

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – JUNE 8, 2004
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Steven Davis at 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, June 8, 2004, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Mackler.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven Davis, Dr. Bill Griffin, Ponsella Gratton,
Peter Mackler, Shirley Roberts.

Excused: Charles Henry.

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioners Cislowski and Roberts joined the meeting in progress. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Diane Kahn-Epstein, David Giugni, 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 for the meetings of May 11, 2004, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Mackler, seconded by Commissioner Griffin.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Paul Gore, Ph.D., director of behavioral health at Los Angeles Free Clinic, provided a general update on their program, and thanked the Commission for its support.

Without objection, the Commission moved next to Item V. B.

V. NEW BUSINESS

B. PUBLIC SCHOOL SUMMIT

Diane Kahn-Epstein reported on the public school summit held on June 3. Many public officials and parents from local schools participated in the meeting, which focused on enhancement programs, including arts, social services, and after-school activities.

Commissioner Cislowksi said schools are interested in innovative funding opportunities, and that they prefer a spring funding process, so that materials can be purchased over the summer and programs ready for students by the time they return in the fall.

Commissioners and staff discussed changes in busing policy regarding the West Hollywood schools. Beginning next year, due to the anticipated availability of more local schools throughout LAUSD, no new students from outside the local area will be bused to the city. Those already in the system will continue to be bused until they graduate from it.

Commissioner Mackler expressed concern about whether this policy is consistent with continued diversity in the West Hollywood schools. Commissioner Gratton noted that changes in home ownership and residency, particularly on the east side of the city, are continuing to change the demographic characteristics of the city.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LA SHANTI REPORT

Jim Flood, interim executive director of LA Shanti, provided a brief update on that agency's activities. They are recruiting for a new executive director, and hope to have that person in place by July 1.

B. MID-YEAR REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES

Daphne Dennis, David Giugni, and Diane Kahn-Epstein provided the mid-year report on social services programs, including information on programs that are above, at, or below projected goals. Daphne Dennis said all site visits were up to date, and that programs were generally strong and fiscally sound, with only a few concerns as noted.

Women Helping Women has been put on probation at this time due to low participation. The program will be providing frequent updates on their progress.

The Commission accepted public comment from Judy Gordon of NCJW, regarding Women Helping Women and its Talkline program; Eileen McAuliffe,

regarding the senior nutrition program at Jewish Family Services; Tara Brown, regarding PATH's regional homeless center; Joya Parenteau, regarding Project Angel Food; Demetri Moshoyannis, regarding Being Alive; and Lee Klosinski, regarding APLA.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Roberts said the recent Avenues of Arts and Design evening was a great success.

Commissioner Davis commented on Mayor Prang's recently distributed blue ribbon paper, and said he thought it contained some misconceptions about social services. He asked that a discussion of the paper be placed on the next agenda.

Commissioner Griffin said he has submitted his resignation from the Commission because he will be moving to Palm Springs as of June 25. He said he greatly appreciated the opportunity to participate in the city in a variety of ways over the last 12 years. On behalf of the entire Commission, Commissioner Cislowski thanked Commissioner Griffin for his years of service. Commissioners said he will be greatly missed, and wished him the best in his new location.

Commissioner Cislowski asked for the record to reflect that the Commission would like to establish a process for handling contract savings, so that it will be done the same way from year to year. She asked for development of the process to be placed on an upcoming agenda.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Jeff Book delivered CSW's invitation to the commissioners to attend the mayor's reception on June 16 at The Abbey, and took RSVP's from those who can attend.

Lloyd Long said that Dan Laray, the city's special events coordinator, has retired from city service, and that Bonnie Smith is handling his duties at this time.


VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m., with gratitude to Dr. Bill Griffin for his years of meritorious service on the Commission.

By prior action of the Commission, there will be no regular meetings in July or August. The Commission will hold special meetings on July 26, August 9, and August 11.

Signed: 
Steven L. Davis

Attest: