



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING
APRIL 5, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:09 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
Frank S. Bacio
Vito Cannella

Excused Absence

John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Others Present

Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services Division
Audra Galang, Commission Services Division

Chair Montano requested that Commissioners provide 24-hour advance notice when they are unable to attend a Commission meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 29, 2006 MEETING

On motion of Commissioner Bacio, seconded by Commissioner Cannella and unanimously carried, the minutes of March 29, 2006 were approved, as presented.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano discussed the newspaper article about Paul Higa, Director of the Los Angeles County Probation Department. She described him as a strong supporter of the Sybil Brand Commission and extended well wishes for his full recovery.

Chair Montano suggested the Commission request the Board of Supervisors provide funds to pay the cost of a driver and vehicle six times a year so they can conduct camp inspections in the Calabasas, Palmdale, Lancaster and Malibu areas. She suggested that staff submit information to the Quality and Productivity Commission in recognition of their efforts and discussed the costs absorbed by the Commission in conducting facility inspections.

She reported that in response to a request made by Ms. Liz Howard with DCFS, the Sybil Brand Commission visited 342 group homes, 17 courts and 19 Sheriff Stations not including the Twin Towers, Central Jail, Hospital Ward and the Lynwood Regional Detention Center. She also discussed the importance of receiving a current Group Homesite Directory and suggested the list be sorted by zip code to assist in assigning facility inspections.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$917.00.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Sandra Barbee, Chief of Commission Services, reported the following:

1. The Commission was informed of the invitation to the 2006 Commissioners' Leadership Conference on May 25, 2006 (Thursday) 8:30 a.m. at the Music Center-Dorothy Chandler Pavilion by the Quality and Productivity Commission. The cost is free to Commissioners.
2. Ms. Barbee asked the Commissioners to begin selecting their biography and photograph for web placement and reported that she has not yet received a response from County Counsel on the confidentiality of SBC Minutes.
3. She announced the selection of Ms. Sachi Hamai as the new Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors. Ms. Hamai comes to us from the

Department of Health Services and will begin her assignment on Monday, April 17, 2006.

4. The Certificate of Appreciation for Ms. Violet Varona-Lukens was submitted to Chair Montano for her approval signature.
5. The adjournment scroll for the late Darren E. Russell was approved by Chair Montano in memory of the anniversary of his death.
6. The parking ID request was submitted to ISD for replacement and will be given to Commissioner Hammargren at the next meeting.
7. She reported that she had no additional information on Mr. Paul Higa, Director of the Los Angeles County Probation Department. On behalf of the Commission, Vice Chair Stathatos agreed to buy a get well card to be sent to the Higa Family.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

Cleo's Group Home – 18 #3

Commissioners Bacio and Moore visited this facility on March 30th, and found no children at home. Commissioner Moore will make his report at the next meeting. During a brief discussion on the job termination of Ms. Washington, Chair Montano reminded members that in their official role of Commissioner, they are prohibited from any involvement in personnel matters.

Commissioner Moore asked for clarification on Commissioners' involvement in personnel matters. Following discussion, the matter will be referred to County Counsel for advisement.

M&R Group Home – 65 #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this beautiful facility on March 31st, and found everything in order. The capacity is six and occupied by five young women, ages ranging from 12 to 18, from the Department of Children and Family Services. There are three full-time and three part-time staff. There was discussion on the responsibility of paying for the bills on penalties of books returned late that was received by the group home from the

library when children went AWOL. It was decided the group home should pay for all the bills.

C&R Masada Home – 21 #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on April 3rd, and found everything in order. One area of concern is the carpeting needs shampooing.

Manna Manor, Inc. – 66 #1

Chair Montano visited this facility on April 4th, and found everything in order and properly labeled. It was given a rating of **Satisfactory**. The facility has five full-time staff, a beautiful kitchen and plenty of food. One area of concern is the first aid kit needs restocking.

Camp Roth

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this fire camp on March 30th. It has a nurse on-site 40 hours a week. It needs new staff housing. Areas of concern: bathroom needs to be repaired or replaced and better screening is needed to select youths appropriate for the fire training program. The facility requires a full-time maintenance person, which has been requested.

Le Roy Haynes Center – 40 #5

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on April 4th and found it is very well-kept and in A-1 physical condition. In October 2005, DPSS conducted a Quality Assurance Audit that identified a corrective action plan to reduce excessive seclusion and restraints. In response to the plan the Director increased staff and changed the behavior plan placing more emphasis on therapeutic crisis intervention. They now submit monthly reports to DCSF, train staff differently; and use an enhanced initial selection process for staff. She handed out a brochure of the center.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Commissioner Bacio reported his vacation dates from April 10 to 14, 2006.

Vice Chair Stathatos read an article from the Pasadena Star News dated April 1, 2006. It was regarding a federally approved funding waiver to assist the

Los Angeles County Child Abuse System in keeping families together. She also read the Los Angeles Times article about the children at the Barry Nidorf Juvenile Hall. Copies of the articles were shared to the Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

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

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Barbee

Commission Services Chief