

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 9, 2003
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Peter Mackler at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 9, 2003, in the Community Conference Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven Davis, Teresa DeCrescenzo, Ponsella Gratton, Dr. Bill Griffin, Peter Mackler, Shirley Roberts.

Excused: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Diane Kahn-Epstein, 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 for July 8, 2003, were approved, on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Commissioners Gratton and Roberts abstained.

III. INSTALLATION

City Clerk Tom West administered the oath of office to Commissioner Shirley Roberts, who returns to the commission after a brief hiatus. He declared her installed to a new term.

Mayor Pro Tempore John Duran also welcomed Commissioner Roberts back, and noted that this could be a hard year for budget decisions in light of the state's fiscal situation. If

revenues are taken away and not replaced, the city could face cutbacks of 5 to 15 percent, he said.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public at this time.

The meeting moved next to Item VI-A, Social Services Contract Renewals.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWALS

Daphne Dennis presented the report on contract renewals, including funding levels recommended. Probation was recommended for APLA's social marketing campaign, LA Shanti's City Project, LA Shanti's Wendy's Hope, and Psych. Trauma Center.

Commissioner Davis said he would like to see APLA more frequently, and requested they be scheduled for October and December.

Public comment was received from Tony Stately and Pato Herbert of APLA; Marc Hauptert of Shanti; Rosalyne Blumenstein, MSW, of Wendy's Hope; Robert Halsey of City Project; Kevin Kurth of Being Alive; William Buycks and Sam Colquitt of PATH; Katherine Kobylak of Women Helping Women; and David Helie of DRS.

Also, from Dana Cagle and Roger Coggan of GLC Legal Services; Jeff Bailey and Tripp Mills of GLC; Mitch Kamin of Bet Tzedek; Rachel Bercovic of JFS; Helen Levin of Russian Community Center; Tiffany Horton of The Spot; and Karen Moll.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo asked if the commission could hear the specific philosophy behind the treatment of relapse, with regard to what harm reduction model is used, and how it is implemented. This will be scheduled.

It was moved by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and approved 7 to 0, to accept staff recommendations for funding, with APLA's social marketing campaign placed on a bi-monthly schedule of reporting to the commission.

The meeting then moved to Item IX.

IX. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Due to the appointment of Commissioner John D'Amico to a different city board, a vacancy existed in the position of Vice Chair. Commissioner DeCrescenzo nominated Commissioner Cislowski to serve as Vice Chair. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted to close nominations and declare Commissioner Cislowski elected.

The meeting then returned to agenda Item V.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. YEAR-END REPORT ON SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

Diane Kahn-Epstein presented the year-end report on school-based programs, which were also present to discuss their programs and results. Public comment was received from Nancy Stafskey, a therapist from Psychological Trauma Center; Suzanne Silverstein, also of Psychological Trauma Center; Carol Henault of Light Up a Library; and Vernetta Tobierre of Aviva Family & Children's Services at Gardner Elementary.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Roberts spoke about The Wall/Las Memorias, where a rally will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12. The project is at 3540 Mission Road, at Lincoln Park.

In response to a question from Commissioner Mackler, Lloyd Long spoke about the expanded role of the Fine Arts Commission.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Lloyd Long said a Council item will be submitted in October to schedule election of officers for the Human Services Commission in November. This would be a waiver from new rules setting a different date for the election.

Daphne Dennis introduced new Social Services staff member Leslie Isenberg, who was previously with the Public Safety division of the city.

Staff noted the West Hollywood Book Fair is coming up.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items from the public.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 14, 2003, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

Signed: 
Steven L. Davis

Attest:


