



STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-2473)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (14-2324)

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

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

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Donald S. Andrews

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill and Commissioner Susan Burton

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the May 14, 2014 Minutes. (14-2325)

On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department Representative Reports for May 28, 2014.

Department of Auditor-Controller (AC)
Monthly Report

Department of Mental Health (DMH)
Monthly Report

Internal Services Department (ISD)
Monthly Report

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
Monthly Report

Probation Department (PD)
Monthly Report

Sheriff's Department
Monthly Report (14-1752)

Auditor-Controller (AC):

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report for the months of February, March and April 2014 as follows:

April = 23

March = 11

February = 23

57 total calls

Ms. Day provided a brief overview of the AC's Children's Group Home Ombudsman Semi-Annual Report for the period of July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. Ms. Day noted that she has visited 21 group homes and that the Youths' Rights Posters have been revised by the Chief Executive Office. The AC's Department will be providing informational gifts to the youths in group homes during their upcoming Outreach Visit Campaign.

Ms. Day responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Department of Mental Health (DMH) report:

Ms. Zoe Trachetenberg, LCSW Program Director, DMH, reported that with the release of Federal funds from the Affordable Care Act, DMH has been distributing funds to contract agencies. The specific purpose of the funds is to provide mental health services to the parents and caregivers of children who are currently in DMH programs, including children in

outpatient programs and group homes. Funding to contract agencies is determined by the agency's history of service, with a maximum award of \$50,000.

Commissioner Grills inquired whether DMH is coordinating with other departments, agencies and organizations to provide this valuable information about the availability of Federal funding for mental health services.

In response, Ms. Trachetenberg stated that DMH is working with the contract agencies and also strongly encourages these agencies to run public service announcements in an effort to disseminate information regarding the available funding for mental health services in the communities that they serve.

Internal Services Department (ISD) report

ISD had no representation at this meeting.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) report

Ms. Rhonda David-Shirley, DCFS, Out of Home Care Management Division, Group Home Performance Management, reported on the number of youth that were Absent Without Leave (AWOL) during the following reporting periods:

April 2014 = 585 AWOLS

19 referrals in the following categories:

- 7 General Neglect
- 7 Physical Abuse
- 5 Sexual Abuse

May 2014 = 597 AWOLS

15 Referrals in the following categories:

- 1 Emotional Abuse
- 4 General Neglect
- 6 Physical Abuse

- 2 Severe Neglect
- 2 Sexual Abuse

Ms. David-Shirley also reported that three group homes were placed on hold: Moore's Cottage was placed on hold and subsequently had its contract terminated; Little People's World - hold was released on March 6, 2014; and Starview was placed on Investigative Hold on March 10, 2014: however, the hold was released on March 20, 2014.

Pamela Pease, Probation, reported the following for the month of April 2014:

April 2014 = 128 AWOLS involving 111 youth: 44 remains AWOL, 38 returned to a group home and 29 are in Juvenile Hall.

No Group Home Holds

6 Referrals in the following categories/status:

- 1 unfounded
- 5 Pending results

Ms. Pease reported that there are three pending group home investigations for the month of April 2014.

Sheriff Department (LACSD)

Commander Samuel Dacus, LACSD, provided an overview of the May 28, 2014 "Active Shooter Training" conducted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Commander Dacus responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Chairperson Montañó thanked the presenters for the insightful information.

Following discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, the reports were received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT-PROBATION DEPT.](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT-AUDITOR](#)

3. Chairperson's Report on various items for May 28, 2014. (14-2326)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Los Angeles Times Newspaper Articles with the Commission:

- **Defense Blames Baca for Jail Plot and Hellmold Proud to be an insider (May 28, 2014)**
- **City Sees Profit in Jail Beds (May 25, 2014)**
- **Power up the Job of Inspector General (May 23, 2014)**
- **Deputy's Credibility is Pivotal to Case (May 21, 2014)**
- **Tanaka Subject of U.S. Inquiry (May 20, 2014)**
- **Supes Should Loosen their Grip (May 20, 2014 - Editorials)**
- **A New Sheriff in Town (May 19, 2014 - Opinion)**
- **Idea Floated for Oversight of Sheriff's department (May 19, 2014)**

Following discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, the Chairperson's Report was received and filed.

4. Treasurer's Report for May 28, 2014. (14-2327)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$972.61.

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for May 28, 2014. (14-2328)

There was no Staff Report.

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on May 28, 2014. (14-2329)

There was no Group Home Audit Report.

7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from May 15, 2014 to May 27, 2014. (14-2330)

During the reporting period, the following facilities/group homes were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Optimist Boys' Home (Wolfskill St. - Mission Hills, CA.), on May 27, 2014; Carson Sheriff Station (Avalon Blvd. - Carson, CA.), on May 21, 2014; Los Angeles Airport Courthouse (S. La Cienega Blvd. - Los Angeles, CA.), on May 20, 2014; and Penny Lane (Clybourne Avenue - North Hollywood, CA.), on May 19, 2014 and noted no one was home.

Vice Chairperson Bacio visited East Los Angeles Branch (South Fetterley Ave. - Los Angeles, CA.), on May 22, 2014 and Heritage Group Home (Santa Fe Springs Rd. - Whittier, CA.), on May 21, 2014.

Commissioner Bigby visited Five Acres (Solita Rd. - Pasadena, CA.), on May 27, 2014 and noted the Needs and Services documents were not available and Bedrooms 1, 2 and 3 needs new mattresses. Commissioner Bigby will revisit the facility on May 29, 2014; Rosemary Children's Services (South Oakland Ave. - Pasadena, CA.), on May 23, 2014 and noted no one was home; Lifecircles Unlimited (Louvre St. - Pacoima, CA.), on May 22, 2014 and noted that the couch in the family room needs cleaning, backyard needs to be maintained and the fire extinguisher needs to be updated or replaced (last inspected December 13, 2010); Rosemary Children's Services "Green House" (East Green St. - Pasadena, CA.), on May 21, 2014 and noted there was a client on staff assault; and Rosemary Children's Services "Bonnie House" (North Bonnie St. - Pasadena, CA.), on May 15, 2014 and noted that a client punched and bit a staff.

Following discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, the group home reports were received and filed.

III. DISCUSSION

8. Discussion and action regarding the 2014 SBC Scholarship program. (14-2356)

By Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was continued to the meeting of June 4, 2014 without discussion.

9. Discussion and approval of the SBC facilities inspection tool (FIST). (14-2096)

Twila Kerr, Acting Chief, Commission Services, provided copies of the new Sybil Brand Commission's Facilities Inspection Scheduling Tool/form. She explained that the form will assist Chairperson Montañó in assigning group home inspections to Commissioners. In addition, she provided clarification feedback to the Commissioners questions regarding the scheduling tool.

During discussion, there were questions as to whether or not Commissioners are to continue conducting audits of group homes. Staff will contact DCFS and Probation department regarding the Commission's conducting audits and report their findings to the Commission at a future meeting.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

10. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-2331)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-2332)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment for the meeting of May 28, 2014. (14-2333)

There being no further business, the meeting of May 28, 2014 was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.