



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mrs. Anne S. Hill
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **DECEMBER 16, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

(Rita Hall joined the meeting.)

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio
Barbara Bigby
Rita Hall
Anne S. Hill
Carl Moore

Excused Absence

John A. Hammargren

Guest

Barbara Butler, Department of Children & Family Services
Dorothy Channel, DCFS
Tanya Fields, Probation Department
Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department
Elizabeth Howard, DCFS
Alan Henry, Community Care Licensing

Francesea Jones, Probation Department
Jed Minoff, Probation Department
Robert Taylor, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Michael Varela, Probation Department
Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor-Controller

Staff

Lee Millen
Nyla Jefferson

DISCUSSION ON THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT'S MENU AND OTHER ISSUES

Robert Taylor, Chief Probation Officer, provided Commissioners copies of the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Strategic Plan. The goals are to implement Evidence-Based Practices; Develop and Expand Collaborative Efforts and Community Capacity; and Enhance Organizational Development Practices. The Department will implement in March 2010 Probe Stats which offers measurable outcomes to recognize the initiative's consequences. He asked the Commissioners to review the plan and indicated that this was the first time any probation department anywhere adapted the National Institute of Correction model to develop its strategic goals.

In response to Commissioner Moore, Mr. Taylor advised that the black and brown confrontations have been reduced largely due to increased staffing and training to anticipate and be cognizant of the indicators to prevent conflicts.

Most of the youth arrested are not taken to juvenile halls and when arrested by the police stay less than 14 days; they may be subject to supervised detention or electronic monitoring. Those that do stay longer are placed in a multidisciplinary training program that is offered at each of the camps which includes the following assessments: Mental Health; Criminal Genetics; Physical Health; and Education. Courses in the program address substance abuse and promote educational programs such as GED, college preparatory, and vocational (carpentry, culinary arts, automotive, etc.) classes. The final phase of the program is transitioning the emancipated youth back into the community. The assessment plan will follow them to ensure the same services in camp are offered outside of camp.

Mr. Taylor's voiced concern with the State of California's revenue deficit and how it will affect fiscal year 2010-11 when supporting the mandates, policies and regulations required by the State. The Department may have to close camps which may not recertify if they are later reopened due to their years in service, i.e. older construction requirements followed, and effect cuts on mandated training. Another successful program is the Day Reporting Center near Slauson and San Pedro Streets. Young people ages 18-25 years old on probation must report in; the program has a good recidivism rate.

Commissioner Bigby reported on the unsatisfactory conditions of a Probation Department group home which is affiliated with Children Are Our Future on Keswick Street. Following discussion, Jed Minoff, Director, Placement Community Transition Services, will invite Lisa Campbell Moten to the next meeting to report on the home.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chairperson Montaña welcomed everyone in attendance and a self-introduction followed.

Internal Services Department

Michael Henderson, Division Manager, Maintenance & Operation, reported that the Department's fiscal year reports are meeting their performance measures standards. He also invited Nick Chico, Parking Services, to address any questions regarding the Commissioners' parking passes.

Nick Chico, Manager, Parking Services, displayed two parking passes. The Green pass allows for parking at Lot 14 located under the Music Center. The Pink parking pass allows for parking at facilities under contract with Los Angeles County; approximately 20 lots. The parking pass is about \$25 per month and an additional \$6.25 for the Pink pass.

Staff reported that new parking cards are assigned to Lot 14.

Mental Health Department

No representative in attendance.

Sheriff's Department

No representative in attendance.

Probation Department

Francesea Jones, Chief, Management Services Bureau, introduced Ms. Tanya Fields, Director, Institutional Supports Services, to discuss the food services operation at Lancaster's Challenger Memorial Youth Center.

Ms. Fields reported that the Probation Department will hire a registered dietitian in the near future, and will seek the advice of a food services consultant in the short term to address concerns. The consultant would be able to determine a replacement menu with similar nutritional value. A job opening for a food services consultant has been issued.

Michael Varela, Probation Department, invited the Commissioners to the Dorothy Kirby Center for a special event on December 30, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Also, they were invited to attend the Providers meeting on December 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Monterey Park, CA. The Kirby Center is near completion with new kitchenettes that will have stainless steel appliances that are ADA compliant. Commissioner Hall complimented staff on the manicured grounds at Kirby. Commissioners Moore and Hall suggested that the Juvenile Hall consider procuring handheld cameras to assist in mitigating altercations.

Community Care Licensing

Alan Henry, CCL, offered to inspect Children Are Our Future in Canoga Park, CA and he distributed and briefly reported on the Group Home Closure Report. Elizabeth Howard, DCFS, advised that she will inquire on whether an inspection has been completed and report back on the matter.

Department of Children and Family Services

Elizabeth Howard advised that the Salvation Army in Hollywood no longer has a contract with the Department of Children and Family Services. Ms. Butler submitted a www.layouth.com article, I Was Out of Control (11/17/09), on an emancipated youth that lived at Star View Group Home.

Chairperson Montañó thanked Department representatives and Mr. Taylor for their informative presentations.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 9, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Vice Chairperson Bacio, seconded by Commissioner Bigby and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2009 were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- Former Commissioner Vito Cannella mailed the Commission a Christmas card.
- Thanked Vice Chairperson Bacio for coordinating the Commission's luncheon and commended Nyla Jefferson and staff for the Christmas decor.
- Reported that the Chief Executive Officer advised the Board of Supervisors in conjunction with the Director of DCFS and the Auditor-Controller on demographics of all children in the system, concerning fatalities (homicides or accidents) for the past three years.
- Read and informed the Commission regarding the following:
 - LA Times article, *State Underpays Foster-care Providers, Court Rules* (12/16/09).
 - Daily Breeze article, *Racial Tension Prompts Lockdown* (12/15/09).
 - LA Times article, *Jail Locked Down to Avoid Racial Violence* (12/15/09).
 - LA Times article, *Warning Signs are Missed: 2 Die* (12/13/09)
 - LA Times article, *To Alice Who Changed the World* (12/6/09).
 - Daily Breeze article, *County to Share Report of Abuse* (11/25/09).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1, 293.93.

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORTS

There was none

(Commissioner Hill was excused from the meeting.)

**FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM DECEMBER 10, 2009
TO DECEMBER 15, 2009**

Century Regional Detention Facility – Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioners Bigby, Hall, Hill and Moore The facility was visited on December 10, 2009, and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Lack of adequate supervision: Captains and Lieutenants not on-site.

B&I Group Home – 2, #2 – Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Hammargren The facility was visited on December 14, 2009, and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

Glendale Court – Commissioners Bigby and Hill The facility was visited on December 15, 2009, and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Jail cells need painting, the floor should be replaced, and doors on holding cells require repair.

B&I Group Home – 2, #1 – Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Hammargren The facility was visited on December 15, 2009, and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

On motion of Commissioner Bigby, seconded by Rita Hall and unanimously carried, the 2010 Meeting Schedule was approved.

2010 STRATEGIC PLAN

Discussion ensued on the November 18, 2009 meeting. Since all Commissioners were not present, the 2010 Strategic Plan will be discussed on January 13, 2010. Chairperson Montaña reported that she will issue site visits and record inspections based on Supervisorial Maps by zip code, and will assign individual Commissioners color coded rosters for user friendly review.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hall reported that she participated in the distribution of gifts at Boys Town in Compton, CA. The newly constructed temporary housing facility has 16 beds for young ladies.

Supervisor Knabe and Chairperson Montaña participated in the Wilmington Christmas Parade on December 13, 2009.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

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

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.