

MINUTES OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

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

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Vito Cannella
John Hammargren
Michael Russell

Absent

James Cragin
Carl Moore
Frank Bacio

Others Present

Sherry Scates, Commission Staff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 22, 2004

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Cannella and unanimously carried, the minutes of December 22, 2004 were approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 29, 2004

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Vice Chair Stathatos and unanimously carried, the minutes of December 29, 2004, were approved as submitted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano reported on the following:

- A Daily Newspaper article reporting that the director of a boot camp for troubled youth was recently convicted of reckless manslaughter and aggravated assault in the death of a 14-year-old juvenile who collapsed in the triple-digit heat in the Arizona desert. The camp was shut down after the incident. Commissioners expressed concern that like incidents have happened numerous times in other Arizona boot camps, yet some judges continue to sentence County youth to those facilities; and
- She called Commissioner James Cragin to relay the Commission's New Year's wishes at which time he advised that due to health complications, he will be resigning from the Commission and will send his letter of resignation to Supervisor Burke.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This item was held for the January 12, 2005 agenda.

STAFF REPORT

Sherry Scates, Commission Staff, asked the Commissioners if they wished to present a Certificate of Appreciation to Ramona Wilson, who is retiring from DCFS, for her commitment and cooperation. Staff was directed to prepare same.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Montano briefly reviewed numerous Auditor-Controller Program Monitoring Follow-Up Reports and distributed to the Commissioner that handles each facility.

DISCUSSION OF GROUP HOME FISCAL AUDITS

This item was deferred to the January 12th agenda.

AVIVA FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This item was deferred to the January 12th agenda.

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION'S 2004 CHARITABLE FUND

This item was deferred to the January 12th agenda.

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

Five Acres/Solita Group Home – 42 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos visited this facility on December 27th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. Vice Chair Stathatos noted that she was very impressed with the new “Family to Family” program Five Acres agency is initiating, which they hope will encourage families and individuals to consider guardianship or adoption.

Bienvenidos Children’s’ Center – 6 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos visited this facility on January 3rd and gave a rating of **Excellent with** no areas of concern observed or reported. Vice Chair Stathatos noted that she is deeply concerned that this facility’s temporary Emergency Care Program for children from 0 through 8 years old, which in her opinion has been one of the finest in the County, is being closed this month due to changes in DCFS policy pertaining to the emergency placement of children, as reported by Ms. Castro, Executive Director of the facility. To the Commission’s knowledge, there are no other such emergency facilities left in the County. Following discussion, Commissioners instructed staff to invite Dr. David Sanders, Director of DCFS, to the next Commission meeting to discuss this matter.

St. Paul Group Home #2 – 100 #3

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on December 31st and gave a rating of **Needs Improvement**. Areas of concern: the quick-release window bars do not work; debris in backyard needs to be removed; supply of glassware and dishes was low; and batteries in front room smoke detector are missing. Commissioners noted that the facility was decorated for the holidays.

St. Paul Group Home #3 – 101 #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on December 31st and gave a rating of **Marginally Satisfactory**. Areas of concern: trash throughout needs to be removed; staff was unable to locate keys so Commissioners were unable to inventory linens supply; individual rights not posted; oven needs cleaning; outside vent in basement needs replacing; and batteries in the rear bedroom smoke detector is missing. Commissioners noted that the facility was decorated for the holidays.

Lakewood Sheriff's Station

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on December 31st and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. Commissioners were pleased to see that the city of Lakewood has erected a very tasteful memorial to deputies who have lost their lives in the service of City of Lakewood. They noted that the City of Lakewood is spending a good deal of their own money on improving and upgrading a County facility.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano assigned inspection duties to Commissioners for the following week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

The following items were held for the January 12th agenda:

- Discussion of Group Home Fiscal Audits
- Aviva Family & Children's Services Annual Conference to be held on February 17, 2005
- Discussion of Commission's 2004 Charitable Fund Donations

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates
Commission Staff