

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 8, 2009
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Chuck Henry at 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, September 8, 2009, in Rooms 5 and 6 of Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Zangrando.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Debra Farmer, Charles Henry, Hywel Sims, Mark Zangrando
Not Present: Shirley Roberts.

A quorum was present at all times. City staff members included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, and Jeff Book.

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

Minutes of the July 14, 2009, meeting were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWALS

Daphne Dennis reported on recommendations for the second year of the

two-year funding cycle. She noted that the City is holding its own in the midst of the economic downturn, and therefore is able to avoid cuts in social services programs, and will be able to include a 2% cost-of-living increase for the contracted agencies. She noted that all of the agencies are progressing well toward their goals, reflecting not only their own efforts but the increased demand for social services due to the economy.

Commissioners discussed the renewals and received public comment from: (1) Fr. Mark Stuart of St. Thomas the Apostle Church; (2) Marina Berkman of Jewish Family Services; (3) Curt Shepard of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center; (4) Hillary Selvin of the National Council of Jewish Women; (5) Ava Rose of Women Helping Women; (6) Toby Inlander of Dispute Resolution Services; (7) Kathryn Turk of Dispute Resolution Services; (8) Robert Boller of Project Angel Food; (9) David Kruskall of Jewish Vocational Services; (10) Terry Goddard of Aid for AIDS; (11) Ann English of PATH; and (12) Helen Levin of the Russian Community Center.

Commissioner Cislowski moved to approve staff recommendations for continued funding of all agencies except Jewish Vocational Services. This was seconded by Commissioner Davis, and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Cislowski then left the room, because as an employee of Jewish Vocational Services she does not participate in determination of funding for that agency. Commissioner Davis moved to approve the staff recommendation for continued funding of Jewish Vocational Services. This was seconded by Commissioner Farmer, and unanimously approved by the remaining commissioners.

Commissioner Cislowski then returned to the room.

B. LETTER OF INTENT PROCESS

With regard to additional funding that is available for social services, Daphne Dennis spoke about doing a letter-of-intent process similar to the one used the last time this opportunity occurred. If the Commission concurs, the proposal would be submitted to the City Council on Sept. 21, and released on Sept. 22, with approval and funding to occur thereafter.

Some areas that staff anticipates will be seeking funding include in-home supportive services, the adult day health care program, and programs that do HIV prevention. These are areas that have been hit particularly hard by cuts to funding by other areas of government.

Commissioners discussed and agreed that the funding is intended to help reduce the impact of cuts imposed by other governmental agencies, as

opposed to seeking new programs at this time. Commissioners indicated that the request for letters of intent should ask for identification of what government funding was reduced, creating the need for this support, and also that any savings from current contracts should be included with the figure for the additional funding.

There were comments from (1) Linda Santiman of The Spot, who spoke on cuts to HIV/AIDS programs; and (2) Kristen Price of Partners ADHC, who spoke on MediCal's reduction, cutting back their funding support from 5 days to 3 days per week.

Commissioner Cislowski moved to support the letter of intent process as outlined, with the additional comments made by the commission, and for staff to proceed with submitting this to Council and seeking the letters. This was seconded by Commissioner Sims and unanimously approved.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. FAMILY SUMMIT 2009

Daphne Dennis provided information on the Family Summit, which will be held Oct. 24.

B. 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Daphne Dennis provided a calendar of planned events celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the City of West Hollywood.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Commissioner Henry spoke about the upcoming retirement of Human Services Director Lloyd Long, and plans to recognize his service to the city.

Commissioner Zangrando spoke about the General Plan meetings, and he and Commissioner Davis spoke about the city's Halloween discussion committee.

Commissioner Cislowski said it would be helpful to have input from the city's advisory boards, at the October or November meeting, on priorities for using the additional social services funding and contract savings.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis said the Commission will be meeting with some executive directors of social services agencies at their Oct. 13 meeting, which will be televised.


David Giugni spoke about events being held in recognition of drug and alcohol addiction recovery month.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Signed: 

Steven L. Davis

Attest:

