

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – APRIL 15, 2008
PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Chuck Henry at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 15, 2008, in West Hollywood Park Auditorium, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, CA.

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 Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; 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 8, 2008, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cislowski.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no speakers.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

AIDS Healthcare Foundation reported that it had exceeded some goals as shown in the monthly report provided in the packet. Craig Rhea said performance went up significantly with the addition of the pharmacy site. Commissioner Henry asked if the agency expected to reach its 100% goal for the year, and the agency said it was its aim to do so.

B. DISCUSSION WITH L.A. GAY & LESBIAN CENTER

Darrel Cummings spoke about how the Center looks at funding sources with an eye toward having one funding stream serve as leverage for additional funding, to create the most extensive combination possible. He said this enables the agency to provide services to West Hollywood community members beyond those that are funded by the City of West Hollywood.

The transgender program is in its second year and has had some successes and some challenges, he said. He noted they recently lost Lynn Bridges as the program director, and have decided to move the program into the Legal Services area. He said the Center is absolutely intent on providing services to the transgender community, and having increased transgender representation on staff.

Commissioners posed a variety of questions, including whether the Center had discovered ways to change the program in light of experience (Mr. Cummings said all the pieces of the program exist and must be brought together, that they are working to identify staff to do this, and that housing and other services must be part of the picture); why Lynn Bridges left (Mr. Cummings said he was unable to respond for legal reasons); what plans exist to replace her (Mr. Cummings said they intended to, not only for this program, but also for the mental health and medical programs); as well as what is happening with the program right now.

Mr. Cummings introduced David Lee, who is visiting the Center from China. He spoke about human rights for gay and lesbian people in China.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REALLOCATION OF CONTRACT SAVINGS

Without objection, the meeting moved to Item V.A. next. Daphne Dennis said there were 9 submissions for reallocated funds, and 4 were being brought forward by staff: (1) urgent fund at Comprehensive Services Center, for \$15,438; (2) The Spot / GLC sexual health program, for \$12,562; (3) PATH housing locator, for \$30,000; and (4) PAWS/LA, for \$5,000.

Commissioners discussed the priorities to be used in reducing the 9 submissions to a smaller number that could be funded, and compared the needs of various programs and opportunities.

There were remarks from (1) Dustin Kerone on behalf of The Spot; (2) Mark Walker, for Rainbow Bridge; (3) Michael Ralke for Rainbow Bridge; (4) Joe Amico for Rainbow Bridge; (5) Sylvia Gutierrez for PATH; (6) Marina Berkman for JFS Comprehensive Services Center; and (7) Steve Wayland for PAWS L.A.

After further discussion, Commissioner Farmer moved to increase the JFS allocation by \$5,000 over the staff recommendation, and move the funds recommended for the PATH locator program to Rainbow Bridge instead, for a combined funding of \$20,438 to JFS; \$12,562 to The Spot; \$25,000 to Rainbow Bridge; and \$5,000 to PAWS. This was seconded by Commissioner Davis and approved.

After a brief break, Item VI.A. was postponed to a later meeting.

IV. C. SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The next meeting will focus on priority setting. Commissioner Henry asked the commissioners to review the staff memorandum on this.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

The item for reallocated funds will go to City Council on May 5.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

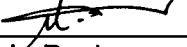
Commissioner Zangrando spoke about the Kids Fair, held last Saturday.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Davis noted that April 15, 2008, marks the 23rd anniversary of his diagnosis with HIV, which occurred April 15, 1985. At his request the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. in memory of the many people who have not survived HIV/ AIDS, as well as celebration of those who have.

Signed: 

Steven L. Davis

Attest: