

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – JUNE 29, 2000
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Commissioner Steven Davis at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 29, 2000, in the West Hollywood Park Auditorium, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ruth Cislowski, John D’Amico, Steven Davis, Teresa DeCrescenzo, Dr. Bill Griffin, Peter Mackler
Excused: Shirley Roberts
Absent: none

A quorum was present at all times. Commissioner Cislowski arrived during roll call and assumed the chair. Mayor Jeffrey Prang was present for part of the meeting. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Tom West, Tamar Springer, 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. Commissioner Cislowski noted the purpose of the meeting, which is to provide an opportunity for discussion among commissioners regarding funding, target populations, and direction to staff prior to staff’s preparation of funding recommendations for social services programs.

As noted on the agenda, a public hearing will be opened later in this meeting, and then continued to a meeting on July 11, 2000, in the same location. Due to the anticipated number of speakers, persons who address the Commission tonight will not be asked to speak again on July 11.

II. STUDY SESSION

Daphne Dennis provided a brief overview of the process and timeframe for social services program decisions, including review of proposals, Commission and Council action on proposals, and negotiation and execution of contracts for commencement of services in October 2000.

Commissioners reviewed the overall goals for their discussion.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo said the proposals were well written and good, and that in the absence of unlimited funding, the question will be critical review of the issues to determine which programs are needed the most, and will meet needs the best.

Commissioner Griffin said in reviewing the proposals his concerns include whether there was duplication of effort, whether programs would actually reach the clients targeted by the City, whether there were direct benefits to residents, the actual number of resident served, whether services would go to those outside the community, the relation between requested funding level and service level, and any unexplained increase or decrease in funding. He reviewed these with regard to AIDS/HIV, seniors, children/teens, adult addiction, and miscellaneous programs. He also asked what WHEST's expertise in employment programs is, since that is not their agency's major focus.

Commissioner Cislowski said she felt the proposals were very good, and was glad to see some new ones included. She would have liked to see more attention to what agencies do when they are unable to help a client with a particular issue, and whether there is follow-up and referral at those times. She was concerned about duplication of effort, and regarded helping people stay in their homes as a positive goal for health- and senior-related services.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo said she reviewed the proposals from a technical viewpoint, as well as for content. She said she felt substance abuse and mental health issues underlie so many other social service-related issues in the community.

Commissioner D'Amico expressed reservations about who is being served by employment and training services, since unemployment is currently below five percent, and there is a high demand for workers.

Commissioner Davis said that if funding is increased in a particular area, it should be in substance abuse, because other issues, including the spread of HIV and other STD's, is closely linked to, or influenced by, substance abuse.

Daphne Dennis noted that we do permit funded agencies to use our funding to fill in gaps that are not covered in other grants and funding. With regard to JVS (WHEST), she said that Jewish Family Services was founded as part of the community services outreach of the Jewish community, but is today entirely nonsectarian in provision of social services.

There was a five-minute break.

Commissioner Cislowski noted common themes among the commissioner's remarks. First among them seemed to be concern for substance abuse and HIV/AIDS, followed by targeted job training, homelessness, seniors, and mental health, and then the Russian community, children and teens, and other programs.

With regard to duplication of effort, Daphne Dennis asked whether commissioners had any specific examples in mind. Commissioner D'Amico mentioned STD/HIV prevention.

Daphne Dennis asked what type of innovative new services the Commission would like to see, especially with regard to substance abuse and prevention. Commissioner DeCrescenzo spoke about reaching young people in their own media, including rap music. Commissioner Cislowski suggested a comprehensive approach that would influence the cultural signals on certain things, such as by making it a positive thing to decline to abuse substances, or to use STD prevention measures. Commissioner Griffin mentioned peer-to-peer counseling.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING 2000-2002

A public hearing on social services funding for 2000-2002 was opened by the chair.

Wendy Douglas, program manager for the STD clinic at the Gay & Lesbian Center, addressed the commission.

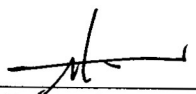
There were no other speakers at this time.

The public hearing was continued open to a special meeting for that purpose, to be held on Tuesday, July 11.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

A public hearing on social services programming will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2000, in West Hollywood Park Auditorium, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood. A special meeting for Commission action on social services programming will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2000, in the same venue.

Signed: 
Steven L. Davis

Attest:

