

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – JUNE 11, 2002**  
**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Vice Chair John D'Amico at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 11, 2002, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Present: Ruth Cislowski, John D'Amico, Steven Davis, Ponsella Gratton,  
Dr. Bill Griffin. Peter Mackler joined the meeting in progress.

Excused: Teresa DeCrescenzo.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Tom West, 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 June 4, 2002, were approved.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. Rodney Scott of Christopher Street West, spoke about the upcoming Pride Celebration, scheduled for June 22-23, 2002.
2. Jeff Kim and Dana Cagle of GLC Legal Services discussed the numbers submitted in their recent social services reports, which they said have been

influenced by relocation of their office and the loss of half of their staff, as well as the impact of recent layoffs at the Center. They are responding by bringing a legal clinic to West Hollywood on particular nights, and continue with their legal work focusing on immigration, family law, bankruptcy, domestic partnership, and landlord/tenant issues.

Commissioner Mackler joined the meeting at this point, and assumed the chair.

3. Mariko Khan, executive director of Maple Counseling Center, discussed their program.
4. Anne Factor of WHEST thanked the commission for their support and gave a brief update on their program.
5. Leslie Friedman of SOVA Food Pantry discussed the shift in management to JFS.
6. Susan Alexman of the Comprehensive Services Center discussed their new facility at Plummer Park, and thanked the commission along with the staff and the Senior Advisory Board.
7. Wendy Douglas of GLC Sexual Health Program said their numbers and their hours of availability have doubled in recent years.

#### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### A. MID-YEAR REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Daphne Dennis presented the mid-year report.

Regarding PATH, she discussed a letter received from them and reviewed what the outreach team is seeing in its West Hollywood efforts. Commissioner Griffin asked if Council offices were looking to the Commission to formulate a plan on homeless services. Daphne Dennis said one office was interested in a West Hollywood drop-in center, while others were seeking more information.

She noted the ongoing discussion about the social impact of meal programs conducted separately from comprehensive services, and said PATH is having a conference with faith-based organizations to suggest options for charitable work other than providing meals.

Tom West discussed HIV prevention and AIDS support organizations, and said many are placing an increased emphasis on social and recreational activities in lieu of medical update forums.

Diane Kahn-Epstein discussed legal services, mediation, and programs for children and families, including after-school programs and the Light Up a Library effort.

David Giugni reported on other social services programs, including those dealing with seniors.

Lori Karney of Women Helping Women introduced Annie Sebag, a five-year resident who discussed the help she received from this group, including marriage counseling and other support.

Jessica Lee of PATH spoke.

Abbe Land of Los Angeles Free Clinic spoke about the city's ongoing support for this program.

Tripp Mills and Jeff Bailey of the Center thanked the commission for its support of prevention programs, and of WeHo Life.

George Weiss of Children's Hospital LA spoke about the youth ambassador program, and the lack of non-alcoholic spaces for youth to gather in the city.

B. RELEASE OF RFP

Daphne Dennis presented the proposed RFP and the Commission recommended to the Council that it be issued in preparation for social services in the 2002-2004 contract period.

C. MEETING SCHEDULE

The Commission adopted the following calendar of upcoming meetings:

Tue., August 13 -- regular meeting CANCELLED  
Tue., September 10 -- regular meeting  
Tue., September 24 -- special meeting on social services  
Tue., October 1 -- special meeting on social services  
Tue., October 8 -- meeting on social services  
Thur., October 10 -- special meeting on social services

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. PROGRAMS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Diane Kahn-Epstein spoke on local school programs, and provided copies of the booklets on heroes prepared by local students.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Cislowski spoke about the process to be used at the public hearing, saying the time limit should be clearly identified, including whether it is per person or per agency.

Commissioner Davis said the city's messages regarding a bylaws review meeting have been heavy-handed, and that it did not come across well for the city to call the meetings mandatory.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Tom West distributed t-shirts from WeHo Life.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Rachel Bercovic of JFS spoke about the senior nutrition program and thanked the commission for its support.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

The next regular meeting is at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 9, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Steven L. Davis

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_ *J. Book*