



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION  
ON INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, RM 372  
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90012**

[HTTPS://SBC.LACOUNTY.GOV](https://sbc.lacounty.gov)

**Thursday, May 2, 2024**

**9:00 A.M.**

AUDIO FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (24-1776)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO LINK](#)

Call to Order.

Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants past, present, and emerging as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians  
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council  
Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians  
Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation  
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians  
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

To learn more about the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, please visit the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website  
[www.lanaic.lacounty.gov](http://www.lanaic.lacounty.gov).

Roll Call. (24-1588)

**Chairperson Raymond Regalado called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. followed by the reading of the LA County Land Acknowledgement. A quorum of in-person members was confirmed. Commissioner Haley Broder left the meeting at 10:32 a.m.**

**Present:** 6 - Chairperson Raymond Regalado, Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller, Commissioner Haley Broder, Commissioner Norma Cumpian, Commissioner Wynter Daggs, and Commissioner Mary Veral

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Bob Frutos, and Commissioner Joahanna Terrones

## I. REPORTS

### 1. Commissioners Reports on Detention Facilities. (24-1589)

Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller, and Commissioner Bob Frutos

- Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF), 450 Bauchet St, Los Angeles, CA 90012, March 30, 2024

Chairperson Raymond Regalado, and Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller

- Lancaster Sheriff's Station, 501 W Lancaster Blvd, Lancaster, CA 93534, April 5, 2024

Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller, and Commissioner Mary Veral

- Men's Central Jail (MCJ), 441 Bauchet St., Los Angeles, CA. 90012, April 17, 2024

Commissioner Haley Broder, and Commissioner Mary Veral

- Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF), 11705 S Alameda St, Lynwood, CA 90262, April 23, 2024

### AT THE REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG)

Commissioner Norma Cumpian, and Commissioner May Veral

- Men's Central Jail (MCJ), 441 Bauchet St, Los Angeles, CA. 90012, April 29 2024

Commissioner Norma Cumpian, and Commissioner May Veral

- Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF), 450 Bauchet St, Los Angeles, CA. 90012, April 29 2024

Vice Chairperson Miller and Commissioner Veral began with the MCJ inspection which was April 17, 2024 not March 17. Reporting that 6050 had wall stains, open hanging electric cables and phone lines, leaks in the mess hall, inaccessible showers, and reports indicating inmates must help each other in showers per Correctional Health Services (CHS). One inmate missed court due to no wheelchair. 6050 was trashed, crumbling concrete, and overall, in an unsanitary state. Education Based Incarceration (EBI) classrooms in 3000 and 6050 had moldy ceilings. 7000 inmates staged a hunger strike due to open food tray slots becoming prohibited. And although an agreement to keep slots open and end the strike was made, policy was rescinded. The SBC reported retaliation to the watch commander, but no reprimands were taken. A row/closet was filled with trash, rat traps, candy wrappers, and food. They observed a deputy aggressively performing a safety check. As retaliation LASD removed batteries from music players (MP3). There were traceable smells of smoke from inmates heating and keeping food warm. 3000, 3300, and 3500 had foam mattresses with no covers or weekly replacements noting extra blankets are needed in cold cells.

Vice Chairperson Miller inspected TTCF forensic inpatient stepdown unit noting a distinction between Mental Health Assistants (MHAs) and inmates. Also noting the pristine condition of stepdown and impressive MHA interaction with inmates. There was a lack of staff despite a board motion to expand mental health in the jails. MHAs expressed CHS did not view them as real mental health professionals. The absence of mental health nurses affected weekend out of cell time. In the High observation housing (HOH) dorm only compliant inmates (6 of 19) are allowed out of cell time as they are unshackled. TTCFs plans to redesign units in which the SBC worries how inmates will be transferred without therapeutic intervention.

Lancaster Sheriff Station there were provisions and food was adequate and more accessible than most facilities, with two hot meals a day. Lockup was 1/4 full, and mattresses were satisfactory. There was a telephone, teleconferencing and a plumbing pressure issue. The Watch Commander explained their intake process, took a walkthrough of their gun lockers, booking area, showers, and mess area and a refrigerator full of hot meals. Chairperson Regalado suggested comparing sheriff stations and court lockups to larger facilities to find better environments. And that at court lockups inmates' willingness to discuss their mental health, and at larger facilities they are not.

Commissioner Broder reported that at CRDF, EBI Module 3600 lacked hygiene products, one woman received no underwear for a week and laundry returned dirty. Module walls had worms, black flies coming out of the sink, and drinking water was disgusting.

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All sinks and toilets were backed up for weeks. A module across the hallway had extra hygiene products, raising questions why this was not communicated or shared. A monolingual Spanish speaking woman taking the English only GP course wanted Spanish programming. The only elevator has not worked for three weeks making 2300 no longer ADA accessible. So, people access the trash filled staircase for court dates and the tower is lock downed for food service. The SBC reported a woman in the shower shouting for 45 minutes for help and although safety checks are done every 15 minutes the LASD did not help her. Noting their safety checks were quick scans, and observed an inmate cover the view while five deputies enjoyed online videos. They talked to a woman whose cell had no water and toilet filled with feces, deputies said she was probably flooding it. It was later determined water was off due to a leak and moved her to another cell. The SBC found and distributed book request forms for inmates despite signs saying most inmates are allowed paper objects.

The SBC expressed sadness that the Mental Health Assistants (MHAs) were not present. Communicating MHA work with LA County District Attorney (DA) or judges could be good for CRDF inmates to receive benefits.

Commissioner Veral and Cumpian inspected MCJ 3500, 2500, and the LA Law Library at the request of the OIG and although this was not an inspection noted that only two devices at the Law Library were working, and only two inmates are allowed to use the Law Library at a time compared to Law staff and TTCF staff counts. The SBC agreed that 3500 transitional court unit feels too disciplinary. Chairperson Regalado noted this is due to staffing as two deputies are needed to transfer individuals.

In person public comment was provided by Ms. Berkeley Donovan. There was no written or virtual public comment.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
                          [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

2. Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) Report. (24-1638)
  - Roll Call
  - In Custody Recent Deaths
    - Preventative Measures, Policy Implementation, and training as a result of the deaths.
  - Review and update of the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) gender responsive services

**Lieutenant Jose E. Gonzalez, LASD, overviewed a list of the most recent in custody deaths. He clarified that each one is unique in nature and LASD and identifies areas of improvement. Regarding autopsy result wait time, results take up to a year to receive and is out of LASD control. He confirmed that there are more unlisted deaths, including one woman who died at CRDF. And advised the SBC to invite the LA County Department of Medical Examiner (DME) coroner's office to speak on autopsy reports. And that the LASD cannot place special holds on autopsy report releases.**

**Vice Chairperson Miller noted that the under previous administration sheriff would hold releases, and requested Lieutenant Gonzales to follow up with Commander Macias if holds are still taking place. The LASD to report back on the LASD corrective action plan and the daily LASD deputy work before the next SBC Meeting. Dr. Melissa Kelly, CRDF, was unable to attend the meeting and present on Gender Responsiveness at the next SBC meeting.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
[PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

**RECESS**

**Recess was taken at 10:55 a.m. and resumed at 11:06 a.m.**

3. Correctional Health Services (CHS) Report (Dr. Sean Henderson). (24-1643)
- In Custody Deaths CHS Preventative Measures, Policy Implementation, and training as a result of the deaths
  - Testing/Treatment options for hepatitis

**Dr. Henderson, CHS, noted that policy changes are made as needed after deaths are reviewed and that he does not know what can be shared outside the death review process nor the confidentiality level. Deaths go into a death book kept by the LASD. But will follow up Commander Macias. And noted that the process usually results in practice or policy change.**

**Regarding inmate populations with mental health issues although Dr. Henderson did not have a report, he did acknowledge that mental health has an impact on mortality. And that MCJ and TTCF hold compromised people. CRDF accounts for about 10% of deaths. The SBC noted they can ask the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), for trends and outlines of in custody deaths. Dr. Henderson suggested for SBC and CHS County Counsel discuss sharing limits. Dr. Henderson explained they are unable to determine the prevalence of hepatitis C in the jails because CHS performs at risk testing due to treatment restrictions due to cost and availability. They treated two three patients per month in 2023. In March 2024, 75 were treated and aim to treat about 75 100 patients each month with the new 12-week treatment plan. If CHS were to do universal testing, it would likely result in about 15% positive for hepatitis. A larger budget request and bandwidth is needed to treat everyone. He explained they encourage testing for people with drug history, are immune compromised, and/or have a positive record. Two hepatitis tests are used: Hepatitis C which turns positive once an individual is exposed, and Viral Load which test if an individual is actively positive. In 2023, 25% of 10,000 people tested positive for Hepatitis C, and 12.5% tested positive for Viral Load. And reminded the SBC these numbers are higher than expected as only at-risk populations were tested. Eplusa used to treat actively positive patients. And the estimated cost of universal testing is estimated to be \$8 million. Regarding clinician reaction and communication, he has not heard any objections or approval. Medication is safe and requires two check ins during the 12-week treatment plan. When a treated patient is released CHS sends medical records to facilities.**

**Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)**

4. Update from the Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections (SBC) Ad Hoc Committee to address the LASD Structural, Cultural, and Physical problems with the jail system. (24-1644)

**Chairperson Regalado Ad Hoc Committee members are Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller, Commissioners Bob Frutos, Wynter Daggs, and himself. And that the Ad Hoc Committee is tasked to investigate, document, and determine long term solutions to address repeating issues. Issues include sanitation, special needs (dietary, mental health medical), education opportunities (EBI programming), religious/spiritual opportunities, timely inmate assessment (IRC backlog), use of force, court and medical facility transportation issues, facility maintenance, incorporation of the SBC by another oversight authority, recreation, retaliation, commissioner clearance time, hygiene supplies, and EBI in Spanish.**

**Chairperson Regalado advised that the Ad Hoc Committee identify priority items that could use full SBC attention. And to find opportunities to work in partnership with the Civilian Oversight Committee (COC), OIG, and LASD to prevent reoccurring issues. He will make an offer as far as dates and times to schedule a meeting soon. And clarified that the Ad Hoc Committee will identify focuses and report back to the SBC to determine partnerships and implementation.**

**Attachments:** [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

5. Chairperson's Report on Correspondence received. (24-1645)

**Chairperson Raymond Regalado reported no correspondence received.**

**Attachments:** [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

## II. DISCUSSIONS

6. Discussion and Appropriate Action of the SBC Education Based Institutional (EBI) Programming Survey. (24-1646)

Chairperson Regalado noted that EBI initiatives were provided by LASD at the last SBC meeting, but it was clear the report was not read. Vice Chairperson Miller advised Commissioners to re-read the report to identify takeaways. He noted that class interest and satisfaction were extremely high. 77% of people taking classes found them useful, 71% of respondents said EBI programs were rarely or never made available. 66% of programs were cancelled without good reason, and 36% were able to enroll in at least one class. Of 519 respondents not enrolled in any class, 61% tried but were unable to enroll, and 91% indicated interest in at least one class but were unable to enroll. CRDF had the highest enrollment rates, while MCJ had the highest cancellation rates and lowest class ratings. He then went over class times and availability, and noted the highest portion of classes wanted are high school classes, then vocational, then mental health therapy. While CRDF had significant ill-informed people, the LASD informed them they never received reports from CRDF. Facilities don't address concerns about advertising classes and ensuring availability to as many people in jails as possible. After comparing the LASD report from the April 4, 2024 SBC Meeting with their own, Vice Chairperson Miller suggested they provide details on what education and policies are provided to ensure programs are advertised and accommodate Spanish speakers.

Commissioner Veral thanked Vice Chairperson Miller for resurfacing the report and highlighted how the SBC Website can be utilized to improve advertisement and awareness of course availability. Lieutenant Gonzalez clarified that he never saw the EBI Survey report. Vice Chairperson Miller instructed Staff to re circulate the report to include Commander Macias, Lieutenant Gonzalez, and Lieutenant Raphael Rodriguez, who oversees EBI Programming. The LASD to provide a written response on the EBI Survey results to the SBC by or before the June 6, 2024, SBC Meeting.

In person public comment was provided by Ms. Tracy Jordan, COC.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
                          [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

7. Discussion and Appropriate Action on the Office of the Inspector Generals (OIGs) April 10, 2024 report to the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) regarding an in-custody death of a 28-Year-old Black male found unresponsive in a dorm at North County Correctional Facility (NCCF). (24-1647)

**The SBC did not receive communication from the OIG. This item was continued to the next SBC Meeting for follow up from the OIG.**

**In person public comment was provided by the COC. There was no written or virtual public comment.**

**Attachments:** [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

8. Discussion and Appropriate Action on the February 21, 2024 Stipulation to Modify Court Order Setting Deadlines for Substantial Compliance in Department of Justice v. County of Los Angeles, Case No. 2:15-cv-5903-DDP-JEM. (U.S. Department of Justice team) (24-1648)

- Discuss on the basis on which, as stated in ¶23 "The United States agrees that High Observation Houting (HOH) Dorms may be credited toward the Stepdown requirement under paragraph 2(c) so long as:
  - a. The County maintains its existing Stepdown units and continues their expansion such that there are at least 18 such Stepdown units in operation by June 2025
  - b. The County memorializes in policy or other directive the essential shared features of Stepdown Units and HOH dorms, which must include:
    - i. Enhanced, unrestrained out-of-cell time with access to out-of-pod recreation areas.
    - ii. A therapeutic physical space with games, soft furniture, decorative art or plants, and other pro-social environmental features similar to those in existing Stepdown units in Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF).
    - iii. Consistent and specially trained custody and CHS staff; and iv. Tailored treatment plans and programming."

**Vice Chairperson Miller informed the SBC he has not received a response from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and will reach out by the next SBC meeting and report back. Chairperson Regalado continued this item to next SBC meeting.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
[PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

9. Discussion with Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) and Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF) Forensic Inpatient Stepdown Unit Mental Health Assistants. (24-1652)

**Chairperson Regalado noted that Commander Macias could not get clearance for the MHAs at this meeting however did indicate the LASD should be prepared to fulfill this agenda item at the next SBC Meeting. Vice Chairperson Miller requested that Commander Macias or Lieutenant Gonzalez confirm TTCF and CRDF MHA attendance two weeks prior to the June SBC Meeting. And to note any problems with attendance.**

**Attachments:** [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

10. Discussion and Appropriate Action on the Commissions website ([www.sbc.lacounty.gov](http://www.sbc.lacounty.gov)) placement of the various reports. (24-1653)

**Commissioner Veral clarified she requested this agenda item after noting the most recent annual report on the SBC website is from 2017. The Humanitarian Report, which was not titled an annual report, falls under annual reports on the SBC website and precedes inspection reports. And EBI reports are inaccurately described. She advised that inspection and EBI reports should be above the annual reports. Commissioner Daggs noted difficulty navigating the website during her on boarding process. Following discussion on next steps, Commissioner Daggs to email proposal in a week.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
[PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

### **III. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER**

11. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of April 4, 2024. (24-1654)

**On motion of Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller seconded by Commissioner Wynter Daggs, this item was approved as amended to correct “5th Stepdown” to “FIP Stepdown” in paragraph two of item four with the following roll call vote:**

**Ayes:** 4 - Chairperson Raymond Regalado, Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller, Commissioner Norma Cumpian, and Commissioner Wynter Daggs

**Abstentions:** 1 - Commissioner Mary Veral

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner Ingrid Archie, Commissioner Haley Broder, Commissioner Bob Frutos, and Commissioner Joahanna Terrones

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
[PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

#### **IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **Public Comment**

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (24-1655)

**In person public comment was provided by Ms. Tracy Jordan, COC. She invited the SBC to provide an update at COCs monthly meeting on May 16, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at St. Anne’s Conference Center, 155 North Occidental Blvd, Los Angeles, CA, 90026.**

**There was no written or virtual public comment.**

**Attachments:** [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

##### **Adjournment**

13. Adjournment for the Meeting of May 2, 2024. (24-1656)

**Chairperson Raymond Regalado adjourned the meeting of May 2, 2024, at 12:24 p.m.**