

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 members of the Social Services Commission and staff will participate in this meeting via teleconference or other electronic means.

PARTICIPATE BEFORE THE MEETING by emailing SocialServicesCommission@TorranceCA.gov and write "Public Comment" in the subject line. In the body of the email include the item number and/or title of the item with your comments.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY VIEW AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING via Zoom by using the following

<https://bit.ly/2XLJDvg>

US: +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 940 9908 4932

Passcode: 467182

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 26, 2022
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M. VIA TELECONFERENCE OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM
LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. FLAG SALUTE: Commissioner 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 Friday, May 13, 2022.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS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: APRIL 2022

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM LINDSEY STONE, DIRECTOR FOR ICAN CALIFORNIA ABILITIES NETWORK.

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM LESLIE MCCADDON, OUTREACH DIRECTOR FOR STEVEN A. COHEN MILITARY FAMILY CLINIC AT VVSD.

7C. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM TRANZITIONS ON THE EVOLVE PROGRAM.

7D. DISCUSS ELEMENTS FOR THE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL VETERANS APPRECIATION EVENTS.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. Adjournment of the Social Services Commission Meeting to June 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

**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, April 28, 2022 via teleconference or other electronic means.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Funes, Sansalone, Scotto, and Chairperson Bickford

Absent: Commissioners Leys, Reynolds and Witt

Also Present: Deputy City Manager Hoang and Management Associate Gent

MOTION: Commissioner Scotto moved to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Funes from the March 22, 2022 meeting and the excused absences of Commissioners Reynolds and Witt from this meeting; motion was seconded by Commissioner Sansalone. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Leys, Reynolds and Witt)

2. FLAG SALUTE

The pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Scotto.

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

Management Associate Gent stated that the agenda for the Social Services Commission was properly posted on April 21, 2022 on the Public Notice Board by the City Clerk's office and the City's website.

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

Management Associate Gent stated that there were no withdrawn, deferred or supplemental items.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 24, 2022

MOTION: Commissioner Funes moved to approve Item 6A; motion was seconded by Commissioner Scotto. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Leys, Reynolds and Witt)

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM MERCEDES LOWERY, COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER FOR HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER

Management Associate Gent welcomed Mercedes Lowery, Community Services Manager at Harbor Regional and Judy Taimi, Director of Adult Services at Harbor Regional. Ms. Taimi presented the history and structure of Harbor Regional and explained that the Center was one of seven regional centers in Los Angeles County and served the South Bay, Harbor, Long Beach,

and southeast areas of Los Angeles County. She discussed the types of disabilities, ages, languages, ethnicity and eligibility of clients served, described the ethnicity and languages spoken of the clinical teams and specialists at the Center and noted that in 2020-2021 the Center had served 17,787 individuals. She explained the types of services provided for infants, school-aged children and adults.

Ms. Lowery presented information on the types of supported living services that the Center offered and noted that 72 clients currently lived in supported living in Torrance. She reviewed the expectations that the Regional Center had for their clients in supported living services and the agencies' responsibilities. She discussed licensed homes, along with the Center's values and expectations for licensed homes and explained the Center's staff role and responsibilities for supporting and monitoring the licensed homes.

MOTION: Commissioner Funes moved to accept and file presentation from Mercedes Lowery, Community Services Manager for Harbor Regional Center; motion was seconded by Commissioner Sansalone. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Leys, Reynolds and Witt)

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM AMY SIMONS, CHIEF OPERATION OFFICER OF MOMENTUM PEDIATRIC THERAPY NETWORK

Management Associate Gent introduced Amy Simons, Chief Operation Officer of Momentum Pediatric Therapy Network.

Ms. Simons reported that Momentum had been started over 75 years ago by a group of dedicated families who wanted to provide community-based programs for their children when none existed. She noted that Momentum had grown to 35 program sites in Southern California with a mission to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of children and adults with disabilities and medical conditions. She described the lifespan of support and services provided: Adult Community Integration, Community Living, Residential, Independent Living Apartments, Pediatric Services and Creative Arts Division and the number of people supported by the various programs. She detailed the multi-Disciplinary Team makeup of pediatric services, which used a sensory integration approach coupled with a family centered approach, and occupational therapy to develop necessary skills to transition to an independent life. She described the types of physical therapy and speech therapy used and explained the early intervention programs, *Leaps and Bounds* and the Early Start Denver model. She noted that Momentum also offered Social Skills & Community Integration programs for school aged students and summer camp opportunities, as well as an Early Head Start program.

MOTION: Commissioner Funes moved to accept and file presentation from Amy Simons, Chief Operation Officer of Momentum Pediatric Therapy Network; motion was seconded by Commissioner Scotto. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Leys, Reynolds and Witt)

7C. APPROVE DATE FOR AN IN-PERSON VETERANS APPRECIATION EVENT, AND DISCUSS ELEMENTS FOR THE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Management Associate Gent presented the report and noted that staff requested that the Commission consider Friday, October 21, 2022 for the date of the in-person event, as City Hall would be closed on this day, which would allow the Commission liaisons and City Manager staff to fully support the event. She added that Staff had reserved the Toyota Meeting Hall and Torino Plaza and listed the possible elements of the in-person event: resource fair with service providers, meals (either boxed or buffet), a raffle and a short simple program.

Management Associate Gent also listed the possible elements of the virtual event which could occur during Military Veterans Appreciation week in Torrance, November 6-12, 2022 and could include an online program with short video messages of appreciation, both online and on CitiCable.

In response to questions from Chairperson Bickford, Deputy City Manager Hoang stated that the event budget was based on a limit of 220 guests at the in-person event and noted that staff would check with CitiCable to verify if they would be able to produce an under 30-minute program with speakers.

Commissioner Funes noted that she would be willing to help organize a raffle if one was approved for the in-person event.

Chairperson Bickford requested that the Veterans Appreciation event be agendaized for the next Commission meeting, to allow Commissioners absent from this meeting the opportunity to discuss the item.

Management Associate Gent summarized the discussion and confirmed that:

- Staff would return to the next meeting with information on CitiCable's ability to produce an under 30-minute program
- The Commission would be willing to support staff to secure speakers/presenters if the CitiCable program was approved and/or for the in-person program
- Commissioner Funes volunteered to collect donations if a raffle was approved for the event
- The Commission would research the types of boxed lunches available and return to staff with information

MOTION: Commissioner Scotto moved to approve the date of Friday, October 21, 2022 as the date of the in-person Veterans Appreciation event; motion was seconded by Commissioner Sansalone. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Leys, Reynolds and Witt)

7D. ACCEPT AND FILE REPORT FROM STAFF ON THE CITY'S PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN TORRANCE

Deputy City Manager Hoang presented the report for the item and announced that at the April 12, 2022 City Council meeting, the City Council had awarded a consulting services agreement to Harbor Interfaith Services, Inc. of San Pedro to provide interim housing services for the Torrance Temporary Housing Program. He explained that the temporary housing program would include temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness with case management and housing navigation services with the goal of achieving permanent housing solutions for the participants. He reported that the shelter would consist of forty temporary housing units with separate bathrooms, shower and laundry facilities. He listed the various funding sources and the staffing levels available for the program and discussed the rationale used by the City to select Harbor Interfaith Services to be the provider of City's housing services. He listed agencies that would be available onsite: the Los Angeles County Departments of Mental Health, Health Services and Public Social Services, Venice Family Clinic, SouthBay Workforce Investment Board, and volunteers from the faith-based community. He outlined the timeline for the project and noted that the ribbon cutting ceremony was scheduled for the week of June 27, with client intake to begin on July 5, 2022.

Deputy City Manager Hoang announced that as part of the Homelessness Plan, City staff would present Homeless Training 101 to Commissions who may have contact with those unhoused or at-risk of homelessness, as well as all City staff.

Deputy City Manager Hoang also announced that Torrance had received \$1 million in federal funding to aid the city's homeless response, which would allow the City to send outreach workers and housing navigators to encampments, aid in cleanup of encampments and strengthen the infrastructure of previous encampment areas to prevent the recurrence of an encampment.

MOTION: Commissioner Funes moved to accept and file from staff on the City's progress in addressing Homelessness in Torrance; motion was seconded by Commissioner Sansalone. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Leys, Reynolds and Witt)

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Scotto thanked Frank Scotto, Commissioners Reynolds and Sansalone and Management Associate Gent for their help in sorting the toiletry donations.

Management Associate Gent thanked all those that donated items and helped sort the toiletry donations. She noted that the donations were sent to Family Promise, 1736 Crisis Center, Harbor Interfaith and noted that some items had been reserved for use by Valerie's outreach clients or for the homeless housing project.

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. At 8:24 p.m., Commissioner Scotto moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference or other electronic means. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sansalone and the motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Leys, Reynolds and Witt)

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

Members of the Commission:

**SUBJECT: Accept and File Presentation from Lindsey Stone, Director, for ICAN
California Abilities Network**

RECOMMENDATION

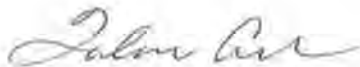
Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file a presentation from Lindsey Stone, Director for ICAN California Abilities Network.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

ICAN is a non profit organization that has been serving the community for over 45 years. They have provided quality recreational, employment, empowerment, and socialization programs for Southern California's adults with physical and developmental disabilities.

This evening, staff has asked Ms. Stone to provide an overview of the program including who the program seeks to assist and how the program is accessed. Ms. Stone will also provide ways in which the city can support the program and address questions from your Honorable Body.

Respectfully submitted,



Zulma Gent
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: Accept and File Presentation from Leslie McCaddon, Outreach Director for Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at VVSD.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file a presentation from Ms. Leslie McCaddon, Outreach Director for the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at VVSD.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

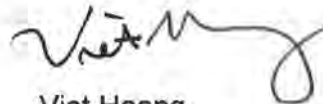
The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinics provide confidential, high-quality therapy, and local referral support services to post-9/11 veterans, service members*, National Guard and Reserves, and their family members, including spouse or partner, children, parents, siblings, caregivers, and others. Care is available regardless of discharge status, role while in uniform, or combat experience. Insurance or ability to pay will never be a barrier to care.

This evening, staff has asked Ms. McCaddon to provide an overview of the program including who the program seeks to assist and how the program is accessed. Ms. McCaddon will also provide ways in which the city can support the program and address questions from your Honorable Body.

Respectfully submitted,



Zulma Gent
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: Accept and File Presentation from TranZitions on the EVOLVE Program

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file a presentation from Robin Shipley and Sonia Dickson of TransZistions on the EVOLVE program.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

At the April 2022 Social Services Commission meeting, your Honorable Body heard a presentation from Harbor Regional Center about the services offered to people of all ages with developmental disabilities and their families.

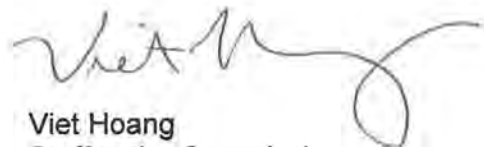
TranZitions, a consulting group that provides services for neurodiverse youth, teens and young adults, offers an Employment and Career Soft Skills Training Program called EVOLVE Into The Workplace. The program is for young adults with neurodiversities who have completed high school, and or are attending 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.

This evening, Robin Shipley and Sonia Dickson, co-founders of TranZitions, will be presenting the EVOLVE program to your Honorable Body, including program format and desired outcomes, populations served, accessing services, and needs of the program.

Respectfully submitted,



Zulma Gent
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 Elements for In-Person and Virtual Veterans Appreciation Events

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission discuss elements for the in-person and virtual Veterans Appreciation events.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

At the April 2022 Social Services Commission meeting, the Commission approved Friday, October 21, 2022 to be the date of the in-person Veterans Appreciation event. Staff has reserved the Toyota Meeting Hall and Torino Plaza for the in-person event. October 21 is a closed Friday for City Hall and staff will be available to support for the event.

At the same meeting, the Commission requested that staff confirm with Torrance Cable and Community Relations Division their availability to produce a video to be part of the virtual Veterans Appreciation event. Staff has confirmed that Torrance Cable and Community Relations Division has the capacity to produce an under-30 minute video.

The following are decision points staff respectfully recommends your Honorable Body discuss at this evening's meeting:

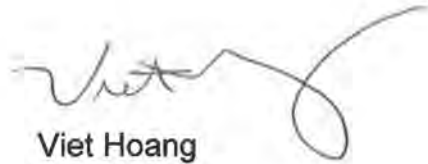
- Resource Fair: City staff will be responsible for inviting non-profit and government agencies that serve Veterans to participate in the in-person event. Staff maintains a list of all previous attendees, as well as new organizations that serve the Torrance community.
- Meal: The Commission noted boxed lunches are commonplace due to the health and safety concerns related to COVID surges. While staff did provide options for a boxed sandwich lunch, the Commission requested time to brainstorm other options. Assuming 220 attendees (including Veterans, guests, and agency staff participating in the resource fair), the Commission has a maximum per-attendee budget of \$15 per lunch.
- Raffle: Commissioner Funes volunteered to coordinate a raffle for in-person event, should the Commission approve this element for the in-person event.

- Speakers for Virtual Event: With Torrance Cable and Community Relations Division confirming their capacity to produce an under-30 minute video for the virtual event, the Commission may wish to identify a Commissioner to coordinate speakers or performers for the video.

Respectfully submitted,



Zulma Gent
Staff Liaison



Viet Hoang
Staff Liaison