

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – APRIL 20, 1999**  
**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chairperson Steven Davis at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 20, 1999, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Davis, Teresa DeCrescenzo, Pamela Komac, John Nieto,  
Renée Rosenfeld  
Excused: Bob Graney, Shirley Roberts  
Absent: none

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Tamar Springer, and Jeff Book. Council Deputy Howard Jacobs was also present.

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 9, 1999, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Komac, seconded by Commissioner Nieto. Commissioner DeCrescenzo abstained because she was not at that meeting.

Without objection, the agenda was amended to provide that Item IV. B., Resolution Regarding the Safer Sex and Parking Initiatives Sponsored by AIDS Healthcare Foundation, would be tabled indefinitely.

### III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. GLC WEST HOLLYWOOD CARES

Jeff Bailey reported on this program on behalf of Thomas Dyer. He discussed a Los Angeles County meeting on HIV/AIDS case rates which had been held today. Daphne Dennis asked him to work with staff regarding use of safer-sex materials in establishments subject to certain state regulations because they serve alcoholic beverages.

#### B. EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PRESENTATION

Daphne Dennis introduced representatives from WHEST and CBD College, and said a written report had been submitted by Project New Hope, whose representative was unable to attend due to illness.

Cindy Yancey of CBD College discussed the computer and language training class which they provide. She said that with their current students, computer training has been somewhat easier than language training, probably because the students already had some technical familiarity from their previous home.

Anne Factor of WHEST, a division of JVS, reported on the evolution of the program in the five years of its existence, and how it has become an important element of community and economic development in West Hollywood. She said WHEST is playing an increasing role with at-risk youth, who are in special need of outreach for these services.

Commissioner Davis asked for Project New Hope to be rescheduled for a presentation to the Commission, or for a site visit to be conducted with Commissioners.

#### C. HIV LEGAL PROGRAM / HALSA

Jacques Chambers of HALSA reported on how this group was formed in response to a report detailing overlaps and gaps in provision of legal services to persons living with HIV/AIDS. HALSA is a venture by APLA, the AIDS Service Center in Pasadena, the LA County Bar Association, the Gay & Lesbian Center, and Public Counsel.

Much of their activity involves bankruptcy and debtor-creditor actions for clients, as well as assistance with government benefits, some discrimination and confidentiality litigation, housing, immigration, and creation of wills and powers of attorney. The Public Counsel handles guardianships.

He reported HALSA is primarily housed at APLA, but uses 30 additional sites for outreach. They are funded primarily with Ryan White and HOPWA funds, though the LA County Bar Association sponsors one employee directly.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. MERGER OF FOUNDATION HOUSE AND PATH

Joel Roberts, executive director of PATH (People Assisting the Homeless), a major Westside provider of services to the homeless, reported that PATH and Foundation House (the former West Hollywood Homeless Organization) have reached agreement in principle to merge. Final documents are being prepared, but the organizations are already combining operationally and programatically.

Roberts said the major advantages of the merger include (1) a broader continuum of services, such as Foundation House gaining the advantage of PATH's group of 79 companies which train and hire the homeless; (2) a regional, rather than city-specific, approach to services and case management, which more appropriately reflects the way that homeless people travel between the various Westside cities, and will discourage clients from "working the system" by floating among various agencies; and (3) a stake in the forthcoming Regional Homeless Center, for which program discussion are desing are already underway. Foundation House's West Hollywood-specific services, such as outreach, will be continued.

Staff recommended that the Commission (1) endorse the merger, and (2) decline the request by Foundation House that rent on their current facility at 1033 N. La Brea Avenue be waived retroactive to January 1, 1999. Commissioners discussed the history of the city's funding for the Homeless Organization, its purchase of the 1033 N. La Brea building, redevelopment plans for that area, and the reported budget shortfall at Foundation House, which is being relocated.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo moved, with Commissioner Komac seconding, to (1) endorse the merger, and (2) recommend that City Council waive rent for Foundation House at 1033 N. La Brea Avenue, beginning June 1, 1999, and continuing as long as they occupy the property. Without objection, the question was divided.

On the motion to endorse the merger, the vote was 5 to 0 in favor. On the motion to request Council to waive the rent beginning June 1, 1999, the motion was 4 to 0 in favor, with 1 (Commissioner Nieto) not voting.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

A. LIAISONS

1. CHAIRS MEETING

Commissioner Davis reported the most recent Chairs Meeting mostly focused on eastside redevelopment, affordable housing, and the long-range impact of changing housing costs on the composition of the population in West Hollywood.

2. CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR PRIDE & EQUITY

There was no additional report.

3. DISABILITES ADVISORY BOARD

Commissioner Komac reported that DAB is discussing the pros and cons of having a public forum on disabilities, and that Tamar Springer is working with DAB on having a cable program on this.

4. LESBIAN & GAY ADVISORY BOARD

There was no additional report.

5. SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

There was no additional report.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo moved to formally acknowledge the outstanding work of the City Council on gun control; the Commission meeting was occurring on the same day as an attack on a public school in Littleton, Colorado, in which a large number of fatalities occurred. There was no objection. Staff will prepare a letter of commendation for the Chair's signature, and distribution to the Council.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo reported on the Crystal Methamphetamine Task Force, which is scheduling an all-day hearing and currently recruiting speakers for it. Commissioner Davis requested that the chairs receive notice of the members of the Task Force, and be included in distribution for notices of meetings.

Commissioner Komac requested that animal control be placed on a future agenda, and reviewed which of the Human Services Commission's previous duties were transferred to the Public Facilities Commission when it was created.

Commissioner Davis discussed the Plummer Park master plan, and Lloyd Long said a meeting would be arranged between himself, Sam Baxter, Commissioner Davis, and Catherine Hahn, the chair of the Public Facilities Commission, to discuss these plans.

Commissioner Rosenfeld said that in early 1996 Council appropriated \$500 for advertising for formation of a gay and lesbian Russian support group. She asked that Russian relations be placed on the next agenda, along with a request that a similar amount be appropriated now, and continuing contact be provided between the City and gay and lesbian Russians.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis distributed the Senior Month Calendar, and reported that the event planned for the Celebration Theater is already heavily subscribed.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Royce Mathew said he is concerned that Alternative Living for the Aging, a City-funded agency, may be falsely listing seniors seeking roommate assistance under its contract with West Hollywood as clients in programs funded by other governmental agencies. He said he had requested information about this and other concerns from Janet Witkin, the program director, and has brought them to the attention of Daphne Dennis, as well as speaking at the last City Council meeting.

Lloyd Long said that staff continuously monitors the agency's performance of its contract with West Hollywood, and that concerns about other aspects of the agency should be taken up with the agency's board of directors, and/or those with enforcement jurisdiction.


VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 11, 1999, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

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MINUTES APPROVED MAY 11, 1999

  
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Steven L. Davis, Chair

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Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Book, Recording Secretary

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Date