

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – JULY 10, 2012
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Mark Zangrando at 6:03 p.m., Tuesday, July 10, 2012, in the Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Bob Shepard.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Jimmy Palmieri, Bob Shepard, Heidi Shink, Anne-Marie Williams, Mark Zangrando.

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Human Services staff members included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Manager; David Giugni, Craig Rhea, Leslie Isenberg, and Jeff Book. Council Deputy Michelle Rex was also present.

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 form.

II. MINUTES

The minutes of the June 12, 2012, meeting, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Shink, seconded by Commissioner Davis, with Commissioner Palmieri abstaining.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Tripp Mills, director of resident services at West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, spoke about the agency's programs, and provided a handout with current information on their properties and residents. About 70% of residents in their facilities age over the age of 50.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CENTER FOR CIVIC MEDIATION

Octavio Olivas provided an update on actions being taken by the Center for Civic Mediation to address the probationary status given to them after the mid-year report. He said the agency has been working with city staff; considering an intake day at West Hollywood Park in consultation with JFS; distributing new flyers; placing information in the city newsletter; and other steps.

Commissioner Zangrando said it would be helpful to get the most recent possible information in the agenda packets, rather than a report that is a month behind. Commissioners discussed several aspects of the agency's performance, including whether any of its services overlapped with other agencies, or with the city's own mediator.

B. KLEAN RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

David Giugni provided an update about the Klean Residential Substance Abuse Treatment facility in West Hollywood. This is an in-patient program which is providing some bed availability under an agreement with the City. The facility is for both women and men, has multiple licenses, and provides treatment, detox, family, and outpatient services. It is a for-profit operation. Daphne Dennis and David Giugni toured the facility in May.

C. AGENCY DISCUSSION

Three agencies providing employment services described their operations and responded to questions from the Commission. Speakers were: Drían Juarez and Mariana Marroquín from the LA Gay and Lesbian Center's Transgender Economic Empowerment Project; Simon Costello from LA Gay and Lesbian Center's Children, Youth and Family Services; and David Kruskall from JVS West Hollywood Employment Services and Training (WHEST).

David Kruskall spoke about the impact of WHEST's new location at the West Hollywood Library, which has brought many inquiries and new participants, as well as volunteer assistance. He said about 80 percent of persons accessing the program are West Hollywood residents. Many have multiple issues in addition to employment considerations, and therefore the agency is prepared to refer them to further assistance.

Simon Costello spoke about the new component for youth employment in their program, which has had about 1,000 participants, of which about 200 were affiliated with West Hollywood.

Drían Juarez and Mariana Marroquín said they see clients who range in age from 19 to 60, and described the multiple challenges facing a transgender person who needs assistance with employment.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. ENTERTAINMENT SHUTTLE

Daphne Dennis said that City Council was provided with estimated costs and options regarding the idea of having an entertainment shuttle service on Santa Monica and Sunset boulevards. As it develops, the proposal may focus more on tourism and economic development, so the Economic Development Division will probably be taking a lead on this. The Council will consider further information on routes, ridership, sponsorships, and types of vehicles.

Commissioner Cislowski asked if there is any way to generate revenue for social services programs from the shuttle service.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Davis said he would like for the Commission to have an opportunity to discuss its focus and priorities before beginning the new funding process, particularly if the Council is going to adopt an increase in funding for social services. He said community members have been speaking to him about the televised meeting of the Commission last month.

Commissioner Shink spoke about the She discussion group, which meets tomorrow, and thanked Councilmember D'Amico and other members of Council for supporting this. She spoke about the Aug. 25 Making Strides breast cancer awareness event, and asked that the meeting being adjourned in memory of her best friend, Donna Isman, who passed away 15 years ago tomorrow from ovarian cancer.

Commissioner Shepard said the aging of the gay and lesbian population should be a consideration in social services programming. Commissioners discussed ways to encourage agencies to propose services the City would particularly like to provide.

Commissioner Zangrando asked that a discussion of whether to hold a retreat be taken up as an agenda item at the next opportunity.

Commissioner Williams attended the Disabilities Advisory Board, which received a presentation from Library staff. She is running in a 5K for APLA on Sunday. She spoke about the Aug. 25 breast cancer event, and thanked Larissa Fooks and City interns for helping produce the College Fair held recently, which featured more than 20 schools as well as panels, a DJ, and food trucks.

Commissioner Palmieri spoke about the Tribe discussion group and thanked Councilmember D'Amico and Council Deputy Michelle Rex for working on this. He said he had spoken recently with Dr. Michael Gottlieb about the difficulties MediCal patients with HIV are having in transferring care as required by the state. He said Tweakers Project has distributed 98,000 condoms already this year, including about 15,000 at the Pride festival. He noted reports that Gad Beck, 88, believed to be the last gay Holocaust survivor, has died in Berlin.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

David Giugni spoke about the HIV/substance abuse treatment providers' collaborative meeting to be held on July 25.

Jeff Book asked if commissioners knew their availability in August. A majority indicated that they will not be able to attend the Commission then, so the August 2012 meeting was cancelled.

Daphne Dennis said that homeless referral cards have been updated, and will be distributed at City Hall, the Sheriff's office, parks, agencies, and other locations. Also, there is an electronic waste disposal and document shredding event this weekend, and August 7 is National Night Out.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. in memory of Donna S. Isman.

Signed:



Mark Zangrando, Chair

09-11-12
Date