

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – APRIL 14, 2009**  
**PLUMMER PARK**

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

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, Hywel Sims  
Not Present: None

A quorum was present at all times. City staff members included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Craig Rhea, David Giugni, 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**

Minutes of the March 10, 2009, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Farmer. A correction to the location of the meeting was noted – it was held at City Hall.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no speakers.

#### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### A. DISCUSSION WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The Commission met with Pamela Magette, PAWS L.A.; Tobi Inlender, Dispute Resolution Services, and Cathy Reback of Friends Research Institute, to discuss activities in their agencies, and how the economic situation is affecting their services and clients.

Pamela Magette said that 12 percent of their clients are West Hollywood community members. All are low-income. Veterinarian discounts have decreased, and they've had some problems securing providers. They have noted an increase in inquiries from people who are losing their homes and concerned about caring for their pets. She said eligibility for senior status with their agency is 55 years in West Hollywood.

Tobi Inlender said DRS has not had to cut back on services so far, and has detected a notable increase in anxiety and anger among clients. She said tenants are more apprehensive about getting their security deposits back. The agency has had a salary freeze since last year; they haven't lost grants, but one grantor is planning a reduction.

Cathy Reback said there was a 9% reduction from OPPA funding, which translated to 3 full-time-employee equivalents for this agency, which they were handling through two vacancies and one reorganized position. They have a salary freeze and hiring freeze, but have not laid off anyone. She also noted increased anxiety and depression in people seeking to end an addiction to methamphetamine.

Commissioners asked about the level of volunteer assistance in the programs; about the sources of funding and any jeopardy to them in the upcoming budget year; about the level of financial help their boards are able to provide; about what the City can do to assist the agencies more. Additional details about the discussion are contained in an attachment.

Commissioner Henry summarized the discussion with several follow-up items: (1) holding an informal gathering of agency people; (2) urging DRS to meet with other agencies more, to benefit from collaboration; and (3) the ongoing challenge to the county's HIV programs due to potential cuts, and anxiety about the continuity of funding. Commissioner Davis also noted reminding the state to not reduce its funding for the most vulnerable populations.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. REPROGRAMMING SAVINGS FROM 2007-2008 CONTRACTS

Daphne Dennis reported there is approximately \$69,000 in contract savings. These funds could be rolled over into the next RFP process, or reprogrammed for immediate use by agencies, or used to supplement funds to create a higher cost-of-living adjustment for agencies; or used in the urgent needs category.

After the Commission conducted an extensive discussion of options, Commissioner Davis moved to recommend \$2,500 for each agency, with the remainder of funds allocated to urgent needs funding. This was seconded by Commissioner Sims, and unanimously approved.

Note: See minutes of May 12, 2009, meeting for a notation regarding a recusal from this vote.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Commissioner Sims noted he will be away for the May 12 meeting.

Commissioner Cislowski spoke about the fruit-picking program, the Kids Fair, and the sheriff's upcoming open house.

Commissioner Zangrando thanked Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board (LGAB) member Ruth Tittle for attending the Commission meetings and reporting to that board.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis noted that Bud Siegel, a longtime resident and member of city boards and commissions, has died.

Daphne Dennis spoke about having a presentation by the Common Ground registry, and the Commission planned to hold a special meeting on May 19 for this purpose.

David Giugni spoke about the Gay Men's Forum to be held May 2 at Plummer Park.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ruth Tittle noted that the next meeting of LGAB will be televised in the city.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. in memory of Bud Siegel.

Signed:   
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Steven L. Davis

Attest:

  
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