

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](http://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**  
**APRIL 25, 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:** Commissioner Scotto

**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 April 18, 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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**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: MARCH 28, 2024**

**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**

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

**8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**9A.** Adjournment of the Social Services Commission Meeting to Thursday, May 23, 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 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at the West Annex Commission Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Bickford, Reynolds, Sansalone and Scotto

Absent: Chair Leys

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

**MOTION:** Commissioner Scotto moved to approve the excused absence of Chair Leys; motion was seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. The motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote. (Absent Chair Leys)

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Sansalone.

**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, March 20, 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**

None.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 22, 2024**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Scotto moved to approve Item 6A, as submitted; motion was seconded by Commissioner Sansalone. The motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote. (Absent Chair Leys)

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM REUBEN WILSON OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH ON ALTERNATIVE CRISIS RESPONSE**

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training introduced Reuben Wilson of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH).

Mr. Wilson, Head of the Alternative Crisis Response (ACR) Unit explained that the goal of ACR was to treat individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis with the least restrictive level of care in the mental health system. He noted that a behavioral health crisis referred to situations where an individual's behavior might put themselves or others at risk or make it difficult for them to take care of themselves. He stated that often the behavior was beyond the capacity and scope of what the police and EMS should be doing. He reported that the goal was to build mobile field crisis response teams across the County that could be partners with the first responders and take over if there was no public threat or medical emergency and connect the individuals to the appropriate mental health care.

Mr. Wilson discussed the timeline of the development of ACR and the coordination within the County. He noted that the teams were able to provide 24-hour coverage for the County, with 55 regularly scheduled teams and 5-10 overtime teams to supplement the coverage. He explained the continuum of care which included:

- the phone number 988 maintained by the Didi Hirsch Crisis Hotline providing a “no-wrong-door” place to access crisis care countywide
- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health - LACDMH ACCESS Hotline
- ACR teams to respond in the field
- crisis treatment centers and residential treatment centers
- urgent appointments within 48 hours via centralized scheduling.

Mr. Wilson reported that the 911 system was also an entry point and that ACR had partnered with over 40 of the County Police departments. He noted that if a call was not appropriate for the police, it would be diverted to the 988 system. He explained that there was currently a pilot program for a therapeutic transport, which would supply a mental health clinician and a community health worker to co-respond to incidents with the EMS. He reported that the Field Intervention Teams could: provide crisis intervention in the individual's location, evaluate the individual for hospitalization and conduct safety planning, educate and support family members, transport, or arrange transport, to the least restrictive setting and provide referrals/linkage to ongoing mental health treatment. He stated that there were psychiatric urgent care centers and crisis residential treatment programs in or near Torrance as well as ACCESS Emotional Support Line and the Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement teams for non-crisis situations. He reviewed ways in which the City could support ACR: spread the word, sign up for the newsletter and share job openings.

Commissioner Reynolds recommended placing information on 988 on the Torrance app and the Social Services pamphlet.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Reynolds moved to accept and file from Reuben Wilson of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health on Alternative Crisis Response (ACR). Commissioner Scotto seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote. (Absent Chair Leys)

**7B. DISCUSS AND APPROVE HOLDING CITY-SPONSORED COFFEE AND LAUNDRY SUPPLY DRIVE FOR 3290 TEMPORARY HOUSING VILLAGE**

Deputy City Manager Hoang introduced the item and noted that the name of the drive had changed, as the needed items list had been expanded to include laundry supplies and ground coffee, as well as toiletry items. He stated that the drive would take place on April 15- April 30, 2024 and collection bins would be located at City libraries, City Hall and the Permit Center.

There was a discussion on changing the name of the drive to better indicate what items were needed. It was determined that Staff would finalize the name and include a list of requested items on the drive flyer.

Deputy City Manager Hoang stated that he would reach out to Chair Leys to determine if he was available to make the announcement of the drive at the Council meeting of April 9, 2024. Commissioner Scotto noted that she was available if Chair Leys was unable to attend the meeting.

Commissioners Bickford, Reynolds and Scotto confirmed that they were available to collect supplies at the drive-up event on April 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Deputy City Manager Hoang stated that he would reach out to Chair Leys to determine if he was available to provide an interview for CitiCABLE to discuss the drive.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Scotto moved to approve holding the City-sponsored drive to collect toiletries and coffee and laundry supplies for 3290 Temporary Housing Village. Commissioner Sansalone seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote. (Absent Chair Leys)

**8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Reynold suggested inviting the Easter Seals organization to speak before the Commission.

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training announced that Commissioner Funes had moved out of jurisdiction and was no longer able to serve on the Commission.

Deputy City Manager Hoang noted that the Commission vacancies would not be filled before June and added that it would be best to wait until there was a full Commission, before rescheduling a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**9A.** At 7:03 p.m., Commissioner Bickford moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reynolds and the motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote. (Absent Chair Leys)

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Commission Meeting of  
April 25, 2024

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

Members of the Commission:

**SUBJECT: 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**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of Staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file a presentation from Dr. Jennifer Hunt of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) on California Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

On September 14, 2022, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 1338, the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act. This Act created CARE Court. The goal of CARE Court is to provide people with mental health and substance use disorders the support and care they need. CARE Court connects a person struggling with untreated mental illness with a court-ordered Care Plan for up to 24 months. The CARE Court process can be initiated by family, county social services, behavioral health providers, or first responders.

Care Plans are intended to provide individualized interventions through collaboration between clinical teams and public defenders. Through this collaboration, clinical teams seek to ensure that each Care Plan is self-directed. Care Plans often include supportive services, medication, and housing plans. All California counties must implement CARE court programs by December 1, 2024.

This evening, staff has asked Dr. Hunt to provide an overview of CARE Court including the petition process, eligible participants, and treatment plans. Dr. Hunt will also provide ways in which the City can support Care Court initiatives and address questions from your Honorable Body.

Respectfully submitted,



Viet Hoang  
Staff Liaison to the Commission



Julia Smith  
Staff Liaison to the Commission



Commission Meeting of  
April 25, 2024

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

Members of the Commission:

**SUBJECT: Accept and File Presentation from Anthony Rodriguez of the California Department of Veterans Affairs on Services for Veterans**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of Staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file a presentation from Anthony Rodriguez of the California Department of Veterans Affairs on Services for Veterans.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

The item before your Honorable Body is to accept and file a presentation from the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet).

CalVet is the State of California agency focused on serving California veterans and their families. CalVet strives to ensure that California's \$1.6 million veterans get the state and federal benefits they qualify for. The goals of CalVet are:

- Provide the highest quality care and services for our veterans and their families.
- Enhance operational effectiveness to maximize service to California veterans.
- Invest in our workforce to enhance services to veterans over the long term.
- Provide excellent customer service to our veterans, colleagues, and partners.

CalVet's programs cover a wide range of areas including education (California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education), home ownership (CalVet Home Loans and CalVet Veterans Homes), and business (Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise). CalVet has consistently staffed a booth at the Commission's yearly Veterans Appreciation Event, providing valuable information to attendees.

This evening, Staff has asked Mr. Rodriguez to provide an overview of CalVet's programs including who the programs seek to service, outcomes of the programs, and how CalVet supports Torrance veterans. Mr. Rodriguez will also provide ways in which the City can support CalVet and address questions from your Honorable Body.

Respectfully submitted,



Viet Hoang  
Staff Liaison to the Commission



Julia Smith  
Staff Liaison to the Commission