

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – MARCH 11, 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, March 11, 2008, in Rooms 5 and 6 of the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood.

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Zangrando.

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. Commissioner Cislowski joined the meeting in progress. Staff members present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; 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 February 12, 2008, meeting were approved, 6-0, with Commissioner Cislowski not present, on a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Zangrando.

III. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Michael Ralke, board chairman of Rainbow Bridge Community Services, spoke about changes at the agency since Brad Leathers is now in a county services position. Commissioner Henry said the Commission looked forward to hearing more about the changes at an upcoming meeting, and asked the agency to note any assistance the City can provide.

Queen Victoria of the Royal Court of West Hollywood invited commissioners to a brunch recognizing the diversity of the community, to be held April 5 in the community room at West Hollywood Gateway. Further information on the website www.royalcourt-weho.org.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. REPORT FROM AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

AIDS Healthcare Foundation distributed the monthly STD testing report, and discussed testing at their pharmacy and mobile locations. Testing at the pharmacy is available from 3 to 7 p.m. every day except Sunday. Testing at the mobile site is available from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. every night except Friday.

B. REPORT FROM WEHO LIFE

Alton Carswell and staff of WeHo Life provided an update on current projects. They discussed current statistics of visitors to the website, casting of the second webisode, and a young professionals fundraiser being planned for the agency.

C. YEAR-END REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Daphne Dennis discussed the year-end report from social services agencies. Commissioners discussed having agencies measure and report on outcomes, with similar objectives being used where possible, so that comparisons among agencies can be made on an apples-to-apples basis.

Commissioner Henry said it was important for the record to include the accumulation of commission thoughts and ideas during the RFP process, so that points are not lost, but noted for future consideration.

The following persons addressed the Commission about the year-end report:

1. Roger Coggan, GLC Legal; 2. Danny Pepper, Being Alive; 3. Velinda Mackey, Bet Tzedek; 4. Alla Chasnik, Bet Tzedek; 5. Jonathan Bennett, PATH; 6. Samuel Walker, a client of PATH; 7. Marina Berkman, West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center; 8. Ian Stulberg, GLC Mental Health; 9. Simon Costello, GLC Youth Services; 10. Brad Leathers, Rainbow Bridge. There was a brief break.

Speakers continued with: 11. Maribel Ulloa, Aid for AIDS; 12. Ruben Acosta, GLC transgender job placement and WeHo Life; 13. Donzella Lee, L.A. Free Clinic; 14. Steve Wayland, PAWS L.A.; 15. Karen Bhangoo, Dispute Resolution Services; 16. Kathryn Turk, Dispute Resolution Services; 17. Tom O'Leary, Project Angel Food; 18. Joan Mithers, JFS Nutrition and Partners ADHC; 19. Fred Summers, SOVA Food Pantry; 20. Kathy Watt, Van Ness Recovery House; 21. Shannon Sell, program coordinator for Van Ness prevention division; 22. Dustin Kerrone, GLC sexual health program; 23. Jeff Bailey, AIDS Project Los Angeles; 24. David Kruskall, WHEST employment program; 25. Helen Levin, Russian Community Center; 26. Les Rumsey, St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church; 27. Craig Coogan, St. Thomas the Apostle; and 28. Joseph Warren, St. Thomas the Apostle.

Commissioner Henry said he heard a need for agencies having broader outreach to services not in their own category, especially services already located in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Cislowski noted that transportation was raised as an issue by several agencies. Daphne Dennis said that the Social Services Division is

picking up several transit-related programs, including City Line, taxi vouchers, reduced-fee bus fares for seniors and persons with disabilities, and Dial-a-Ride.

D. REVISED CALENDAR FOR RFP PROCESS

Daphne Dennis presented a revised calendar for the RFP (request for proposals) process, leading to adoption of social services contracts for 2008-2010.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. PROBATIONARY STATUS – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

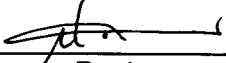
The item was postponed.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional items.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m., in honor of Joe Cislowski's birthday.

Signed: 
Steven L. Davis

Attest:

