

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – JUNE 8, 2010**  
**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Deb Farmer at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 8, 2010, in the Community Conference Room of West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Roberts.

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. MINUTES

The minutes of the May 11, 2010, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Henry, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, with Commissioner Sims abstaining due to absence from that meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. MID-YEAR REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES

Daphne Dennis presented the mid-year report on social services, which provided information on agency performance in relation to the goals established for each contract. The report also indicated that Rainbow Bridge Community Services had been placed on administrative probation.

Commissioner Henry said the Commission would like to be notified when an agency is being considered for, or placed on, probation. Daphne Dennis said this was the first meeting since that action, and the period of the admin probation is March 1 to September 30, 2010.

The Commission discussed various programs with representatives from the agencies and with staff, including AIDS Project Los Angeles, Alternative Living for the Aging, Dispute Resolution Services, Gay & Lesbian Center Legal, GLC Mental Health, the WHEST program, Rainbow Bridge, and Saban Free Clinic.

Commissioner Cislowski noted some similar themes across agencies, including problems with reporting, and capturing data on all the outcomes of their services.

**B. URGENT FUND EXPENDITURES**

Daphne Dennis presented the item reviewing the current urgent fund program.

Commissioner Farmer said there should be consideration of urgent fund assistance in dental services.

**C. PROGRAM FEES AND SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACT STIPULATIONS**

Daphne Dennis presented the text of the city's 1987 request for proposals in social services, with regard to services not being denied for lack of ability to pay. She said that currently it varies by agency as to whether there is means testing of clients.

Commissioner Henry said there was a disconnect between the intent of the original policy, which was not charging indigents, and contract wording which prohibits charging West Hollywood residents altogether.

The Commission discussed the feasibility of means testing by agencies and the desirability of a sliding scale which would reach zero for genuine inability to pay. The Commission discussed possible wordings of contracts that would accomplish this for agencies that are able to charge.

After consideration of various approaches, Commissioner Sims moved to invite staff to create contract language accomplishing this goal and to

return it to the Commission after consulting with the City Attorney on it. This was seconded by Commissioner Henry and approved.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. BUDGET 2010

Daphne Dennis presented Social Services Division budget information which had been requested by the Commission. Commissioner Henry said he would like to see the entire budget, not just the cost of salaries and fringe benefits.

Commissioner Zangrando said he was startled to see the increase in staff costs in recent years in comparison to the level of funding for social services contracts. The Commission discussed data indicating that social services spending has been a declining percentage of the city budget.

Sam Baxter said that substantial cuts have been made in the city and department budgets, and that increased social services funding would have to come from somewhere. Commissioner Henry said it was the role of the Commission to make recommendations on how to meet social services needs, and up to the Council to decide the outcome.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Commissioner Cislowski said she is not able to attend the June 22 meeting, and asked for a copy of the audiotape when it is available.

Commissioner Henry asked about the planned meeting between the Russian Community Center and the Russian Advisory Board. Daphne Dennis said she would check on progress.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

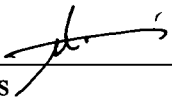
David Giugni said June is HIV Prevention Month, and noted the wide variety of activities planned to highlight this.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. in memory of John Wooden, coach at UCLA.

Signed:   
Steven L. Davis

Attest: 