

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – MAY 13, 2008**  
**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL**

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Chuck Henry at 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2008, in the Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Sims.

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Cislowski, Steven L. Davis, Debra Farmer, Charles Henry, Shirley Roberts, Hywel Sims, Mark Zangrando.

Not Present: None.

A quorum was present at all times. Staff members present included Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; David Giugni, Leslie Isenberg, Craig Rhea, 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 of the April 15, 2008, meeting were corrected to reflect in Item IV.A. that the agency would try to meet the goal, but knew it would be difficult to do so. The minutes as amended were then approved on a motion by Commissioner Farmer, seconded by Commissioner Sims.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Linda Simitian of the Gay & Lesbian Center's The Spot reported on trends in their HIV testing, STD screening, and treatment programs.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **REPORT FROM AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION / STD TESTING**

Mark Lanyon of AIDS Healthcare Foundation reported they reached 88% of their goal last month. He introduced Jimmy Ramos, new program manager for mobile testing.

B. SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM PRIORITIES FOR 2008-2010

Daphne Dennis reviewed a staff memorandum and community input toward these priorities, which indicated strong interest in case management services; outreach to break cycles of homelessness; HIV/STD prevention, testing, and treatment; and mental health services, among others. She also reviewed information about anticipated cuts in social services funding from other sources.

Commissioners discussed whether new approaches and directions will be proposed; the recurring issue of affordable housing and how it affects social needs; whether target populations have changed over the years; recognition of the transgender population as a target; whether agencies can be realistic about service levels if they are unsure how much other funding may be cut; and asking agencies how they would collaborate with other agencies to improve services.

There was consensus about adding substance users/abusers as a target category, and also medical needs.

Public speakers included Josh Riley of Friends Research institute, Karen Bhangoo, and Helen Levin.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. RELEASE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Commissioner Henry suggested improved wording in the introductory section and with reference to collaboration on page 14 of the proposed RFP document; Commissioner Davis spoke about follow-up on referrals, so that people aren't referred to an agency and then lost if they do not follow through; and Commissioner Sims spoke about coordinating the evaluation wording on page 6 to match other adjustments made.

B. ORGANIZATION OF RFP REVIEW MEETING

Daphne Dennis spoke about the processes used in social services contracting since cityhood. Commissioner Cislowski asked for agency annual reports to be sent along with the box of proposals; for food to be aside for commissioners; and for comfortable chairs to be available in the conference room. Commissioner Sims recommended a timer that is clearly audible. Commissioner Cislowski asked for commissioners to let staff know about questions for agencies ahead of time, so the agencies can be more likely to be prepared. Commissioner Henry said agencies should send senior personnel who are able to address the work of the entire agency. Commissioners asked for agencies to speak in reverse alphabetical order, with new agencies grouped together, and time divided by groups of agencies.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Craig Rhea said three high school students will be honored at City Council on June 2 – two from Fairfax High, and one from Birmingham, a magnet program. Leslie Isenberg

thanked the Commission for their support of the "In Our Global Village" program. Daphne Dennis said the fiscal monitor has prepared a report on Van Ness Recovery House, which will be coming to the commission.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Commissioner Cislowski said she has a new job with Community Care at Home, and in the future will be recusing herself from decisions on vocational contracting.

Commissioner Sims spoke about the senior luncheon and ballroom dancing, and a recent forum sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the gay men's health forum at Plummer Park.

Commissioner Zangrando asked about a newsletter on the capital campaign.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC


There were no additional items.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next regular meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10, 2008.

Signed:   
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Steven L. Davis

Attest:

  
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