

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – MAY 12, 2009
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Start here

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Chuck Henry at 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, April 14, 2009, in the Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was repeated.

B. **ROLL CALL**

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

A quorum was present at all times. City staff members included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, 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 request form.

II. **MINUTES**

Commissioner Cislowski noted that she had inadvertently voted for the entire package of expenditure recommendations at the April 14 meeting, when she had intended to recuse herself from voting with regard to Jewish Vocational Services. The intended recusal is made part of the record here.

With that notation, minutes of the April 14, 2009, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Roberts.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joel Polachek and Brian Courtees of Alternative Living for the Aging noted it has been 60 days since the passing of ALA executive director Janet Witkin. They said the organization is in good health, board members are meeting frequently, a search for a new director is underway, and they are proceeding with fundraising.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The Commission met with Duane Dennis and Sharon Novee of Pathways and Hilary Selvin of NCJW to discuss activities in their agencies, and how the economic situation is affecting their services and clients.

Duane Dennis said the budget situation and the May 19 state propositions will greatly affect child care, which is their core service, especially for children with special needs. Only 3 percent of their funding is non-governmental, with West Hollywood providing probably less than one percent.

Hilary Selvin said the goal for NCJW is doing more with less due to decreases in charitable donations. She said programs have been maintained, and they are seeking to benefit from volunteer assistance. They are at capacity for existing services, and in need of bilingual Spanish/English counselors. Proposed cuts at LAUSD are affecting the libraries that NCJW works with.

Commissioners and executive directors engaged in extended discussion of the effects of the financial crisis and how the City can help.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. VULNERABILITY INDEX OF PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS

Leslie Isenberg introduced a number of guests from Common Ground and PATH, including Joel Roberts, Ann English, Maggie Willis, Beth Sandor, and Rudy Salinas. Staff of Common Ground provided a PowerPoint presentation on their work identifying homeless persons and targeting services to particular combinations of at-risk criteria, with a focus on moving to immediate housing. This approach has seen major successes in New York.

Commissioner Henry asked how the City could focus more on housing availability, and Daphne Dennis said commissioners could meet with

housing staff and formulate recommendations on this. Chuck Henry, Steven Davis, and Shirley Roberts were designated as a committee to focus on this.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Commissioner Zangrando applauded Commissioner Davis for applying for the vacancy on City Council.

Children's Roundtable will be held May 21.

Commissioner Davis attended the Gay Men's Forum recently.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis reported that Senior Health Fair is tomorrow; Senior Month is going well; and the groundbreaking on the new library and park project is June 1.

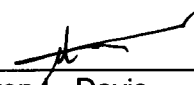
VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. in memory of Elliott Simmons, partner of Michael Arrigo.

Signed: _____


Steven L. Davis

Attest:

