

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – APRIL 9, 2013
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Steven L. Davis at 6:10 p.m., Tuesday, April 9, 2013, in the City Council Chambers at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

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. Staff members present included Daphne Dennis, David Giugni, Corri Planck, 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.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on items others than those on the agenda.

IV. **PUBLIC HEARING**

The public was invited to comment on social services needs in the community. The following people presented remarks: (1) Kevin Kurth, Being Alive; (2) Craig Taylor, Being Alive; (3) Mark Jackson, Being Alive; (4) Daniel Robion, Being Alive; (5) Roger Coggan, Gay & Lesbian Center Legal Services; (6) Drían Juarez, Gay & Lesbian Center Transgender Economic Empowerment Project; (7) Marco Miranda, Gay & Lesbian Center Legal Services; (8) Mariana Marroquín, Gay & Lesbian Center; (9) Elsa Johnson, Gay & Lesbian Center; and (10) Melissa Tillman, NCJW/Los Angeles.

Followed by: (11) Stevie Aceti, a fifth-grad student; (12) Claudia Aceti, his mother; (13) Ava Rose, Women Helping Women; (14) Cynthia Haas, Women Helping Women; (15) Nikki Hemans, Women Helping Women; (16) Diane Schneider, JFS Food and Nutrition program; (17) Kimberly Hyde-Schmitt, client of JFS Nutrition

program; (18) Ruth Gamba, client of JFS Nutrition program; (19) Velinda Mackey, Bet Tzedek Legal Services; and (20) Alla Chasnack, Bet Tzedek Legal Services.

Then: (21) Fred Summers, director of operations, SOVA Food Pantry; (22) Marina Berkman, Jewish Family Service; (23) Maribel Ulloa, Aid for AIDS; (24) Christian Peitsman, CEO of Gay Senior Services; (25) Tripp Mills, director of resident services, West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation; (26) Dahlia Ferlito, Friends Research Institute; (27) Raymond Jimenez, Friends Research Institute; (28) Alvy Rangel, Friends Research Institute; (29) Todd Cosper, Friends Research Institute; and (30) Arthur Rome, Substance Abuse Foundation of Long Beach.

Further: (31) Monique Center, Substance Abuse Foundation of Long Beach; (32) Dave Worley, grant writer for Substance Abuse Foundation of Long Beach; (33) Zoya Gelshteyn, with translation by Marina Berkman; (34) Sunnie Rose, executive director of The Life Group LA; (35) Kathleen Sullivan, Gay & Lesbian Center Senior Services; (36) Christine Chouchanian, Aviva Family and Children's Services; (37) Adriana Michelle Davalos, Aviva Family and Children's Services, who is also Miss Los Angeles Latina 2013; (38) Jon Lingner, Jewish Family Services; (39) Duane Dennis, executive director of Pathways L.A. (West Hollywood Pre-School); and (40) Glenn Lindsay, Gay & Lesbian Center clinical services.

Also: (41) Kris Nameth, Gay & Lesbian Center Youth Services; (42) Joey Fink, Gay & Lesbian Center Youth Services; (43) Ray Beaty, St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, Hollywood; (44) Leland Keel, Institute for Multicultural Counseling and Education Services [IMCES]; (45) Jacklin Mizrahi, Center for Civic Mediation, with Octavio Olivas, Center for Civic Mediation; (46) Carolyn Hardiman, client of West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center; (47) David Kruskall, Jewish Vocational Service's West Hollywood Employment Service & Training program (WHEST); (48) Agnes Seenassy, participant in JVS WHEST program; (49) Dan Kozlowski, client of JVS WHEST; and (50) Lee Baxter, client of JVS WHEST.

Concluding with: (51) Chris Brown, Gay & Lesbian Center Health Services; (52) Dustin Kerrone, Gay & Lesbian Center HIV/STD testing program; (53) Mike Smith, volunteer at The Spot; (54) Jeff Bailey, AIDS Project Los Angeles; (55) Herman Osorio, PATH; and (56) Steve Wayland, PAWS L.A.

Commissioner Cislowski thanked all the people who provided public comment, and the social services agencies for the work they do for the people of the city.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Shepard said it was great to hear the overview of programs that the public hearing on social services provides.

Commissioner Shink spoke about the upcoming Women's Leadership Conference.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the 'Tribe' group, and requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of his stepfather, Roy Turnbull, who was married to his mother for 37 years.

Commissioner Zangrando spoke about the statistics on income mentioned in the remarks by Fred Summers. Daphne Dennis said the City doesn't yet have a breakout of this information by target population, but will have one soon.

Commissioner Williams spoke about the 'She' group, and about National Volunteer Month, and thanked staff for helping a neighbor get access to services.

Commissioner Palmieri greeted Council Deputy Michelle Rex and asked whether the Community Study had shown that the HIV rate in West Hollywood is significantly higher than in Los Angeles County as a whole. Daphne Dennis said it did.

Commissioner Cislowski asked whether all the agencies that may apply to be social services contractors were represented in the public comment. Daphne Dennis said not all of them were, and that there had been no requirement that they speak this evening. Staff will check with agencies that didn't have representatives speaking tonight, to see whether they are proceeding in the RFP process.

Commissioner Williams noted that the speaker from Substance Abuse Foundation in Long Beach said it's hard for people to stay sober in the West Hollywood community.

Commissioner Shepard spoke about a friend who has been off methamphetamine for nine months due to a program which his insurance helped pay for, although it also cost the individual a lot. He said the friend had been unaware of city-sponsored programming in this regard, and wondered how communication can be improved so more members of the public are aware.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

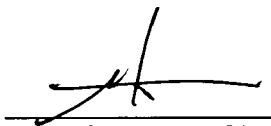
David Giugni said the Kids Fair will be held the last Saturday of April at West Hollywood Park, from 10 am to 2 pm.

Daphne Dennis said Senior Month activities in May will include the awards luncheon at the House of Blues, the Senior Health Fair, and many others. She also said the Community Study was presented to the last meeting of City Council, and that a WeHo TV interview with the group that conducted the study has been completed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm, in memory of Roy Turnbull.

Signed:



Ruth Cislowski, Chair
Stewart L. Davis

5-10-15
Date