

The Social Services Commission is an advisory body to the City Council that generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The Commission may make recommendations to the City Council on Veterans affairs, homeless issues, adults with development disabilities, and children with special needs. All meetings are open to the public except for those portions that under law may be considered in closed session.

Staff reports are available for review at the Civic Center Main Library and the City Clerk's Office. Direct any other questions or concerns to the Social Services Commission liaison at 310.618.5880. Agendas are posted on the City of Torrance Home Page www.TorranceCA.Gov.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Manager's office at (310) 618-5880. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

TORRANCE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION AGENDA
AUGUST 24, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M. WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM
LISTED ON THE AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Commission Members Bickford, Funes, Reynold, Sansalone, Scotto, Witt, Chair Leys

2. FLAG SALUTE: Commissioner Bickford

3. REPORT OF STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Bl. and on the City's Website on August 17, 2023.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 30 minute period)

This portion of the meeting is reserved for public comment on items not on the agenda or on topics of interest to the general public. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, Commissioners cannot act on items raised during public comment but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. Speakers under this Public Comment period will have no longer than 3 minutes per speaker.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JULY 27, 2023

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM STAFF REGARDING OUTCOME OF THE COMMISSION'S SUPPORT OF THE TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM CHRISTINE BAKER OF TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

7C. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM TORRANCE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT REGARDING COLLABORATION WITH EVOLVE

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. Adjournment of the Social Services Commission Meeting to September 28, 2023 at 6:00 pm

July 27, 2023

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Social Services Commission convened in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 27, 2023 at the West Annex Commission Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bickford, Funes, Leys, Scotto, Witt and Chairperson Reynolds

Absent: Commission Sansalone

Also Present: Deputy City Manager Hoang and Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in Training

MOTION: Commissioner Witt moved to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Sansalone; motion was seconded by Commissioner Scotto. The motion passed by a 6-0 roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Sansalone)

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Reynolds.

3. REPORT OF THE STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Deputy City Manager Hoang stated that the agenda for the Social Services Commission was properly posted on Thursday, July 20, 2023 on the Public Notice Board by the City Clerk's office and on the City's website.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

Deputy City Manager Hoang stated that there were no items.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy City Manager Hoang introduced Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training.

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

6A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 20, 2023**

6B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 22, 2023**

Commissioner Scotto requested that the minutes of June 20, 2023 be corrected under item 6B to read: At 5:56 p.m., Commissioner Bickford moved to adjourn the *Commission on Aging Social Service Commission* meeting to the regular meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2023.

MOTION: Commissioner Leys moved to approve Item 6A, as amended and Item 6B, as submitted; motion was seconded by Commissioner Scotto. The motion passed by a 6-0 roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Sansalone)

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

7A. **APPOINT COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

Deputy City Manager Hoang presented the report for the item.
Chairperson Reynolds requested nominations for Chairperson for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Commissioner Witt nominated Commissioner Leys to be Chairperson.

There were no other nominations and Chairperson Reynolds closed the nominations.

Deputy City Manager Hoang conducted a voice vote and Commissioner Leys received 6 votes to be Chairperson. Deputy City Manager Hoang announced that Commissioner Reynolds had been elected Chairperson for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 by a vote of 6-0. (Absent Commissioner Sansalone)

Chairperson Reynolds requested nominations for the Vice Chairperson for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Chairperson Reynolds nominated Commissioner Witt to be Vice Chair.

Commissioner Bickford nominated Commissioner Funes.

There were no other nominations and Chairperson Reynolds closed the nominations.

Deputy City Manager Hoang conducted a voice vote and Commissioner Witt received 5 votes to be Vice Chairperson and Commissioner Funes received 1 vote. Deputy City Manager Hoang announced that Commissioner Witt had been appointed Vice Chairperson for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024. (Absent Commissioner Sansalone)

Commissioner Reynolds turned the meeting over to Chairperson Leys.

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM CHRIS EHLING OF PACIFIC BATTLESHIP CENTER - BATTLESHIP IOWA MUSEUM ON THE VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training presented the report for the item and noted that the Battleship IOWA served as both a non-profit historic naval ship museum located at Port of Los Angeles Berth 87, as well as the home of the Battleship IOWA Veterans Resource Center, known as the VRC.

Mr. Chris Ehling discussed the legacy and history of the Battleship IOWA and how it came to be at the Port of Los Angeles and a national museum. He noted that the VRC provided veterans with a one-stop approach to access a variety of resources, including the Veterans Peer Access Network (VPAN). He noted that the battleship IOWA was the VPAN program provider for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health within the Los Angeles County Supervisorial Districts 2 and 4. He noted that the VPAN sought to connect County Departments, non-profits, the Veterans Administration and the City of Los Angeles programs. He explained that he had already worked with the City and Julia Smith on housing program vouchers through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program and had been able to successfully place veterans in housing.

Mr. Ehling stated that his goal was to help veterans develop skills to fulfill their potential and provide a sense of a community for Veterans and their families. He stated that he planned to collaborate with the California Department of Rehabilitation and South Bay Workforce Investment Board to bring veterans to work on the ship in order to gain experience. He explained that family friendly community events, such as Fleet Week with Memorial Day or Veterans Day, were important part of the focus of the VRC. He added that Marathon Oil and UPS was major supporters of the program. He noted that VPAN had recently obtained a contract with the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative and discussed the programs and training produced by the education department of the battle ship as well as the Joint Force Training Base.

Mr. Ehling stated that he would be happy to donate a tour of the battleship for the Veterans Day event.

MOTION: Commissioner Bickford moved to accept and file the presentation from Chris Ehling of Pacific Battleship Center - Battleship Iowa museum on the Veterans Resource Center; motion was seconded by Commissioner Funes. The motion passed by a 6-0 roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Sansalone)

7C. DISCUSS JOINT MEETING BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION HELD ON JUNE 20, 2023

Deputy City Manager Hoang presented the report for the item.

- Commissioner Reynolds suggested having someone from the Torrance Unified School District discuss the process of how a troubled youth is identified and helped within the school system
- Commissioner Bickford suggested that the Police Department also discuss identifying troubled youth with mental health issues
- Commissioner Reynolds suggested a discussion of the special needs of autistic children and adults.

- Commissioner Bickford suggested finding out more information on increasing accessibility to Torrance Beach
- Commissioner Funes suggested inviting Adaptive Adventures to speak and investigating any changes that could be made to the Veterans event to include families
- Commissioner Bickford suggested conducting a post event survey every year for the veteran event to gauge changes in the population
- Deputy City Manager Hoang discussed the possibility of joint meetings with Commission of Aging and Parks and Recreation Commission
- Commissioner Bickford suggested having a hospital liaison/case manager speak about the course of treatment and release of a person experiencing homelessness from either Torrance Memorial Medical Center or Providence Little Company of Mary

The Commission concurred to have staff reach out:

- to the Torrance Unified School District to invite them to speak before the Commission
- to discuss a possible joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Reynolds spoke.

There was a discussion of Safe Parking sites.

Chairperson Leys and Commissioner Reynolds confirmed that they would be at the Farmer's Market on September 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to collect messages for veterans. Deputy City Manager Hoang stated that he would send out a reminder.

Deputy City Manager Hoang discussed the unofficial results of the back-to-school supply drive and noted that the final results would be available at the next meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. At 7:39 p.m., Commissioner Bickford moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scotto and the motion passed by a 6-0 roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Sansalone)

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Item 7A

Commission Meeting of
August 24, 2023

Honorable Members of the Social Services Commission
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Accept and File Presentation from Staff Regarding Outcome of the Commission's Support of the Torrance Unified School District's Back-to-School Supply Drive

RECOMMENDATION

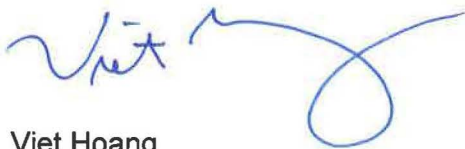
Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file a presentation from staff regarding the outcome of the Commission's Support of the Torrance Unified School District's Back-to-School Supply Drive.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

At the Commission meeting of May 25, 2023, your Honorable Body approved of the City's support of the Torrance Unified School District's annual Back-to-School Supply Drive. The Annual drive provides students in the School District who happen to be experiencing homelessness or are foster students with school supplies that support their academic pursuits.

At tonight's meeting, Management Assistant Kimberly Masse, who coordinated the event on behalf of the Commission, will provide your Honorable Body with an update of the success of the Drive.

Respectfully submitted,



Viet Hoang
Staff Liaison to the Commission



Julia Smith
Staff Liaison-in-Training

Item 7B

Commission Meeting of
August 24, 2023

Honorable Members of the Social Services Commission
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Accept and File Presentation from Christine Baker of Torrance Unified School District on Youth Mental Health

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file a presentation from Christine Baker, Coordinator of Counseling & Mental Health at Torrance Unified School District

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

During the June 20, 2023 joint meeting of the Torrance City Council and Social Services Commission, Councilwoman Kalani requested that the Commission explore topics related to youth mental health. On July 27, 2023, the Commission requested staff invite a speaker from Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) to provide information to the Commission on youth mental health for students at TUSD.

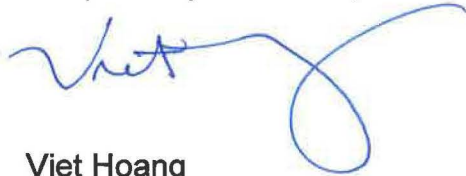
The item before your Honorable Body tonight is to accept and file a presentation from Christine Barker, coordinator of Counseling & Mental Health at TUSD. Ms. Barker oversees mental health programs throughout the district, including TUSD's partnership with South Bay Children's Health Center (SBCHS) for counseling resources.

In addition to the partnership with SBCHS, TUSD provides referrals to Care Solace and the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System. Care Solace provides mental health care coordination services for TUSD students, families, and staff. The service focuses on matching patients with community-based providers and securing appointments in an efficient manner. The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System is available to TUSD middle and high school students in collaboration with the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation. The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System is an anonymous 24/7 crisis call center that students and parents can contact to report tips that someone may be a potential threat to themselves or others. Each TUSD school has its own counselor to refer students, parents, and administrators to appropriate resources. Ms. Baker also coordinates trauma-informed training for teachers and administrators throughout TUSD.

This evening, staff has asked Ms. Baker to provide an overview of TUSD's youth mental health programs including who the programs seek to assist, how the programs are accessed, and expected outcomes of the programs. Ms. Baker will also provide ways in

which the City can support the programs and address questions from your Honorable Body.

Respectfully submitted,



Viet Hoang
Staff Liaison to the Commission



Julia Smith
Staff Liaison-In-Training

Commission Meeting of
August 24, 2023

Honorable Members of the Social Services Commission
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Commission:

**SUBJECT: Accept and File Presentation from Torrance Human Resources Department
Regarding Collaboration with EVOLVE**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file a presentation from Torrance Human Resources Director Hedieh Khajavi on the City's collaboration with the TranZitions EVOLVE program.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

At the May 2022 meeting of the Social Services Commission meeting your Honorable Body heard a presentation from TranZitions, a consulting group that provides services for neurodiverse youth, teens and young adults, and offers an Employment and Career Soft Skills Training Program called EVOLVE Into The Workplace. The program is for young adults with neurodiversities who have completed high school, and or are attending or have completed college and are ready and motivated to seek competitive employment. Evolve supports young adults with neurodiversities in developing the necessary skills to access and sustain employment in a career of their choice. EVOLVE is funded through the Regional Center providing no cost services to neurodiverse young adults.

As part of the Commission's update to its Workplan in September 2022, the Commission established an action step to, "Increase employment opportunities in the City for people with developmental disabilities." Since the implementation of the Commission's updated Workplan, City staff have worked closely with the TranZitions EVOLVE program to create internship opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

The Human Resources Department has been leading the City's internship efforts, and at tonight's meeting, your Honorable Body will hear from Human Resources Director Hedieh Khajavi of the City's progress with internship opportunities for EVOLVE participants, the City's learning about how to better serve the community, and next steps for the collaboration between the City and the EVOLVE program.

Respectfully submitted,



Viet Hoang
Staff Liaison to the Commission



Julia Smith
Staff Liaison-in-Training