

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2003**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chair Ann Semonco called the Meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Michael Arrigo, Rob Bergstein, Norman Cherner,
Yola Dore, Joel Ring and Ann Semonco

EXCUSED: Ed Ahern and Suzanne Dietrich

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff Liaisons David Giugni and Kim Patterson

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Semonco moved to table the discussion of liaisons and subcommittees to the June meeting, after the May DAB appointments are made. Approved the Agenda of April 9, 2003.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approved the amended minutes of March 9, 2003.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Susan Alexman, Director of the Comprehensive Services Center, introduced Daniel Tang, the new Disability Specialist.

Howard Armstead, a person living with AIDS for over 20 years, spoke about selenium, an inexpensive supplement that could prolong disease-free intervals, but is not widely available because the drug companies can't make a big profit from it.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Real-Time Captioning:** David Giugni introduced Sandy Eisenberg from Total Recall who demonstrated her service throughout the meeting.
- B. **“Visions of West Hollywood” Art Exhibit:** Rob Bergstein said that he still had the same concerns that the proposed resolution seems inclusionary if there is a special request for “disabled art”. He prefers that the disabled community be made aware of the exhibit and are encouraged to participate, along with all other members of the community. He moved to vote on the resolution and Yola Dore seconded it. All, but Norman Cherner voted against the resolution, and Mr. Cherner abstained.
- C. **Social Services Agency presentations:** Mr. Giugni solicited suggestions from the DAB for agency presentations at the DAB meetings. After discussion, the DAB agreed to let Mr. Giugni decide on the first presentation and then the DAB will make a plan for the future meetings.
- D. **Decomposed Granite:** After discussion, Mr. Bergstein moved to vote on the proposed resolution and Joel Ring seconded it. All opposed the resolution as is. Mr. Bergstein will bring a revised version to the May meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Rancho Los Amigos:** This is the only medical facility in the area that accepts non-insured for traumatic disabling injuries. Because of the enormous budget shortfalls, the hospital is slated for closure. Ms. Dore moved to accept Mr. Cherner’s amended resolution to urge the City Council to support continued funding of Rancho Los Amigos, Mr. Bergstein seconded, and all approved.
- B. **SB 921:** Ms. Dore encouraged the DAB to consider a resolution in support of SB 921 for universal health care for Californians. Members of the DAB feel that the issue is

complex and would like more information, with both pro & con presentations and a packet distributed two weeks before the next meeting with point-by-point highlights. Mr. Bergstein moved to table the discussion and Michael Arrigo seconded. All approved, except Ms. Dore who abstained.

C. Disability Awareness Month 2003: Mr. Cherner asked to set up a subcommittee so that preparations for these October activities wouldn't be last minute. The DAB will finalize the subcommittee in May after the DAB appointments have been made.

9. DISABILITY RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Bergstein raised a concern that a friend who requested Home Delivered meals from Jewish Family Services was told that they are not adequate for non-Seniors, that they are not served on a temporary basis. Mr. Bergstein also noted that the meals are not free.

Ms. Semonco raised concerns about the construction on Santa Monica & Fairfax and will keep the DAB apprised of those developments.

Ms. Dore raised two issues: 1) that crime is up and 2) that there are problems with traffic lights at two corners. Mr. Bergstein suggested that the complaints be raised to the Transportation Committee which handles traffic lights.

Mr. Cherner updated the DAB about the woman who at the last meeting raised complaints about Access Services. He asked her to document her problems to see if there is a pattern. He will keep the DAB informed of any developments with this.

10. STAFF COMMENTS:

Mr. Giugni announced that there will be a memorial service for long-time City employee, Ralph Winter on Sunday, April 13.

He also announced that the DAB members need to call Leslie Sims at x332 to let the City Clerk's office know if they're interested in reapplying for the DAB.

He reported that the Human Services Commission wants to know if the DAB would be interested in a Joint Study Session prior to the awarding of the next cycle of Social Services contracts (in 1 ½ years). The DAB expressed interest in participating in this.

Lastly, Mr. Giugni offered to collect the "Declaration of Support" for the National Housing Trust Fund which was enclosed in the DAB packets. Mr. Cherner suggested that a speaker address the DAB on this issue. The DAB decided to discuss in May the possibility of having a speaker at a future meeting.

11.PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Michael Sidler distributed an 8-page report and addressed the DAB. The DAB members felt that they needed time to read the report and Ms. Sidler said that they could call her to speak about her issues.

12.ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chair Semonco adjourned the Disabilities Advisory Board meeting to the next meeting on **Wednesday, May 14, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center at Plummer Park.**

G: human/soc-svcs/misc/dab/minutes-0403

Ann D Semonco