

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – AUGUST 10, 1999
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chairperson Steven Davis at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 10, 1999, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Norman Chramoff, Ruth Cislowski, John D'Amico,
Steven Davis, Teresa DeCrescenzo
Excused: Shirley Roberts
Absent: none

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Tom West, Tamar Springer, Diane Kahn-Epstein, and Jeff Book. Council Deputy Howard Jacobs was also present.

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 July 15, 1999, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner DeCrescenzo, seconded by Commissioner Cislowski.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. GLC/WEST HOLLYWOOD CARES

Thomas Dyer of West Hollywood Cares presented a preliminary copy of a plan to expand distribution of condoms.

B. SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACTS AND INITIATIVES IN THE SCHOOLS RENEWALS, 1999-2000

Daphne Dennis presented the staff report and recommendations, following up on the public hearing held at the July 15 meeting. Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of recommending a 4.5% increase for all agencies, or providing a smaller increase while using some of the funds for expanded condom distribution.

Public comment was received from Brenda Milton of Los Angeles, on behalf of Los Angeles Free Clinic, for whom she is medical services administrator at the Beverly site.

Roger Doughty and Ian Stulberg of the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center discussed concerns about accessibility of the mental health program, saying that the system was being revised to accommodate those who are not available for an afternoon intake, and to address questions about accessibility to lesbians.

Commissioner Cislowski asked how they were addressing having fewer interns in the summer, and Stulberg said he was new to the program, but hopes to bring on some new interns in the spring, and more in the fall. Commissioner DeCrescenzo suggested looking into the possibility of a block placement in the summer.

Doughty said that they disagree with staff's recommendation that the program be placed on probation and receive no merit increase in their contract amount.

Public comment was also received from Dylan Gailey of Los Angeles (GLC Youth Program), who said the program was achieving good numbers in the context of its change of site and turnover in administration; Sandra King of Los Angeles (JFS); Joan Negash (JFS), who said they are interviewing to replace Lauren Belovsky as disability specialist; Ethan Stone of Los Angeles (AHF), who reported statistics that 23% of their West Hollywood tests were of West Hollywood community members; Anne Factor of West Hollywood (WHEST); Terri Ford of Santa Monica (AHF), who asked for support for HIV testing; John Riley of Los Angeles (Project New Hope); Paul Starke of Being Alive; and Helen Levin of Los Angeles (Russian Community Center).

Commissioner Davis noted the staff recommendation of a 2.5% increase for selected agencies, with funding equal to an additional 2% held for a subsequent item on the agenda. Commissioner Chramoff moved a 4.5% increase for the selected agencies, and this was seconded by Commissioner Davis. The item was then withdrawn pending further discussion about whether to provide additional funding of AIDS education.

Commissioner Cislowski said she had attended the AIDS provider consortium, and said it was viable to have that group oversee the project. She said she was considering whether the need for additional AIDS prevention activity outweighed the possibility of providing agencies with a 4.5% increase.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo discussed providing incentives for persons tested for AIDS to return and pick up their test results, and the particular needs of high-risk youth.

Commissioner Chramoff discussed the barebacking issue, saying education was not necessarily the key to decreasing risky behavior, except perhaps among youth. He said he did not think Council intended to take the money for AIDS education funding out of the cost-of-living increase for the agencies.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo moved to provide the selected agencies with a 2.5% increase. This was seconded by Commissioner D'Amico, and approved on a vote of 3 to 2, with Commissioners DeCrescenzo, D'Amico, and Cislowski in favor, and Commissioners Davis and Chramoff opposed.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo then moved items 1 and 3 of the staff item, recommending overall approval of contract extensions for current programs, with the exception of the GLC Youth Program, and denying the July 15 verbal request from Women Helping Children for an expansion in funding for Light Up the Library. This was seconded by Commissioner Chramoff, and approved 5 to 0.

There was a short break, during which Commissioner DeCrescenzo left due to another engagement.

C. INCREASED FUNDING FOR AIDS EDUCATION

Daphne Dennis said that staff would like to return with a recommendation at the October meeting. Up to three commissioners may attend meetings of the consortium, and Commissioners Chramoff, Cislowski, and Davis indicated an interest. The next consortium meeting is at 10:30 a.m. on September 1 at City Hall.

Commissioner Cislowski moved, and Commissioner D'Amico seconded, to table this item in the meantime. This was approved 3 to 1.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

A. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION LIAISONS

On a motion by Commissioner Cislowski, this item was postponed to September. Commissioner Davis also asked for a discussion of future directions for Commission leadership to be included on that agenda.

Commissioner Davis asked about scheduling a site visit to the Village, the new GLC facility. Lloyd Long noted that city policy prohibits meetings outside the city limits, so commissioners may want to visit the Village on their own.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Regarding recognition of former Commissioners, it was noted that City Council has adopted this area as its own prerogative.

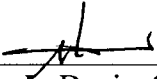
VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Alan Weber spoke about a proposed aquatic center, and was placed on the agenda for the September meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 14, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, unless otherwise announced.

MINUTES APPROVED SEPTEMBER 14, 1999



Steven L. Davis, Chair

Date



Jeff Book, Recording Secretary

Date