

**WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – APRIL 11, 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 6:08 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, 2000, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, 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. Commissioners Cislowski and DeCrescenzo joined the meeting in progress. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Division; 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of March 14, 2000, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Mackler.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

AA. ASSEMBLY BILL 2034

An item concerning Assembly Bill 2034, concerning mental health funding, was added to the agenda on a finding that action on the matter was urgent, and that the need for action had arisen after the completion of the agenda. The motion to add

the item was by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and was unanimously passed.

Daphne Dennis presented information on AB 2034, which would revise service standards for mental health programs by including transition youth, as defined, within the target population, and implement additional service standards.

Commissioner Mackler moved to support AB 2034, with a proviso, as recommended by Commissioner DeCrescenzo, that staff follow up to confirm that the bill is supported by NASW. This was seconded by Commissioner Davis, and unanimously passed.

A. STATUS REPORT ON GLC MENTAL HEALTH, STD CLINIC, AND YOUTH

The GLC mental health, STD clinic, and youth services programs had been invited to provide a monthly update on their activities.

Garrison Smith of LAGLC Youth Services noted that this month's outreach was 327, higher than their goal of 225. He invited commissioners to Youth Services' monthly barbeques, held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month.

He noted new beautification being completed at the Center with the assistance of DreamWorks SKG, discussed the formation of a FTM (female-to-male) transgender group, and reviewed the ongoing work of support groups.

Jeff Bailey reported for the STD Clinic in the absence of Wendy Douglas, and focused on the recently reported outbreak of syphilis, now totaling 52 cases of male-to-male origin. The figure is astonishing because there are usually only 100 reported cases of syphilis in Los Angeles each year, virtually all of heterosexual origin, and because there have been only eight reported cases of male-to-male origin in the last decade. Two-thirds of the recent cases have involved people who are HIV positive. He noted the clinic is open for STD testing, including syphilis, and that Los Angeles County will be funding the Center and AIDS Healthcare Foundation to provide public information on the outbreak.

Commissioner Mackler reported that the Board of Supervisors addressed the outbreak in their meeting today, and will be funding condom distribution. Legal issues of how to guarantee the widest distribution were discussed.

B. RFP RATING SYSTEM

Daphne Dennis presented the question of whether to use a numerical system in grading proposals for social services, a topic which arose in the context of the last social services contracting process. She said staff concerns about a numerical

system included the possibility of providing an illusion of objectivity in a process with a necessarily subjective element, and the possibility of penalizing agencies because they have a poor grant writer.

She said numerical systems are generally more appropriate when comparing proposals to provide the same service, while West Hollywood's experience has been a wide variety of proposals to provide completely different services. She said staff would be willing to work with whatever system the Commission and Council felt was most helpful, and in any case would continue to provide a narrative evaluation of each proposal along with any numerical system.

Commissioner D'Amico asked if there is a de facto numerical system already, based on how proposals are presented in the narrative evaluations, including whether they are recommended for funding, and if so, to what extent. Daphne Dennis said staff focuses on whether a proposal addresses an actual need, whether it meets that actual need, and whether it is a cost-effective way to meet that need.

Commissioner Griffin asked if there is anything inherently good or bad about a numerical system, and Daphne Dennis said it could be bad if it were used inflexibly, but that is not how the Commission or Council would use it.

Commissioner Mackler asked what evaluations would look like if a numerical rating were included in a hybrid fashion, and Daphne Dennis said it would involve a numerical rating, an explanation of what that numerical rating actually meant, and a narrative evaluation of the proposal.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo said a low score should not automatically disqualify a proposal from receiving funding, but that numerical scores can be a useful way of communicating with agencies about their strengths and weaknesses.

Commissioner D'Amico moved to not adopt a numerical system for evaluating proposals. This was seconded by Commissioner Griffin.

Commissioner Davis said that assigning numbers can be an arbitrary matter, such as providing points for whether an agency is located within the city limits, when their physical location may have nothing to do with their actual provision of services to West Hollywood community members.

Commissioner Mackler said he sees a numerical evaluation as enhancing the existing process. While the current process has worked successfully, adding a numerical rating would be an experiment which could improve the system, and could always be reevaluated in the next cycle.

Commissioner Griffin said that numbers can be manipulated, and that he does not think the type of proposals the City receives are particularly well suited to being

evaluated on a numerical basis. He said evaluating these proposals necessarily involves a subjective element, and therefore a numerical rating would not enhance the system.

Commissioner Mackler moved the previous question, and this was approved. The main motion then failed on a vote of 3 to 3, with Commissioners D'Amico, Davis, and Griffin in favor, and Commissioners Cislowski, DeCrescenzo, and Mackler opposed.

Commissioner Cislowski said there is a need to go beyond the narrative, but not to provide a hard number as an evaluation. She suggested providing a graded but non-numerical scale, with proposals ranked between poor and excellent, based on a mixture of the merits of the individual proposal, and the relative priority of the service offered in the proposal.

Commissioner DeCrescenzo moved to add a Leicher-type scale to the current RFP narrative evaluations, and this was seconded by Commissioner Mackler. After further discussion, Commissioner Mackler asked for the question, and this was unanimously agreed. The main motion then failed on a vote of 3 to 3, with Commissioners Cislowski, DeCrescenzo, and Mackler in favor, and Commissioners D'Amico, Davis, and Griffin opposed.

Commissioner Davis moved to place this topic on a future agenda when a full Commission is in attendance, with staff to provide examples of alternatives, and explore potential compromises between the approaches. This was seconded by Commissioner DeCrescenzo and unanimously agreed. Commissioner Mackler was momentarily absent during this vote.

#### C. RFP DOCUMENT

Daphne Dennis presented the draft RFP document and timeline for review by the Commission.

Commissioner Cislowski asked if agencies have to do two separate proposals if the second year of their proposal differs significantly from the first, and Daphne Dennis confirmed that they do.

Commissioner Mackler discussed having the agencies explain whether they are the only agency providing a particular service, and if not, why they are better suited to provide it than other agencies.

Commissioner D'Amico asked if the proposal would be available on the City's website, and Daphne Dennis said it would, beginning on May 1, when it is released publicly.

Commissioner Davis asked if grievance procedures were mandatory for agencies seeking funding, and Daphne Dennis said they were, with language to that effect in their contracts. Agencies can either use the city-recommended grievance procedure, or submit their own for evaluation by the city.

Commissioner Davis asked how we know whether agencies develop income from their programs, and Daphne Dennis said we know because the agencies are audited, and are required to disclose income, and use such income only for the benefit of the program. An agency which developed income and used it for a different purpose would stand to lose a proportionate part of their funding from the city.

Commissioner Davis asked if agencies must do new proposal narratives in each RFP process, and Daphne Dennis said that under the current two-year funding cycle, agencies are required to do this.

In response to Commissioner D'Amico's question, Daphne Dennis said that HIV testing is a potential service to be provided. Commissioner D'Amico asked if the City had taken a position on anonymous testing vs. confidential testing, and Daphne Dennis said that it has not.

Commissioner Griffin moved to approve the RFP document. This was seconded by Commissioner Mackler, and unanimously approved.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. COMMISSION RETREAT

Since the facilitator will not be available at the previously scheduled time on June 3, the Commission settled on Saturday, June 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., as the time of its retreat.

#### V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

##### A. LIAISONS

##### 1. CHAIRS MEETING

Chairs meeting was canceled for the month. Commissioner Davis asked staff to look into the frequent cancellation of these meetings.

##### 2. DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD

Frida Aizenman of DAB was present. Commissioner Cislowski said she and Commissioner D'Amico would be attending DAB meetings.

3. LESBIAN & GAY ADVISORY BOARD

No additional report.

4. PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION

Meets tomorrow.

5. SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

No additional report.

6. PARTNERS / ADHC

No additional report.

7. AIDS EDUCATION

Commissioner Mackler noted that there is legislation pending which would impose mandatory AIDS testing on pregnant women, and that action on this topic may become necessary.

Staff indicated it will follow up on Commission direction to support Speaker Villaraigosa's legislation to form a state Human Services Commission.

Deanna Stevenson, former Council deputy, has been chosen for a public policy position at APLA.

On Commissioner Davis's recommendation, the Commission directed that a letter be sent to Howard Jacobs, deputy to Mayor Jeffrey Prang, encouraging him in his recovery and expressing hope that he will soon be able to return to work.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no further items from staff.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

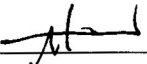
There were no additional items from the public.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, 2000 in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.

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Signed:   
Steven L. Davis

Attest:

  
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