

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 10, 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, February 10, 2009, in Rooms 5 and 6 at Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was repeated.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Steven L. Davis, Ruth Cislowski (arrived at 6:18 p.m.),
Charles Henry, Shirley Roberts, Mark Zangrando, Hywel
Sims

Not Present: Debra Farmer

A quorum was present at all times. City staff members included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Leslie Eisenberg, David Giugni, Craig Rhea, Corey Roskin, and Kurt Cressotti

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 January 13, 2009, meeting were reported as pending.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no speakers.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. FRIENDS RESEARCH INSTITUTE STUDY ON CRYSTAL METH

Friends Research Institute presented results of a study on crystal-meth use among the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender communities.

B. YEAR-END REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS 2007-08

Daphne Dennis presented the results of the Social Services Programs 2007-2008 Year-End Report. She reported that the City was no longer working with AIDS Healthcare Foundation and Venice Recovery Center. Both agencies were previously on probation. She further reported that the City has seen significant increases in the services provided by SOVA, JVS, WHEST, and Bet Tzedek due to the current economic climate. She concluded by stating that the City and its agencies have worked towards improving outcome objectives by strengthening working relationships, increasing the frequency of site visits, and by implementing more accurate measurements to determine agency results.

Kevin Kurth & Danny Pepper from Being Alive reported their agency's improved visibility has directly resulted in an increase in clients and services.

Marina Berkman from JFS, WHCSC conveyed her clients' increased anxiety about the future, especially regarding the availability of state benefits. She then reported a greater need for funds for medical and transportation. She concluded with a brief summary of her therapists' work.

Joan Mithers from JFS, SOVA, Sr. Nutrition reported a dramatic month-to-month increase in clientele (up over 40% since last year). She commented on her staff's hard work and thanked the community for their support. She expressed her fear of an impending crisis due to the increase in need for social services.

Reuben Acosta from LAGLALC informed the Commission that he was running late and had to leave to meet with his film crew.

Erica Lodgen from JFS reported an increase in daily attendance and the recent receipt of a new grant that will be used to purchase computers for collecting and organizing data.

Kathryn Turk from DRS reported a growing need for services (as evidenced by the number of clientele this past Holiday Season) and specifically cited an increase in renter insecurity.

Benjamin Gonzalez & Ann English from PATH expressed their thanks to the Commission and the City.

Hillary Selvin of NCJW/LA reported an increase from 1,200 to 2,000 incoming clients seeking services. She further reported this year's Holiday Giveaway funds did not meet the agency's need despite doubling to \$10,000. She shared her success working with WHEST in client referrals and stated that they sought to work with more agencies in the future, provide more outreach, more support groups, and more one-on-one counseling with teens.

The Commission discussed the transgender program.

Chuck Henry conducted an inquiry as to whether any of the various agencies in attendance had suffered any layoffs.

Chuck Henry, Saban, and Daphne Dennis discussed the Chair's concerns regarding Saban's struggle to meet goals.

Chuck Henry and Daphne Dennis discussed the schedule of upcoming meetings.

Chuck Henry requested agencies provide bullets to highlight how the economy has affected them for the next meeting.

Chuck Henry and Daphne Dennis discussed unspent agency funds, specifically those of Van Ness.

Chair requested all agencies' executive directors attend future Commission meetings.

Mark Zangrando and Daphne Dennis discussed how the City of West Hollywood has been affected by the current financial climate.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. SAFER SEX KITS FOR WOMEN

David Giugni reported on the City's program to make available safer sex kits to women of all sexual orientations. He stated the City was in the process of developing a brochure to address the transmission and prevention of STDs. The brochure would include a packet of condoms, gloves, and dental dams, and instructions on how to make personal barriers. Final layout was scheduled to begin on February 19, 2009.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Steven Davis reminded everyone about the HIV providers meeting to be held the following week.

Ruth Cislowski inquired about the bus pass program. Daphne Dennis informed her that the City hoped to register, photograph, and issue bus passes to 500 seniors beginning the Thursday following the City election.

Mark Zangrando requested the Commission adjourn in the memory of Bob Krueger.

Hywel Sims stated his appreciation for Leslie Isenberg's recent meeting.

Chuck Henry noted Bet Tzedek's recent correspondence and praised all of the positive results of their work.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni noted Reuben Acosta's work with his agency's webisodes and expressed his hope that people would support all of their future efforts.

Daphne Dennis discussed the Homeless Census, its need for volunteers, and praised Leslie Isenberg for her dedication to the project.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

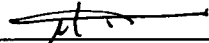
There were no additional items.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. in the memory of Bob Krueger.

The next regular meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at West Hollywood City Hall.

Signed: _____


Steven L. Davis

Attest:

