



## 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 OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2010**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with a moment of silence and a self introduction.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### Present

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña  
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio  
Rita Hall  
Barbara Bigby  
John Hammargren  
Carl Moore

##### Excused Absence

Ann S. Hill

##### Guests

Captain Warren Asmus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Barbara Butler, Department of Children and Family Services  
Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department  
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services  
Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department  
Alan Henry, Community Care Licensing  
Elizabeth A. Howard, Department of Children and Family Services  
Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor Controller's Office

Staff

Lee Millen  
Roy Sinclair

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**Department of Children and Family Services**

Elizabeth Howard, DCFS, reported that the Board of Supervisors has directed DCFS to recreate an Investigation Unit due to abuse/neglect issues, and it will become part of her Division. Consequently, staff that has handled group home reviews will be reassigned to the Division to handle investigations. The Unit should be in place by end of 2010.

In response to Commissioner Hammargren/Moore, Ms. Howard will report back on contrasting living conditions provided at group homes (e.g. Starview/Vista del Mar), and on DCFS audits regarding criminal and or other enforcement actions taken.

Barbara Butler, DCFS, reported that there are seven (7) General Neglect cases pending, two (2) Physical Abuse cases evaluated out and six (6) pending, two (2) Sexual Abuse cases pending and two (2) evaluated out, and there were 269 Awols.

**Auditor Controller's Office**

Cassandra Youngblood, A/C, reported that last month she visited four (4) group homes consisting of 15 individual sites, and is currently assuming some Ombudsman responsibilities.

Commissioners Hall and Bigby recommended that Ms. Youngblood join them in revisiting Rosemary's group home to ensure that hair care products and other personal essentials are provided to minors. Alan Henry, CCL, agreed to revisit this site and report back.

**Internal Services Department**

Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department, reported that about a third of the courts have been transferred to the State, and consequently, his four (4) maintenance districts are being realigned due to the loss of maintenance responsibilities previously provided to courts. ISD will provide maintenance to county areas in courts, and LASD will provide court maintenance.

**Mental Health Department**

Staff advised that Paul Mclver, Mental Health Department, and staff were unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

**Probation Department**

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department, reported that a successful collaboration with DCFS is occurring on Permanency efforts; Media based recruitment efforts has two (2)

eligible cases, and a video of a 16 year old will appear on Good Day LA on Monday morning to tell his story on waiting for an adoptive home. Also, the Probation Department has monitoring responsibilities for 17 group homes that consist of about 32 sites. Child's Home for Children contract was not renewed, and Bayfront did implement a corrective action plan (staff person fired) on a substantiated child abuse case (broken ear by staff) and now wants to expand facility.

In response to Commissioners Hall/Moore, Ms. Campbell-Motton will report back on protocol for medical emergency cases at holding cells, and Commissioner Hall will speak with her source whether details can be provided to enable Probation staff to investigate the lack of adequate personal hygiene supplies provided by a facility.

Ms. Campbell-Motton reported that seven (7) group home investigations were reviewed this month, and currently there are three (3) unfounded and one (1) substantiated. There were 86 Awols (two repeats), and the department is not opening any new group homes at this time.

Commissioner Hammargren noted that at Dorothy Kirby food is prepackaged which can impact nutritional value, furnishings are only provided by some financially able parents, and a drainage problem (standing water in gutter) is a health and safety issue. Ms. Campbell-Motton will relay concerns to Mr. Varela for a follow-up report at the next Commission business meeting.

### **Sheriff's Department**

Captain Asmus, LASD, reported on Inmate Assaults on Staff data (copy on file). The Sheriff is working hard on curtailing overtime to prevent any staff/service reductions, the Southwest Station is now open which replaces the former Lennox Station that is now closed and will be used by the county as another facility, a special handling project is almost completed to provide new cells for problem inmates. Also, the court facility in Huntington Park slated for ground breaking in 2011 will not house any county departments, and LASD is strongly recommending stairwells for use by court inmates as an alternate course in the event elevators are down. Further, Edelman Children's Court is looking to obtain video conferencing in courtrooms.

In response to Commissioner Hall, Captain Asmus reported that "reflective tape" was implemented in court custody areas, and efforts are underway to implement in other areas.

### **Community Care Licensing**

Alan Henry, CCL, reported that there were no group home closures during the last few months, staff to child ratio is determined on the group home Program Statement and CCL will cite facilities that are non compliant with their own individual plan of operation. Program Statements have to be accessible (via fax from main office), however, not required on site. Also, Needs and Services should be on file at site.

Chairperson Montaño thanked all for their very informative presentations.

## **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

On motion of Vice Chair Bacio, seconded by Commissioner Bigby and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2010 were approved with an edit: Starview – 42, #4.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Reviewed Los Angeles Times Newspaper article:

- *Misdeeds in Child Fatality Reports Alleged (9/9/2010)*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$843.78.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Lee Millen, Staff, reported that the press release for the Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship Awards was approved as submitted, by County Counsel; a copy was provided to Commissioners. Also, a draft copy of the County Digest article that includes quotes from the awardees was provided; County Counsel will advise as to content as well.

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS ON GROUP HOMES AND/OR DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 9, 2010 TO SEPTEMBER 14, 2010**

**Aviva Center, Hamburger Home – 1, #3 - Chairperson Montaño** The facility was visited on September 7, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Optimist Boy's Home – 32, #1 - Chairperson Montaño** The facility was visited on September 9, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**East Los Angeles Branch – Chairperson Montaño** The facility was visited on September 14, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**San Gabriel Children's Center – 40, #4 - Commissioner Bacio** The facility was visited on September 9, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Bourns Inc – 3, #1 - Commissioner Bigby** The facility was visited on September 3, 2010, however, it was not inspected as no one was home.

**Heritage Group Home – 22, #4 - Commissioners Bigby and Hill** The facility was visited on September 14, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**New Dawn Emancipation – 28, #2 - Commissioner Hammargren** The facility was visited on September 13, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Staff may need to attend Commission meeting in Sacramento in order to resolve problem of not

getting a stamped receipt for Secretary of State, Statement of Information which was paid in full.

**Heritage Group Home/Phillips Ranch – 23, #2 – Vice Chair Bacio and Commissioner Hammargren** The facility was visited on September 14, 2010, and found to be in unsatisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Staff needs to clean the garage and ceiling vents in bathroom, fix holes from front door knob, replace or clean under kitchen sink, and repair or replace two sofas. Commissioners will conduct a follow-up visit in about 30 days.

Heritage provided their Record of Fire and Earthquake Drills form; this is a useful tool for inspections. Staff will provide a blank form to Commissioners.

**Dangerfield Group Home – 12, #2 – Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on August 26, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Needs and Service Plan needs to be on site, and disaster drills not conducted or recorded.

**Vista Del Mar – Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on August 31, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Starview Group Home – 42, #4 Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on September 2, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Staff to fax vehicle information, replace beds and furniture, and will notify Commission once corrective actions are completed.

**Fred Stefferson Memorial Home – 21, #1 - Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on September 7, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Need to replace the batteries in three smoke detectors.

**Kenyon Justice Center – Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on September 10, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Need to update the 911 notification protocol to protect health and safety of minors, and address their lack of proper hygiene.

**House of Bethesda – 24, #4 - Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on September 13, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Four minors are AWOL.

### **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Moore requested that Ms. Cambell-Motton report at the next Commission business meeting on video conferencing suggested by Commander Ruiz for use of force incidents; and Chairperson Montaña requested a report on suicide kits.

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Hammargren and unanimously carried, staff was directed to write a letter of invitation to the newly appointed Chief Probation Officer to attend a Commission meeting.

Chairperson Montaña advised that the Commission will conduct a joint inspection on September 21, 2010 at Camp David Gonzalez.

Commissioner Moore advised that he will be absent from September 27 to October 4, 2010, and Commissioners Moore/Hammargren will not be present at the September 22, 2010 Commission meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.