



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

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

MINUTES OF THE SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING AUGUST 15, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
Carl E. Moore
John Hammargren

Excused Absence

Rita Hall

Others Present

Commander Delta Roberts, Sheriff's Department
Michael Varela, Dorothy F. Kirby Center
Ronald Hudson, Probation Department
Candace Rhue, Auditor-Controller
Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children & Family Services
Karen Compton-Moore, Department of Children & Family Services
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children & Family Services
Geoconda Burbano, Group Home Supervisor, Department of Children & Family Services
Paul McIver, Department of Mental Health

Staff

Janice A. Davis, Commission Services
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services
Garen Khachian, Commission Services

Commissioner Hammargren joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS

Sheriff's Department: Commander Detta Roberts began by distributing the Sheriff's Department rosters, phone lists and the "Los Angeles County Sherriff's Department Sybil Brand Commission Inmate on Inmate and Inmate on Staff Assaults August 2007 Report" and then gave the following report:

- The Department of Justice will visit the Sheriff's Department next week.
- The Sheriff's Department will begin distributing the "Los Angeles County Sherriff's Department Sybil Brand Commission Inmate on Inmate and Inmate on Staff Assaults Report", quarterly instead of monthly.

Probation Department: Mr. Ronald Hudson gave the following report:

- The Shamrock Cottage #4 Group Home sent a letter to the Department of Children and Family Services, not the Probation Department; however the Probation Department did obtain a copy and the allegations regarding the Shamrock Cottage #4 were unfounded.

Dorothy F. Kirby Center: Mr. Michael Varela gave the following report:

- New flooring will be installed at the Dorothy F. Kirby Center.
- Mr. Varela will begin sending the Commission current reports regarding the Dorothy F. Kirby Center.

Auditor-Controller: Ms. Candace Rhue gave the following report:

- The Peanuts Group Home and the Drice Group Home closed down voluntarily because the owner wanted to sell the property.

Department of Children and Family Services: Ms. Karen Compton-Moore, Program Director, gave the following report:

- The capacity available for emancipated homeless youths in transitional housing is 244. The success rate is dependent upon the completion of the 12-month program.

- Youths in transitional housing deposit 50% of their earnings into an interest-bearing trust fund account and upon completion of the program the funds are returned to them at 100%. The goal is for the youths to secure permanent housing. It's called an "Exit Out Program".
- If foster youths are not permanently employed in full time jobs, they are either employed in part-time positions or enrolled in the "Vocational Training Program".
- The "Independent Living Program" (ILP) is a program available to youths which funds job training if HUD funds aren't available.
- Most group homes have a month-to-month rental agreement.

Ms. Elizabeth Howard, Interim Division Chief, gave the following report:

- Due to stricter guidelines some group homes are voluntarily choosing to close.
- The Department of Children and Family Services is investigating an allegation of sexual abuse at a group home between several youths.
- At a group home a client missed three orthopedic appointments because staff was unable to take the client to the appointments.
- All (13) Children Are Our Future Group Homes are "On Hold".
- The "Hold Status" for the M&R Group Homes sites has been lifted.
- The San Fernando Mental Health Center Group Home has voluntarily closed.
- The Street Academy Group Home has closed.
- The "Do Not Refer" status for both Jay Cee Dee Group Homes changed to "Do Not Use".
- The Ha're Johns Paradise Group Home is still "On Hold" pending the review of the Corrective Action Plan by the Department of Children and Family Services.
- The "On Hold" status for one of the Ettie Lee Group Homes has been lifted.
- The Department of Children and Family Services had an issue with the location of the San Gabriel Children's Center Group Home and placed the home "On Hold"; however, the group home found a better location and the "On Hold" status has been lifted.

Department of Mental Health: Mr. Paul McIver gave the following report:

- The Department is focusing on the problems regarding adolescents being moved out of Metropolitan State Hospital due to facility closure.
- The numbers of children in mental hospitals has been declining because the youths are approaching age 18 and because the state allows the County to place youths in other states when they need mental health facilities.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 8, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Cannella, and unanimously carried, the minutes of August 8, 2007 were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montaña reported on 2 articles:

- "Audit Finds Agency Wasted \$1 Million", Los Angeles Times, August 9, 2007, regarding the Department of Children and Family Services mispending millions of dollars on unnecessary and overpriced supplies, according to an audit released August 3, 2007.
- "Agency Ordered to Fix Problems" from Los Angeles Times, August 15, 2007, regarding the August 3, 2007 audit of the Department of Children and Family Services.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,098.07.

STAFF REPORT

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

FACILITY INSPECTION REPORTS FROM AUGUST 8 TO AUGUST 14, 2007

Boys Republic – 5, #1 - Commissioners Hammargren and Chair Montaña

This facility was visited on August 13, 2007, and no one was home.

Optimist Boys Home – 47, #2 - Chair Montaña

This facility was visited on August 14, 2007, and no one was home.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

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

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting in memory of Merv Griffin at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice A. Davis
Commission Services Division