

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – JULY 13, 2010
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Deb Farmer at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2010, in Rooms 5 and 6 of Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

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. City staff members present included Sam Baxter, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Craig Rhea, 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. **CONTINUATION OF ITEM VI – SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS**
RECOMMENDATIONS 2010-2013 FROM MEETING OF JULY 6, 2010

Commissioner Cislowski left the meeting at this point. Commissioner Henry moved to support the staff recommendation of \$160,448 for Jewish Vocational Services/WHEST. This was seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and approved by a vote of 6 to 0, with Commissioner Cislowski not present.

Commissioner Cislowski then returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Henry moved the following recommendations: Aid for AIDS, \$90,986; APLA Positive Self-Management, \$138,633; APLA Dental, \$68,483; AVIVA Family & Children's Services, \$32,632; Being Alive, \$96,371; Bet Tzedek, \$113,168; Dispute Resolution Services, \$53,321; Friends HIV Education, \$106,312; Friends Outpatient, \$66,300; GLC Legal, \$23,982; GLC Mental Health, \$149,191; GLC Sexual Health Program, \$167,459; GLC Transgender Program, \$76,858; GLC WeHo Life, \$125,435; GLC Youth, \$82,112; JFS Comprehensive

Services, \$724,034; JFS Nutrition, \$304,614; JFS SOVA, \$74,142; McIntyre House, \$36,181; NCJW Light Up a Library, \$18,350; NCJW Women Helping Women, \$42,335; PATH, \$316,724; Pathways, \$89,329; PAWS/LA, \$51,611; Project Angel Food, \$66,352; Rainbow Bridge Community Services, \$79,839; Russian Community Center, \$79,839; Saban Free Clinic, \$177,425; and St. Thomas the Apostle Church, \$18,700. Total: \$3,619,928.

This was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Commissioner Henry said he reached these recommendations on the basis that where there was no increase in services, funding would be maintained level with current funding, except for several cases that were most justified for increases based on increasing demand for services in the economic downturn. He also discussed the percentage of the city's General Fund going to social services; whether funding for particular groups was proportional to their share of the city population; agency performance; the percentage of services to West Hollywood clients that the city funds; the reasonableness of paying for a small portion of the food program at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, where he would like to see strong collaboration with PATH on housing vouchers; and the importance of increasing support to GLC Mental Health, GLC Transgender, and JFS Comprehensive Services.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the recent meetings with agency executive directors, his review of materials, and input at the June 22 meeting and from the public. He said he supported figures not much different from those proposed by Commissioner Henry, though he had reached them a different way.

Commissioner Cislowski said she also had developed recommendations that were not far different from Commissioner Henry's, although arrived at in a different way. She recommended not providing the 2% COLA to agencies and instead providing \$144,413 to GLC Mental Health; \$84,387 to GLC Transgender; \$727,278 to JFS Comprehensive Services; and \$96,678 to Pathways. She supported the staff recommendation of \$60,000 to Women Helping Women.

Commissioner Zangrando spoke in support of the West Hollywood Community Housing Corp. proposal, and said he supported \$20,000 in funding for that agency, as well as \$108,438 for Friends HIV Education, and in other regards thought Commissioner Henry's proposal was good.

Commissioner Henry amended his motion to provide \$60,000 to Women Helping Women; \$717,278 to JFS Comprehensive Services; and \$138,282 to GLC Mental Health. The amendment was accepted by the seconder, Commissioner Davis.

Daphne Dennis said staff had a major concern about funding for APLA Dental, and proposed maintaining that at the staff recommendation of \$78,444, with the difference between that and Commissioner Henry's proposal of \$68,483 be provided, with Council approval, from internal City funding for prevention and outreach programming.

Commissioner Henry amended his motion to include \$78,444 for APLA Dental, with the difference coming from an internal city account. Commissioner Davis agreed as the seconder.

The Commission had further discussion of whether to fund a portion of the food program at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

The motion as amended was approved on a 6 to 1 vote, with Commissioner Zangrando voting no.

Commissioner Henry spoke about plans for a joint study session with City Council. He suggested delaying that meeting until the fall, so that it occurs after the completion of Council's consideration of this cycle of proposals for social services.

Commissioner Henry moved to adjust the language in future RFPs for social services to include the following:

"Co-payments, low or sliding scale fees may be charged, or donations requested, for services provided, but clients who claim hardship or inability to pay shall not be denied services. Clients must be informed of this policy. Fees collected shall be used to pay program costs."

This was seconded by Commissioner Cislowski and approved without objection.

Commissioner Henry moved to schedule the planned meeting between the Russian Community Center and the Russian Advisory Board before the contract with the Russian Community Center is finalized; that staff meet with the Russian Community Center to review their current configuration of services; and that staff seek to identify funds that can be used to do a survey of Russian community members, with regard to service needs. This was seconded by Commissioner Cislowski for discussion. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Commissioner Henry moved to develop a sub-group that would look at the RFP process and see if it needs to be redesigned, as well as looking at under-served portions of the population and getting a better understanding of their needs. This was seconded by Commissioner Zangrando. Sam Baxter said that if approved, staff would return with an approach to accomplishing this goal. The motion was approved on a vote of 6 to 1, with Commissioner Davis voting no.

Commissioner Henry moved the staff recommendations on Urgent Funds, which were \$2,500 for Friends HIV Education; \$22,500 for JFS Comprehensive Services; \$15,000 for Women Helping Women; and \$10,000 for PATH, for a total of \$50,000. Commissioner Henry said he is concerned that some people may receive different levels of support by approaching different agencies, and that there should be an effort to make this uniform, without limiting agencies' flexibility. The motion regarding Urgent Funds was seconded by Commissioner Davis and approved.

III. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Commissioners thanked staff and the social services agencies for their work in proposing, evaluating, and reaching recommendations for this funding.

IV. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items.

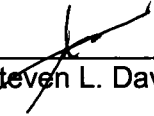
V. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Michael Sidler spoke about connecting public and private resources; the importance of agencies cross-referencing available services to provide the most comprehensive information to clients; and the upcoming review of the RFP process as an opportunity to rethink how services are provided.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Signed: _____


Steven L. Davis

Attest: _____

