

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 2007
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Steven L. Davis at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 13, 2007, in the Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Cislowski.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Debra Farmer, Charles Henry, Shirley Roberts, Hywel Sims, Mark Zangrando.

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff members present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, 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 Oct. 9, 2007, meeting were approved, on a motion by Commissioner Farmer, seconded by Commissioner Henry.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **REPORT FROM WEHO LIFE PROGRAM**

Alton Carswell provided a handout of current information about the WeHo Life program, and discussed the schedule for website updates and plans for new designs for palm cards and advertisements. He also reported on October and November activities.

Commissioners asked and discussed how West Hollywood community members are measured, how to evaluate whether the program is succeeding in its goals of

STD prevention and community mobilization, how the website and planned “webisodes” will advance the agency’s mission, and why it would appeal to community members to join and participate in the organization. Ruben Acosta of WeHo Life also spoke to the commission.

B. REPORT FROM AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

AIDS Healthcare Foundation provided an update on mobile testing, which they said was being improved by having a stable location, and the possibility of creating an “opt-out” from counseling information, for people who have received the same information on other occasions. Commissioners discussed whether such persons might be demonstrating even greater need of counseling. Staff also expressed concerns.

C. REPORT FROM TRANSGENDER PROGRAM

Lynn Bridges reported on the Center’s transgender program, and the successes it has had and challenges it faces in providing placement services.

D. URGENT NEEDS FUND

A subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Davis and Roberts was formed to research and suggest possible names for the Urgent Needs Fund, with the intention of reporting three options to the January 2008 meeting. Commissioner Cislowski also mentioned exploring fundraising options through this naming.

E. SPACE NEEDS OF SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES

The Commission reviewed a report on space needs of social services agencies, and discussed several ideas about how to help with this, including a city fee on development to assist with funding. How funding for this need would blend with the need for other socially related programs, such as affordable housing, was also discussed. Commissioner Farmer said a multi-services center was direly needed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. CALENDAR FOR 2008-2010 RFP PROCESS

The Commissioner reviewed the proposed calendar for the request-for-proposals process leading to the 2008-2010 social services contracts.

B. HOMELESS CONNECT DAY

Leslie Isenberg discussed the event to be held Thursday, Dec. 6, in conjunction with PATH, Sova Food Pantry, and other social services agencies, to make multiple services available to those who need them.

C. YAROSLAVSKY ALLOCATION FOR CRYSTAL METH SERVICES

Brad Leathers of Rainbow Bridge spoke about the \$1 million allocation that Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky intends to make for crystal meth services. Staff also spoke about the importance of this opportunity.

Commissioner Henry said he thought the funding would not be occurring without the leadership exhibited by Mayor Duran and the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Henry said he would like the City on record commending Supervisor Yaroslavsky and suggesting components the County should use in allocating these funds, including evidence about where the epidemic is strongest, as well as which agencies have a track record in responding to these needs.

Commissioner Zangrando moved to have the Commission communicate this, and recommend to the Council that it also communicate this. This was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

In discussion, a third element was raised, that of recommending that a range of modalities, both positive and negative, be used. This was added to the motion without objection, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Cislowski spoke about the Children's Roundtable, and the "In Our Village" project. Commissioner Sims spoke about the national mall services event he attended, and the homeless services providers meeting. Commissioners Henry and Sims spoke about the orientation meeting for social services agencies. Commissioners Zangrando and Davis spoke about the breakfast program at St. Thomas the Apostle.

Commissioner Davis said he was very pleased to have been chair for the last two years, which brings his total service as chair to five years.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Lloyd Long distributed a handout on the General Plan update. David Giugni spoke about World AIDS Day, which the City is recognizing this year, due to scheduling, with an event on Friday, Nov. 30.

VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The floor was opened for nominations for chair. Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Henry. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Farmer moved to close nominations and declare Commissioner Henry elected. This was seconded by Commissioner Sims, and unanimously approved.

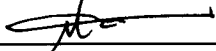
The floor was opened for nominations for vice chair. Commissioner Roberts nominated Commissioner Farmer. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Henry moved to close nominations and declare Commissioner Farmer elected. This was seconded by Commissioner Davis and unanimously approved.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. in memory of U.S. Representative Augustus F. Hawkins (1907-2007) and Dr. R. Scott Hitt, who died Nov. 8 at the age of 49.

Signed: 
Steven L. Davis

Attest: