

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – MAY 10, 2005
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Ruth Cislowski at 6:01 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, 2005, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Cislowski.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Gary Augeri, Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis,
Charles Henry, Peter Mackler, Shirley Roberts.
Excused: Ponsella Gratton.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni; Leslie Isenberg; 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 of the April 12, 2005, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Henry, seconded by Commissioner Mackler.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Adrian Aguilar, a former staff member of LA Shanti, spoke in support of the recommendation to not continue funding for the agency's programs at the present time.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. MID-YEAR REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES

Daphne Dennis, David Giugni, and Leslie Isenberg presented the mid-year report on social services.

Daphne Dennis said DRS is adding reports of cases that do not develop into full mediations. David Giugni spoke about new programming in the HIV and substance abuse area, about APLA's mobile dental van, and about STD treatment at The Spot. Leslie Isenberg spoke about trends with seniors, including increasing demand for home meals, congregate meals, and case management. She also spoke about homeless services.

The Commission accepted public comment on the mid-year report from the following speakers:

1. Eileen McAuliffe, Jewish Family Services; 2. Susan Belgrade, JFS Partners; 3. Leslie deBeauvais, director of Women Helping Children for NCJW; 4. Jerry Lazar from DRS; 5. David Kruskall of WHEST; 6. James Burbach, a client of WHEST; 7. Roger Coggan, LAGLC Legal Services; 8. Simon Costello, LAGLC Youth Services; 9. Joni Lavick, LAGLC Mental Health Services; and 10. Ken Washington, SOVA Food Pantry.

11. Tara Brown, PATH; 12. Jesse Reyes, PATH; 13. Patricia Enciso, PATH; 14. Marina Berrman, Comprehensive Services Center; 15. Joe Navarro, PAWS-LA; 16. Steve Wayland, PAWS-LA; 17. Joya Parenteau, Project Angel Food; 18. Susan Alexman, JFS Senior Services; 19. Janet Witkin, Alternative Living for the Aging; and 20. Tripp Mills, LAGLC WeHo Life.

21. Demetri Moshoyannis, Being Alive; 22. Ross Miller, M.D., Los Angeles Free Clinic; 23. Kathy Watt, Van Ness Recovery House; 24. Tiffany Horton, LAGLC Sexual Health Program; 25. Helen Levin, Russian Community Center; 26. Jeff Bailey, LAGLC WeHo Life; and 27. Neil Aves, WeHo mobile testing manager for AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

There was a five-minute break.

B. RECOMMENDATION ON ALLOCATION OF POSSIBLE CONTRACT SAVINGS FROM 2003-04 AND 2004-06:

Commissioner Mackler moved to accept staff recommendation on allocation of \$55,186 in contract savings. Commissioner Henry proposed an amendment to allocate all but \$1,000 of the amount, which was accepted as a friendly amendment. The proposal for \$54,186 was seconded and approved.

Commissioner Davis then left the room.

Commissioner Mackler moved to allocate \$1,000 to AIDS Healthcare Foundation. This was seconded by Commissioner Henry, and approved.

Commissioner Davis returned.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUESTS FOR 2005-06

Daphne Dennis reported on several items the City is considering for the Human Services Department budget in 2005-06, including possible increases in funding for HIV prevention and AIDS education, funds for a new formal assessment of community needs, an expansion of lesbian visibility programming, and increased funding for captioning.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Davis commended Barney's Beanery for recent articles on the owners' desires to welcome the entire community.

Commissioner Henry recommended holding a study session on planning and development, including the impact of larger developments on the city, and the possibility of building community services spaces and programs into the larger developments, for presentation to the Eastside PAC and the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Henry noted that Commissioner Roberts is being honored by the Jewish Labor Committee with the Tom Bradley Mishpoche Award for her many years of dedicated service. The awards event is on Sunday, June 5.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis reported with regret that Diane Kahn-Epstein has left her position in Social Services.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. in memory and honor of Miguel Contreras, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, who died very unexpectedly on May 6, 2005.

The next regular meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 14, 2005, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

Signed: _____
Steven L. Davis 

Attest:

