



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Mr. James Cragin  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore  
Mr. Michael A. Russell

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2004

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Montano at 10:00 a.m.

## OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

## ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL

### Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano  
Frank Bacio  
Vito Cannella  
John Hammargren  
Carl Moore  
Michael Russell

### Absent

James Cragin  
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos

### Others Present

B. Eugene Romig, Executive Office  
Jim Corbett, Executive Office  
Dedie Ward, Commission Services  
Sherry Scates, Staff

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2004

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Hammargren and unanimously carried, the minutes of June 2, 2004 were approved as submitted.

## CHAIR'S REPORT

No report

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is **\$636.71**.

Chair Montano reminded Commissioners that the Commission's dues for the month of June are due. For the benefit of guests, Commissioner Cannella explained that the Commission's dues are voluntary and used for charitable causes.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

No Correspondence or reports

### **DISCUSSION WITH RICHARD PATE, MANAGER OF CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES, DPSS, COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING, EAST DISTRICT OFFICE**

Richard Pate noted that his department is responsible for licensing all foster homes, small family homes (for disabled youth), group homes, daycare facilities, transition housing program homes and adoption homes. He also gave an overview on the geographic area his department covers, and rate structure used when granting a license. The primary responsibility of this division is to review the overall operation of a group home and ensure the safety and well being of its residents are met and make certain that the home operators are following the licensing program statement. Mr. Pate advised that these facilities are inspected by numerous state and county departments. However, due to budget limitations and understaffing, the facilities are not inspected as often as they should be and his department can only inspect a facility following a complaint being made.

Commissioner Hammargren advised that the Commission has visited certain homes three years in a row and although they reported abysmal health and safety problems at these facilities numerous times, the conditions remain. Mr. Pate advised that one of the major problems with his department's regulations is that there are numerous interpretations for what is "abysmal." Commissioner Hammargren advised Mr. Pate that the Commission is very committed to help resolve the problems they continue to find at these facilities and asked how the Commission could help. It was suggested that representatives from agencies such as DCFS, DPSS and Probation could accompany the Commissioners on several inspections to offer their input and interpretation on the condition of the facilities.

Following discussion, Commissioners determined that further study on these matters was warranted. Mr. Pate was requested to check his schedule and advise the Commission when he would be available to accompany them on an inspection tour. Mr. Pate distributed documentation regarding the structure and geographical responsibilities of both the east and west regions of his department.

Chair Montano invited Mr. Pate to attend the Commission's business meetings the third Wednesday of the month, when representatives from the Sheriff Department, Probation and DCFS also attend. Chair Montano instructed staff to add Mr. Pate to the Commission's mailing list.

Commissioner Hammargren requested that Mr. Pate and Ms. Reed review the Commission's inspection form and advise whether it covers the issues their departments are concerned with and report back to the Commission.

#### **PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

Doris Reed, Auditor-Controller, noted that the goal of her department is not necessarily to close unsatisfactory facilities, but to make sure they are up to par. Ms. Reed requested that the Commission forward their reports of unsatisfactory inspections to her office so that the Auditor's department could conduct an evaluation of the facility. Ms. Reed advised that reports of unsatisfactory conditions at group homes, etc. are now reported to the Board of Supervisors, placed on the County's internet page and released to the media, all of which assists her department, as well as other inspection agencies, in solving these problems. Ms. Reed advised that the ultimate responsibility for removing juveniles from unsatisfactory homes lies with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation.

#### **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Lt. Linda Arthur-Parra reported that there are currently 4,000 inmates at Twin Towers and the total inmate population of all the facilities is just under 18,000. At her last visit to the Commission, Lt. Arthur-Parra was requested to look into facilities and issues she felt the Commission should inspect. Lt. Arthur-Parra noted that the Commission may want to inspect the serious deterioration of the shower stalls at Twin Towers which are a health and safety concern for the inmates as well as the staff. The Sheriff's Department request for funds to repair these showers has been denied. Commissioners agreed to inspect this facility prior to Sheriff Baca's visit to the Commission on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Arthur-Parra noted that an issue brought up on her last visit has been rectified

and that the dishwashers at the Central Jail have been hooked up. She also noted that she has not received a response from the courts regarding the issues previously mentioned, but advised that all court facilities and LCMC's need new chains for securing inmates in the courts as well as the jail hospital wards. These departments have been piecing the chains together for some time now, but no longer have a sufficient supply to do so. Lt. Arthur-Parra noted that in an effort to control overtime, her department has added more personnel, but still do not have sufficient staff to do spot checks more frequently than the current hourly schedule. A health issue at the LCMC's is a lack of wheelchairs, which results in the use of ambulances when transferring inmates into vehicles. Chair Montano suggested that because of the County's budget crisis, the Easter Seals organization may be able to help supply the wheelchairs.

### **FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS**

#### **Drice House – 30 #2**

Chair Montano and Commissioner Bacio visited this facility at 3507 West 58<sup>th</sup> Place, Los Angeles, on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The facility Owner/Director was Ann Drice and Commissioners were escorted by Karl Young. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern. Commissioners noted that a bedroom door had been kicked in, and that repairs were underway and that the first aid kit needed restocking.

#### **Drice/Peanut's Group Home – 30 #3**

Chair Montano and Commissioner Bacio visited this facility at 1100 West 40<sup>th</sup> Place, Los Angeles, on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and were escorted by Yvonne Mac Caryey. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory**. Areas of concern: a banister needed to be added to the stairwell. Commissioners noted that the first aid kit needed restocking and a fire extinguisher needed recharging.

#### **Childnet/Long Beach Youth Center – 12 #1**

Chair Montano and Commissioner Bacio visited this facility at 4151 Fountain Street, Long Beach on June 7<sup>th</sup> and were escorted by Jim Weatherspoon. The facility was clean and well maintained, with the exception of the driveway which needed repair, with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern. Commissioners noted that there was a newly installed fire system and that the center holds fundraising events to help fund educational supplies and that they contract with the Long Beach school district for special educational services.

**Shamrock Cottage #3 – 99 #3**

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility at 2287 North Forbes Avenue, Claremont, on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Director was Antonette Sundry and Commissioners were escorted by Donna Pryor. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern.

**Beverly Hill Court**

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility at 9355 Burton Way, Beverly Hills, on June 7<sup>th</sup> and were escorted by Deputy Lyons. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern.

**NEW BUSINESS**

B. Eugene Romig, Executive Office, advised that the Sybil Brand Commission office will be painted by ISD tomorrow June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE MEETING)**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. in memory of President Ronald Reagan.

**Respectfully submitted,**

***Sherry Scates/Dedie Ward***  
**Staff, Commission Services**