

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 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 6:08 p.m., Tuesday, January 11, 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 Gratton.

B. ROLL CALL

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

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; 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 meeting of December 14, 2004, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Augeri, with Commissioner Gratton abstaining due to her absence.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public. Without objection, Item IV-B, the Year-End Report on Social Services Programs, was moved up.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. YEAR-END REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Daphne Dennis presented the year-end report on social services programs. The Commission then received public comment from (1) Dana Cagle, GLC Legal; (2) Susan Belgrade, Partners ADHC; (3) Ken Washington, and (4) Mario Aleman, of SOVA Food Pantry; (5) Joya Parenteau, Project Angel Food; (6) Tara Brown, PATH; (7) Jeff Bailey, GLC health education director; (8) Hillary Selvin, executive director of NCJW/LA; (9) Dr. Paul Gore, director of behavioral health at LA Free Clinic; (10) Lee Klosinski, APLA; (11) Jerry Lazar, Dispute Resolution Services; (12) David Kruskall, WHEST; (13) Claudia Finkel, JVS; (14) Helen Levin, Russian Community Center; and (15) Sharon Gerber, Aviva.

There was a five-minute break.

A. CONTRACT EXTANSION FOR LA SHANTI

Cleve Jones, executive director for LA Shanti, provided a general update on the activities of the agency, and introduced the new contracts manager.

After discussion, the Commission voted unanimously to support the staff recommendation regarding extending the contract with LA Shanti, on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Gratton.

Commissioner Davis also moved to ask staff to come up with ways to use unused funds from the 10/1/03-9/30/04 budget, consistent with previously established priorities, for Commission and Council action. This was seconded by Commissioner Augeri, and unanimously approved.

C. ADVISORY BOARDS

Commissioner Gratton plans to attend all the advisory board meetings this month (January). Commissioner Augeri plans to attend Senior Advisory Board this month. Commissioner Davis will attend the Disability Advisory Board in February, and in subsequent months, schedule permitting. Commissioner Cislowski will fill in on advisory boards that do not already have people scheduled to attend. Staff will check with Commissioners Henry, Mackler, and Roberts about their preferences.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. CHILDCARE IMPACT FEES PLANNING PROCESS

Daphne Dennis said the city has more than \$200,000 it has received from commercial developers as mitigation for the impact of their projects on the need for child care in the city. The City is required to develop a plan for the funds and make an annual report of their use, and the Council is interested in developing a subcommittee to look into this, consisting of two Councilmembers, two Human Services Commissioners, staff, and possibly educators.

Commissioners Cislowski and Davis were designated to represent the Commission on this subcommittee.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Augeri is researching the La Cienega sidewalk condition, and will provide more information when available.

Commissioner Davis praised the Teen Line pamphlet, which is available at City Hall.

Commissioner Cislowski spoke about young people loitering around the northeast corner of Doheny and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the ongoing crystal meth problem.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis reported that Club Freedom drew more than 1,500 participants this year, and was very successful despite rain the day before and the day after.

The Human Services Commission and the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board will be considering an item regarding Names Reporting for HIV Testing, at the request of City Council.

A new state law authorizes distribution of clean needles through pharmacies. Whether or how this will be implemented locally remains to be seen.

The new dental van, an APLA project, will be in West Hollywood two days per month.

There is a new local newspaper, the West Hollywood Tribune, which is bilingual in English and Russian. Agassi Topchian is the publisher.

Dan Laray, former special events coordinator for the City, died on December 28.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m., in memory of Dan Laray.

The next regular meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2005, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven L. Davis

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
