



County of Los Angeles

“Enriching Lives through Effective and Caring Service”



Eleanor R. Montano
Chairperson

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS

2006 Annual Report

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS

Authority

The Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections is authorized by Chapter 2.82 of the Los Angeles County Code, Board Order No. 76 of November 30, 1982, Board Order No. 32 of October 26, 1993, Ordinance No. 93-0073, Board Order No. 11 of January 3, 1995, Board Order No. 10 of November 5, 1996. Board Order No. 9 of February 27, 2001 and Board Order No. 66 of March 6, 2001, Ordinance No. 2001-0024 (extension of sunset review date) and consists of ten members; two from each of the Supervisory Districts with the Sheriff and the Chief Probation Officer serving as ex officio members. The Sybil Brand Commission meets each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in Room 372 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street in Los Angeles.

The Sybil Brand Commission is made up of the following Commissioners:

1 st District	Frank S. Bacio Vacant (1)
2 nd District	Carl E. Moore Rita Hall
3 rd District	Vacant (2)
4 th District	Eleanor R. Montano, Chair John A. Hammargren
5 th District	Helen Stathatos, Vice Chair Vito Cannella

DUTIES

The Sybil Brand Commission visits or inspects each jail or lockup in Los Angeles County, County Probation and each Correctional facilities at least once each year or as more often as the Commission may deem necessary or proper as directed by a judge of the Superior Court, the members of the Commission or of a committee of the Commission. In visiting and inspecting jails and lockups as provided, the Commission shall examine every department of each institution visited and ascertain its condition as to the effective and economical administration, cleanliness, discipline, and comfort of its inmates and in other respects, as to whether such institutions are located within or without the corporate limits of any incorporated city. The Commission may call for, inspect, permit, and register of such jail and lockup and may see and visit all people kept in such jail and lockup. The Commission may also inspect group home facilities.

Los Angeles County Strategic Plan

The Los Angeles County Vision is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self sufficiency, well-being, and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities. The County Mission is to “*Enrich Lives through Effective and Caring Service*”.

Sybil Brand Commission activities support Goal 5 of Los Angeles County Strategic Plan Goals:

To improve the well being of children and families in Los Angeles County as measured by the achievements in the five outcome areas adopted by the Board: good health, economic well-being; safety and survival; social and emotional well-being; and education/workforce readiness.

ANNUAL REPORT 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In calendar year 2006, the Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) accomplished the following objectives:

Reports

- ✚ Conducted annual inspections of 255 facilities;
- ✚ Traveled an estimated annual mileage of 30,000 miles to conduct site inspections;
- ✚ Presided over seven Business Meetings with Department representatives from the Office of the Auditor-Controller, Children and Family Services, Mental Health, Probation and the LA County Sheriff's Department to identify, discuss and find solutions to problems that arise at the various facilities;
- ✚ Presided over four Quarterly Roundtable Meetings with Department representatives from the Office of the Auditor-Controller, Children and Family Services, Mental Health, Probation and LA County Sheriff's Department to identify, discuss and find solutions to the problems that arising at these facilities;
- ✚ Chair Eleanor R. Montano, Vice Chair Helen Stathatos, and Commissioner Vito Cannella made appearances before the Audit Committee to discuss the condition of group homes throughout the Los Angeles County;
- ✚ Prepared reporting guidelines for Department representatives of the Auditor-Controller's Office, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Mental Health, Probation Department, Department of Mental Health and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department;
- ✚ Issued correspondence to various group homes, law enforcement and County agencies as it relates to Commission activities; and
- ✚ To enhance community outreach efforts, the Sybil Brand Commission brochure was developed for distribution to various agencies, at meetings and made available to the public (see attached).

Presentations and Invited Guests

During the 2006 calendar year, the Sybil Brand Commission was addressed by invited guests from various liaison departments throughout Los Angeles County.

- ✚ Drs. Marvin Southard and Thomas Klotz of the Department of Mental Health spoke before the Commission



✚ August 2, 2006, Mr. Robert Taylor, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department and new Commissioner Peter Shutan of the Probation Commission addressed the Commission.

✚ August 24, 2006, Chief Richard Martinez of the Court Services Division of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Commander Richard Barrantes, Captain Warren Asmus, Captain Sam Dacus, Captain Danny Snead, Director John Van Whervin and Mr. Henry Hernandez of the Superior Court of California Los Angeles County met with the Commission and discussed, commented and suggested the provisions for clean, safe homes and working environments as well as supportive and compassionate care for all individuals in the County's care at Compton and Long Beach Courthouses



Conferences Attended

As mandated by the Board, the Commission works closely with the Sheriff's Department, Department of Children and Family Services, Probation Department, Department of Mental Health and the Auditor-Controller's Office to monitor and ensure the safety and well-being of juveniles placed in County Group Homes and Juvenile Probation Camps. Current information on the ever-changing problems faced by today's out-of-home care youth, both psychologically and socially, is essential to the understanding and support of these children. During this calendar year, the SBC attended the following conferences to strengthen our knowledge and understanding:

- ✚ February 16, 2006, **Aviva Family and Children's Services' 22nd Annual Conference** on "Critical Issues of Adolescence" presented by Aviva keynote speakers – gave us an overview, understanding and support of the children's rights; maintain, continue to develop and network with other County agencies to increase our knowledge of issues that affect youth in the facilities; provided the opportunity to facilitate a continuing dialogue and share information with agencies and individuals with whom we would normally not come into contact.
- ✚ April 26 and 27, 2006, **8th Annual Multicultural Conference** on "Continuing the Journey: Adapting to Change In A Culturally Diverse Society" presented by the Department of Mental Health Mary Norman and Terry Lewis-Nwachie
- ✚ October 19, 2006, **Assembly Bill 1234 Ethics Training**, as presented by the Los Angeles County Office of County Counsel and the Department of Human Resources and was attended by all the Commissioners
- ✚ October 26, 2006, **Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Nexus XI Training Conference** on "Violence Within the Home and Its

Effect on Children”, the program provided an overview and understanding of the importance of supporting the rights of foster children and juveniles; increasing our knowledge of the issues that affect youth and enabled us to network; and strengthen relationships with other County agencies. It also provided the opportunity to facilitate continuing dialogue and share information with agencies and individuals with whom we would normally not come into contact.

Donations

The Sybil Brand Commission maintains an account that is funded strictly through the monthly dues that have been agreed upon and paid by each commissioner. These funds are used exclusively for donation and/or support programs and events associated with Sybil Brand Commission activities. Each transaction is voted on and approved by a majority vote of the Commission members.

In 2006, Sybil Brand Commission made the following donations:

- ❖ The Paul Higa Scholarship Fund - \$250
- ❖ The Tierra Del Sol Foundation - \$100
- ❖ The Demetria Ward Memorial Fund - \$200

Outgoing Commissioner



✚ On March 8, 2006, Commissioner Maxine Russell of the Third Supervisorial District resigned from her post on the Sybil Brand Commission.

New Appointment by the Board of Supervisors



✚ On May 2, 2006, retired Sgt. Rita Hall of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was appointed by 2nd Supervisorial District Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, as the newest Commissioner of the Sybil Brand Commission.

Outgoing Staff



✚ On April 4, 2006, Ms. Sherry Scates, Senior Board Specialist and staff for the Sybil Brand Commission, retired from her position in the Executive Office.

Professional Support

Executive Office Board of Supervisors



Sandra Barbee
Chief, Commission
Services Division



James Corbett
Assistant Chief
Commission
Services Division



Audra Galang
Staff, Commission
Services Division

The Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, Commission Services Division provides central support and coordination for the many activities of the Commission. Staff members carry out day-to-day operations, coordinate activities, and respond to the requirements and direction of the Commission. The Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors provides special administrative support to the Commission. The primary support given is to publish notices, prepare agendas, record minutes, and maintain official records. It also advises the Commission on County commission procedures and regulations.

Awards and Recognitions



A **Certificate of Recognition** was awarded to Chair Eleanor Montano by 4th District Supervisor Don Knabe with signatures of the five Supervisors of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Vice Chair Helen Stathatos, Commissioners Frank Bacio, Vito Cannella, Rita Hall, John Hammargren and Carl Moore by Chair Eleanor Montano. Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to Commission Services Division Chief Sandra Barbee, Assistant Chief Division Jim Corbett and staff member Audra Galang by Chair Eleanor Montano.



Commission Services Division Staff Members



Update on Goals for 2007

In our continuing effort to monitor and ensure the effective and economical administration, cleanliness, discipline and comfort of inmates and the care of group home clients and following the legacy of late Mrs. Sybil Brand, the Commission has identified and accomplished the following goals for 2007:

- ✚ Expand site visits to include those youth facilities in Sylmar, Calabasas, Palmdale, Lancaster and Malibu areas. **Goal was accomplished. Site visits were conducted on May 1st and August 29th, 2007.**
- ✚ Investigate potential partnerships with Internal Services Department, Department of Children and Family Services and the Probation Department for training programs that will teach youth skills and crafts to prepare them for employment. **Goal was accomplished on October 24, 2007.**
- ✚ Provide recognitions and commendations for the clients, youth homes and workers, who maintain positive environments for youths in their facilities, the Commission works collaboratively with other agencies and act as a resource. **The Commission will continue to pursue the goal in 2008.**
- ✚ Provide gift bags to youths in selected group homes during holiday season. **Goal was accomplished. Gift bags were provided for Valentine's Day and Easter to Group Homes.**
- ✚ Introduce the Los Angeles County Sybil Brand Commission webpage. **Goal was accomplished. The website went online on May 16, 2007.**