

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
MAY 23, 2024
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, Reynolds, Sansalone, Scotto, Chair Leys

2. FLAG SALUTE: Chair Leys

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 May 16, 2024

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 15-minute period)

*This portion of the meeting is reserved for comment on items on the Consent Calendar or items not on the agenda. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Commission 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. **No longer than 1 minute per speaker.** If presenting handout material to the Commission, please provide 10 copies to staff before speaking.*

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: APRIL 25, 2024

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION BY DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV)

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE UPDATE FROM STAFF ON THE 2024 VETERANS APPRECIATION EVENT

7C. DISCUSS COORDINATING A SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE WITH TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

- 9A.** Adjournment of the Social Services Commission Meeting to Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 6:00 pm for a regular meeting in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room



**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 6:07 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at the West Annex Commission Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bickford, Reynolds, Sansalone, Scotto and Chair Leys

Absent: None.

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

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Scotto.

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

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in Training stated that the agenda for the Social Services Commission was properly posted on Thursday, April 18, 2024 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

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training stated that there were no items.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy City Manager Hoang introduced the attendees who were members of the Torrance Police Chief's Advisory Board: Staff Liaison Sergeant Salary; Outreach Coordinators: Valerie Hernandez and Norma Olvera, Officers Joe Craft and Jeffrey Clark, Deputy City Attorney Litvin, Chief Adam Brown, coordinator of EMS Services for the Fire Department and Benjamin Brown.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 28, 2024

MOTION: Commissioner Scotto moved to approve Item 6A, as submitted; motion was seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. The motion passed by a 5-0 roll call vote.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM DR. JENNIFER HUNT OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH (DMH) ON CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, RECOVERY AND EMPOWERMENT (CARE) COURT

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training introduced Dr. Jennifer Hunt of the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (DMH).

Dr. Hunt introduced Linda Boyd, Program Manager from DMH and noted that Dr. Lee was enroute to the meeting. She discussed the Civil Court Process for the California Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) court and listed the focus of the statute:

- Focus counties and other local governments on serving persons with untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders
- Provide behavioral health and housing resources and services
- Protect self-determination and civil liberties by providing legal
- Counsel and promoting supported decision making
- Intervene sooner in the lives of those with multiple needs
- Ensure local governments have support while driving accountability for their role

Dr. Hunt discussed: the possible entry points for petitions to be brought to CARE court, the process involved, the timelines, the support and resources involved and the eligibility criteria. She listed possible referral entry points: family, community, county or tribal jurisdiction and discussed other DMH programs that were available, which included reentry services, crisis stabilization and outpatient services. She presented an overview of the process of filing a petition, CARE court referrals, information and links, as well as the elements of a CARE agreement plan: behavioral health services, medications, housing resources, social services and supports. She explained the process after filing a petition, noted the ability to access the court through technology and to have in-person or remote hearings. She added that even if individuals were not eligible for the CARE court program, there might be other support available, through 211 or a 24-7 Help Line.

Members of the public spoke.

Dr. Hunt discussed the success of street outreach through repeated efforts of contact with the individual.

In response to a question from Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training, Dr. Hunt stated that there were some priorities in the behavioral health bridge housing for CARE individuals.

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training stated that the presentation slides would be sent to the Commission and the Torrance Police Chief's Advisory Board and were available to the members of the public by sending an email to: Juliasmith@TorranceCA.Gov or to the Social Services website.

MOTION: Commissioner Bickford moved to accept and file the presentation from Dr. Jennifer Hunt of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) on California Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) court. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 5-0 roll call vote.

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ON SERVICES FOR VETERANS

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training introduced Anthony Rodriguez and noted that Mr. Rodriguez had staffed a resource booth at prior City's Veteran's Day events.

Mr. Rodriguez, a regional field agent for the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) presented slides which provided an overview of the benefits and services of CalVet. He noted that the greatest number of veterans in the State were located in Los Angeles County. He explained that the Veterans Administration (VA) was the primary provider of veterans benefits through healthcare (VHA), benefits through the (VBA) and cemeteries through the (NCA), but pointed out that CalVet had been created to offer an additional level of benefits to California veterans. He explained that the two levels of benefits could be used at the same time and highlighted CalVet benefits which included: college fee waivers, home loans, veteran homes, pathways to citizenship and services at the County Veterans Service Office. He stated that he was a Local Interagency Network Coordinator (LINC) and noted that LINC's could help file claims, explain and connect veterans with benefits, health care, education opportunities, tuition fee waivers, as well as provide referrals, assist with employment, home loans, home insurance and advocacy.

MOTION: Commissioner Scotto moved to accept and file presentation from Anthony Rodriguez of the California Department of Veterans Affairs on services for Veterans. Commissioner Bickford seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 5-0 roll call vote.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

In response to a question from Commissioner Reynolds, Julia Smith explained that the Homeless Outreach coordinators now drove City vans that were marked as Homeless Services of Torrance to increase community awareness of the services.

Julia Smith explained that CARE Court was a state directive and counties in California had until the end of this year to be in compliance. She noted that Los Angeles County had just recently begun to initiate the process and other Counties had not yet rolled out their programs.

Commissioner Reynolds requested that the CARE Court team return with updates on their progress.

Julia Smith reminded the Commission that the drive-up event for the Toiletries and More would take place on Saturday, May 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with Commissioners Bickford and Reynolds in attendance.

Julia Smith announced that the information for Alternative Crisis Response (ACR) Unit had been placed on the Commission's resource page under all of the populations served.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 p.m., Commissioner Scotto moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the West Annex Commission Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sansalone and the motion passed by a 5-0 roll call vote.

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Subject to Approval

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

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Accept and File Presentation by Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file a presentation from Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Los Angeles.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

For over 100 years, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), a non-profit organization, has been providing lifetime support and advocacy for veterans of all generations and their families. DAV accomplishes this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. This mission is carried forward by:

- Providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government.
- Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families specifically.
- Representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government.
- Extending DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level Departments and local Chapters.
- Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.

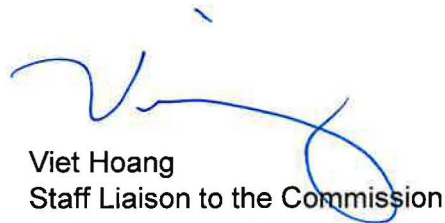
DAV Los Angeles has participated in numerous Torrance Veterans Appreciation Luncheon and Resource Fair events by hosting a resource booth. This evening, Veterans Event Coordinator LeAnne Chen has scheduled Adam Barnes, DAV National Service Officer Supervisor, to present to your Honorable Body.

Staff respectfully recommends that your Honorable Body accept and file this presentation.

Respectfully submitted,



Julia Smith
Staff Liaison to the Commission



Viet Hoang
Staff Liaison to the Commission

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

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Accept and File Update from Staff on the 2024 Veterans Appreciation Event

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file an update from Staff on the 2024 Veterans Recognition Event.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

At the February 2024 Social Services Commission meeting, your Honorable discussed the 2023 Veterans Appreciation Luncheon and Resource Fair, reviewed feedback from the event, and discussed elements for the 2024 Veterans Event.

At tonight's meeting, LeAnne Chen, Veteran's Appreciation Event Coordinator, will give a brief update on the planning of the 2024 Event, and ask the Commission for input. In a subsequent meeting, your Honorable Body will be requested to formally approve all elements of the 2024 Veterans Appreciation Event once staff has secured the elements requested by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



Julia Smith
Staff to the Commission



Viet Hoang
Staff to the Commission

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

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Discuss Coordinating a School Supply Drive with Torrance Unified School District

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission discuss coordinating with Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) for a School Supply Drive, and if the Commission approves of participation, concur with staff's recommendation of timelines and implementation.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Dr. Nancy Gutierrez, TUSD's Coordinator for Parent and Community Engagement/Homeless and Foster Liaison, has presented information about TUSD's work to the Commission in past years.

Dr. Gutierrez contacted staff about being a drop-off location for this year's TUSD school supplies drive. This drive will support Project BOSS (Bringing our Student's Supplies) and Project HOPE for homeless and foster youth attending TUSD schools. The Commission coordinated the event in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Staff anticipates that TUSD's requested items will be similar to last year's Drive: backpacks, lunch bags, pencil boxes, water bottles, notebooks, loose-leaf paper, folders, dividers, crayons, markers, glue sticks, calculators, binders, socks, umbrellas, scarves, gloves, and hair products.

Should your Honorable Body approve of the Commission's participation in the Drive, staff respectfully recommends the following:

Dates of Drive

- First Date of the Drive: June 24, 2024
- Last Date of the Drive: July 25, 2024

Marketing of Drive

- City Council Meeting Announcement: July 2, 2024
- City Social Media
- CitiCABLE coverage (if available)

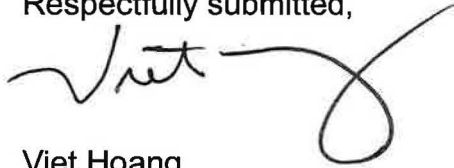
City Locations of Collection (if approved by Departments)

- City Hall Lobby
- Katy Geissert Civic Center Library
- Permit Center

Creation of Flyer for Drive

- Collaboration with TUSD on the creation of a new flyer for 2024
- Flyers on public counters

Respectfully submitted,



Viet Hoang
Staff Liaison to the Commission



Julia Smith
Staff Liaison to the Commission