

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 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 6:14 p.m., Tuesday, September 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 Roberts.

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 Mackler joined the meeting in progress. Councilmember Sal Guarriello and Council Deputy Donna Saur were present, along with 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. INSTALLATION

Councilmember Guarriello administered the oath of office to Commissioner Augeri, and thanked the Commission for the work they did on the social services funding process. Commissioner Augeri briefly discussed his background, and commissioners and staff welcomed him.

III. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of August 9, 2004, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Mackler, with Commissioner Augeri abstaining.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. AGENCY UPDATES

Women Helping Women reported that social workers have been hired and that they will be providing more support groups, including some for older adults and single parents. They need more volunteers who speak Russian, Spanish, and Farsi.

The LA Shanti update was combined with the following item.

B. CITY COUNCIL ACTION ON LA SHANTI APPEAL

Daphne Dennis reported that the City Council had expressed interest in continued funding of LA Shanti. The current contract was extended for one month, with staff to prepare a proposal for a scope of services, review it with the Commission in October, and return to Council at the second meeting in October.

Commissioner Henry asked the Shanti staff present if they were considering administrative improvements or possible merger with another organization. Reporting on behalf of Shanti, the staff members said that the new executive director is on medical leave, but is building a management team at the same time. They said no programs have been cancelled, even though fewer staff members are currently available to conduct them.

They also reported that Shanti is working on expanding and diversifying its board, and that there will be an Oct. 11 fundraiser at the Palladium.

Commissioner Henry moved that Shanti's monthly updates be presented by persons duly appointed by Shanti's board to speak on contract matters. This was seconded by Commissioner Davis and approved.

C. FUNDING PROCESS REVIEW

The Commission discussed the recent social services funding process and ways of improving it.

Commissioner Henry recommended scheduling the process to leave time for appeals to be heard, and so that the Commission could recommend to Council where funds granted to appeals might best be taken from, if Council found it necessary to do so.

Commissioner Davis said he felt Council's participation in the process was not as strong in this cycle as it has been before. He also said the study session with the chairs of the city's advisory boards was helpful.

Commissioner Henry also spoke about the importance of understanding Council's vision of human services, and about viewing the process in terms of priority populations, or priority services.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. HEALTHY WEST HOLLYWOOD

Daphne Dennis reviewed the activities planned for Healthy West Hollywood month, including Breast Cancer Awareness and Disability Awareness observations, and the third annual West Hollywood Book Fair.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

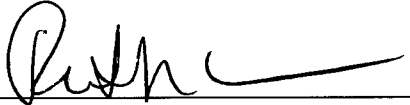
At upcoming meetings, commissioners would like to address items that were held in abeyance during the social services funding process.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Lloyd Long reported on the congress of boards and commissions that is being planned for Saturday, October 16.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next regular meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9, 2004, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

Signed: 
Ruth Cislowski

Attest:

