacity.

##### B. HOMELESS SERVICES

Commissioner Davis asked Joel Roberts of PATH about recent press reports about a lack of cooperation and planning in the county's approach to homeless services, and how this affects the city. Mr. Roberts said that while there were many issues involved in city/county coordination of homeless services, he felt the press coverage had been somewhat inaccurate in describing the scope of the problems. He said the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) coordinates these programs.

Commissioner Henry asked about an apparent increase in homeless persons on Santa Monica Boulevard at night, and Mr. Roberts said they also feel there has been a definite increase in this area, and they are taking steps to respond to it.

Commissioner Cislowski asked how the merger is going, and Mr. Roberts said there were complex legal issues with it, and that it's likely the organizations will stay separate but coordinate their activities.

C. ADVISORY BOARDS

The Commission tabled this item until January. Gary Augeri and Shirley Roberts indicated they would work with the Senior Advisory Board.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Davis reiterated the request for clarification on the NORC and Life programs.

Commissioner Augeri said he had been contacted regarding sidewalk condition on La Cienega between Melrose and Santa Monica. He will put the caller in touch with Daphne Dennis.

Commissioner Cislowski said World AIDS Day had a good turnout, and news coverage.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Lloyd Long reported the 20th anniversary celebration was dampened by rain, and that an anniversary celebration will be incorporated into the West Hollywood Book Fair later in the year.

Bonnie Smith, special events coordinator, is employee of the year. The Commission requested that she receive a congratulatory letter on their behalf.

Daphne Dennis reported the City is a finalist for an award from the National Organization on Disability.


Social Services staff member Diane Kahn-Epstein is on leave due to a new birth, and is doing fine at home with sons Jake and Joshua.

Commissioner Cislowski asked for school funding to be on the agenda in January.

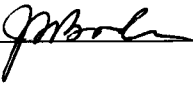
Commissioner Henry will be excused in January due to another commitment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The next regular meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2005, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

Signed:   
Ruth Cislowski

Attest:

  
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