

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – JULY 16, 2013
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Ruth Cislowski at 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, July 16, 2013, in the City Council Chambers at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steven L. Davis.

B. **ROLL CALL**

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

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff members present included Elizabeth Savage, Director, Department of Human Services and Rent Stabilization; Daphne Dennis, David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, 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.

II. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Twenty-four people addressed the Commission with regard to Social Services funding for 2013-2016. They were: 1. Mary Kirchen, Housing Works. 2. Roger Coggan, LA Gay & Lesbian Center Legal Services. 3. Drian Juarez, LA Gay & Lesbian Center Transgender Economic Empowerment Project (TEEP). 4. Diane Schneider, JFS LA homebound meal program. 5. Heidi Schroeder, client of homebound meals program. 6. John Keitel, client of homebound meals program. 7. Jennifer Lundahl, Substance Abuse Foundation. 8. Dave Wehrly, Substance Abuse Foundation. 9. Sean Kyle Smith, on behalf of Substance Abuse Foundation. 10. Samuel Lloyd, client of Substance Abuse Foundation. 11. Monique Center, Substance Abuse Foundation. 12. Hillary Selvin, National Council of Jewish Women.

Also, 13. Elissa Barrett, Bet Tzedek Legal Services. 14. Glenn Lindsay, LA Gay & Lesbian Center mental health program. 15. Mike Rizzo, LA Gay & Lesbian Center mental health program. 16. Marina Berkman, JFS Comprehensive Services Center. 17. Maribel Ulloa, Aid for AIDS. 18. Leland Keel, IMCES. 19. Dr. Tara Pir, IMCES.

20. Sergey Sergeyev, Saban Free Clinic. 21. Brian Hardin, McIntyre House. 22. Joel Roberts, PATH. 23. Brett Holland, WeHo Life. 24. Joey Marangello, Tarzana Treatment Center.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING

Daphne Dennis reviewed the process which has brought the Commission to the point of making recommendations to the City Council for Social Services funding for 2013-2016, focusing on the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2013. After the Council acts, Social Services staff will negotiate scopes of services with the individual agencies.

The staff recommendations regarding current agencies were: Aid for AIDS, \$94,662. APLA Positive Self Management/Back to Life, \$184,634. APLA Dental, \$81,613. AVIVA Family & Children's Services, \$33,951. Being Alive, \$100,264. Bet Tzedek Legal Services, \$117,740. Center for Civic Mediation, \$0. Friends – HIV Education, \$113,928. Friends – Outpatient, \$110,030. GLC Legal, \$0. GLC Mental Health, \$143,869. GLC Sexual Health Program, \$214,224. GLC Transgender, \$79,963. GLC WeHo Life, \$125,000. GLC Youth, \$110,429. JFS Comprehensive Services, \$798,356. JFS Nutrition, \$383,643. JFS SOVA, \$109,933. JVS WHEST, \$186,929. McIntyre House, \$69,855. NCJW – Light Up a Library, \$19,091. NCJW Women Helping Women (including rental assistance loan program), \$124,000. PATH, \$334,579 (plus approximately \$30,000 in CDBG funds). Pathways, \$92,936. PAWS/LA, \$53,696. Project Angel Food, \$69,033. Saban Free Clinic, \$184,593. St. Thomas the Apostle Church, \$19,455.

Staff recommendations regarding new applicants were: Anka Behavioral Health, \$0. Assistance League, \$0. Chiron Center, \$0. Frontiers Foundation, \$15,000. Housing Works, \$50,000. IMCES, \$0. GLC Seniors, \$45,000. LA HIV Law & Policy Project, \$25,000. Project Chicken Soup, \$0. Substance Abuse Foundation, Tarzana Detox, and Tarzana Housing, combined as a pool of \$125,048, with funds to be available for per-bed-night reimbursement, at the County-approved rate of \$237 for detox, and \$112-40 for levels of residential treatment.

The total of staff recommendations was \$4,216,454, which is the amount indicated as available in the budget. The current grant total is \$3,889,073. Total funds requested by applicants were \$8,817,318.

Commissioner Cislowski thanked applicants, staff, and Commission members for their work on the process, and said she would like for the Commission to take a 5-minute break before making a final vote on recommendations, to allow each member time to review before finalizing.

Commissioner Zangrando moved to accept the staff recommendations for the purpose of discussion. This was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Commissioner Davis said he would like to make these changes: Increase

Housing Works by \$26,500 (in comparison to staff recommendation); increase Frontiers by \$10,000; increase WHW rental assistance loan by \$10,000; decrease PATH by \$26,500; and decrease WHEST by \$20,000.

Commissioner Zangrando said he would like to increase WHW rental assistance loan by \$10,000; increase McIntyre House by \$10,000; and reduce PATH by \$20,000.

Commissioner Palmieri said he would like to increase Housing Works by \$26,500; increase Frontiers by \$10,000; increase Bet Tzedek by \$10,000; and increase McIntyre House by \$8,000, with funds decreased for WHEST (by \$20,000) and PATH (by \$39,519).

Commissioner Williams said she supported the changes recommended by Commissioner Davis.

Commissioner Shink said she would like to see GLC Seniors fully funded at \$63,219, and supports an increase for WHW rental assistance loan program.

Commissioner Oldershaw said he supported increasing Housing Works by \$20,000; increasing McIntyre House; increasing Frontiers to \$25,000 or \$30,000; and reducing path to \$300,000, which would be a reduction of \$34,579.

Commissioner Cislowski said she would increase Frontiers by \$10,000 and consider reducing PATH by \$10,000. She said there may be mid-year savings from contracts, which have often been re-programmed for urgent funds and rental assistance in the past.

Several commissioners spoke favorably about Project Chicken Soup.

Commissioner Davis presented a combined proposal of decreasing PATH by \$39,519; decreasing WHEST by \$20,000; increasing Frontiers by \$10,000; increasing WHW rental assistance loan program by \$10,000; and increasing Housing Works by \$11,200.

Commissioner Cislowski conducted a straw poll of members, to see how many supported increasing or decreasing certain agencies' recommendations. There were 7 for increasing Frontiers; and at least 6 for increasing McIntyre House; 6 for increasing Housing Works; 4 for increasing WHW rental assistance loan; 2 for increasing GLC Seniors, as well as 7 for decreasing PATH, and at least 3 for decreasing WHEST.

Commissioner Davis then presented a revised combined proposal, consisting of decreasing PATH by \$34,579; decreasing WHEST by \$20,000; increasing Frontiers by \$10,000; increasing WHW rental assistance loan by \$10,000; increasing McIntyre House by \$10,000; increasing GLC Seniors by \$14,579; and increasing Housing Works by \$10,000.

Commissioner Shink moved the revised combined proposal as an amendment to the motion on the floor. This was seconded by Commissioner Zangrando.

The Commission then took a 5-minute break.

Upon returning from the break, the amendment to the motion was approved unanimously, and the main motion was then approved unanimously.

Daphne Dennis said staff would concur in the changes made by the Commission, so the item will go to the City Council as a joint recommendation by staff and a unanimous vote of the Commission. She said the item will probably go to Council at the Sept. 16 meeting. Elizabeth Savage said that people who are unable to attend the Council meeting due to the Jewish holidays may submit written comments to Council, prior to the meeting.

During the discussion, commissioners thanked applicants and staff for their work in the process. Daphne Dennis thanked staff also, saying the evaluation of the proposals was a team effort.

Commissioner Cislowski asked that a discussion of the funding process be included on the next Commission agenda, so that insights about what works can be memorialized for those who will be conducting the next process.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Cislowski said there is a public safety event at Plummer Park on July 20.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Daphne Dennis noted the E-Waste event at City Hall this week, and David Giugni said the HIV prevention providers collaborative will meet on July 24.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Council Deputy Michelle Rex spoke about the remarkable extent of commitment and effort by the commissioners, who are seven volunteers who have spent an enormous amount of time and energy on the funding process. She thanked each of them on behalf of Mayor Pro Tem John D'Amico and herself.

David Stern, executive director of the Frontiers Awareness & Education Foundation, thanked the Commission for its consideration and recommendation, and discussed some aspects of programming the foundation will be pursuing.

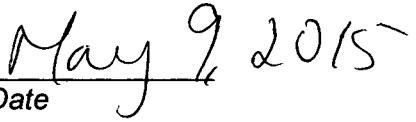
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cislowski asked that the meeting be adjourned in the name of the social services providers, and Commissioner Shink asked that it be adjourned in memory of Arline Land, the mother of Mayor Abbe Land. The meeting was then adjourned, at 8:45 pm.

Signed:



Ruth Cislowski, Chair



Date