

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2010
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK AUDITORIUM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Deb Farmer at 6:07 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2010, in West Hollywood Park Auditorium, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Zangrando.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Debra Farmer,
Shirley Roberts, Hywel Sims, Mark Zangrando.

Not Present: Charles Henry.

Commissioners Roberts joined the meeting in progress. A quorum was present at all times. City staff members 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 that due to a staff error, the agenda was not posted at City Hall. The Commission scheduled a special meeting for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010, to take action on items they would be unable to vote on this evening.

D. PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to complete a form.

II. MINUTES

The minutes of the Jan. 12, 2010, meeting were carried over to the next meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Augeri asked for information about the Life Alert system, which provides emergency response to medical, fire, and safety concerns. Leslie Isenberg said she would provide information.

Karen Bhangoo and Kathryn Turk of Dispute Resolution Services introduced Octavio Olivas, who is the new coordinator of their West Hollywood services.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. YEAR-END REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES

David Giugni provided a general overview of the year in social services, and spoke about working with agencies experiencing the economic downturn and seeing the impact on their work and clients. He spoke about the hoarding task force that is meeting monthly to address this issue in the community. Social services staff then highlighted information from the year-end reports of the agencies whose contracts they oversee.

Leslie Isenberg noted that very few agencies did not reach their goals, despite the challenging economy. She discussed Alternative Living for the Aging, Aviva Children & Family Services, NCJW, Pathways, and Saban Free Clinic, among others. There was discussion about the Free Clinic not having reached its goal for new and unduplicated clients.

Craig Rhea spoke about agencies' collaborative efforts, facilities and operations, and constituent issues. He spoke about Aid for AIDS, the Gay & Lesbian Center, and the WHEST program, among others. There was discussion about agencies that have moved their headquarters far from West Hollywood, and whether this was affecting the provision of services in the city. There was also discussion about mobile offices, and how to help with finding space for agencies. Commissioner Zangrando said the General Plan Advisory Committee was aware of the need for this space, and there was hope that something would be found.

David Giugni spoke about Friends Research Institute, McIntyre House, Rainbow Bridge, legal services providers, and WeHo Life, among others. There was discussion about how WeHo Life's online presence is being evaluated, and about the mental health program at the Center.

Commissioner Farmer led a round of applause for all the social services agencies for the assistance they provide to the community.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS ON LETTER OF INTENT SUBMITTED FOR SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING AUGMENTATION

Daphne Dennis noted that an initial letter of intent was released last November, which drew eight responses, of which staff recommended approval for five. That letter was then withdrawn, revised, and re-issued, and the new letter drew 11 applications, of which staff recommended six: Friends Research Institute (\$25,000), JFS Partners (\$15,000), JVS

WHEST (\$20,000), McIntyre House (\$10,000), Rainbow Bridge (\$8,457), and Women Helping Women (\$28,578).

Subsequent to this, one of the six (JFS Partners) has withdrawn its application, and staff is still recommending the other five, and recommending that the \$15,000 that had been recommended for JFS Partners be kept aside at this time, to provide funds to respond to anticipated changes in funding for seniors, in-home supportive services, and other social services in the next few months.

At this point Commissioner Cislowski left the room due to a conflict of interest with funding discussions affecting Jewish Vocational Services.

The Commission accepted public comment from David Kruskall, who directs the WHEST program for JVS. He provided a handout.

Commissioner Cislowski then returned to the room.

The Commission accepted public comment from: 1. Ava Rose, Women Helping Women; 2. Jeff Bailey, AIDS Project Los Angeles, who said that APLA did not renew its application in the second round of the letter of intent process because it had received supplemental funds from other sources; and 3. Judy Jenkins of PATH.

Commissioner Cislowski then left the room again.

Commissioner Davis said his preference was to allocate the \$15,000 instead of holding it for subsequent use. His preference was to add \$5,000 to WHEST; \$8,456 to Rainbow Bridge; \$200 to McIntyre House; and \$1,323 to Women Helping Women.

Staff and commissioners discussed various approaches to the uncertainty about state funding of services to seniors, people with disabilities, and adult day health care centers.

Commissioner Cislowski then returned to the room.

C. GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Zangrando said the GPAC recently completed its work, and there were about 100 people at the Jan. 30 open house, which involved kiosks on various issues and aspects of the community. A first draft will be prepared, with additional comment, finalization of technical reports, and then adoption by the City Council.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. SUPPORT FOR DASH LINES

This item was carried over to the next meeting.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Commissioner Sims spoke about the Homeless Connect activities. Commissioner Davis spoke about Homeless Connect and the HIV service providers meeting.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis said the seniors Valentine's dance is tomorrow at the House of Blues. She also spoke about outreach for the census, and the next 25th anniversary event, which is being held in conjunction with the Kids Fair, a public safety expo, and a Russian cultural fair. Installation of the next mayor is expected on April 19.

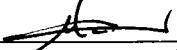
David Giugni asked commissioners to view the new material at InTheMoment.tv.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Steve Wayland of PAWS L.A. spoke about how there agency is keeping up with West Hollywood commitments even though their office has relocated.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Signed: 
Steven L. Davis

Attest: 