



County of Los Angeles

“Enriching Lives through Effective and Caring Service”



**Eleanor R. Montaña
Chairperson**

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS

2008 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, and consists of ten members; two from each Supervisorial District, 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 following Commissioners currently serve on the Sybil Brand Commission.

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

DUTIES

The members of the Sybil Brand Commission, or a committee of the Commission, is required to visit and inspect each jail, lockup, probation and correctional facility in the County at least once each year and may conduct additional inspections more often as the Commission may deem necessary or as directed by a judge of the Superior Court. The Commission shall examine every department of each institution visited to ascertain its condition as to effective and economical administration, cleanliness, discipline and comfort of its inmates. In addition, the Commission may call for and inspect the permit and register of such jail and lockup and may see and visit all persons kept in such jail and lockup, whether the institution is located within or without the corporate limits of any incorporated city.

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.

The Los Angeles County Sybil Brand Commission webpage can be accessed 24 hours a day by logging onto: <http://sbc.lacounty.gov>

ANNUAL REPORT 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In calendar year 2008, the Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) accomplished the following objectives:

Reports

- ✚ The Commission conducted 305 site inspections.
- ✚ Traveled an estimated annual mileage of 18,200 miles to conduct site inspections;
- ✚ Presided over thirty-four regular meetings where reports on Institutional Inspections were discussed.
- ✚ Presided over ten Business Meetings with Department representatives from the Auditor-Controller, Department of Children and Family Services, State of California Community Care Licensing Division, Internal Services Department, Department of Mental Health, Probation Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to identify, discuss and find solutions to problems that arise at various facilities.
- ✚ Issued correspondence to various group homes, law enforcement and County agencies as it relates to Commission activities.
- ✚ Issued six commendation letters to Sheriff and Probation staff for their responsiveness, assistance and participation during site inspections and Business Meetings.

Donations

The Sybil Brand Commission maintains a savings 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 2008, the Sybil Brand Commission made the following donations:

- ❖ Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship Awards - Four \$250 scholarships
- ❖ The Tierra Del Sol Foundation - \$100

Presentations and Invited Guests

During the 2008 calendar year, the Sybil Brand Commission was addressed by invited guests from various liaison departments throughout Los Angeles County.

- ✚ February 20, 2008, Madeleine Kopp, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer for the Resident Treatment Services Bureau of the Probation Department, advised the Commission that the Disaster Preparedness Program was revamped and the Department began conducting “Disaster Drills” in January 2008 at several probation camps.



- ✚ February 20, 2008, Teresa Arevalo, Department of Children and Family Services, spoke to the Commission on the procedural requirements for payments to Group Homes.



- ✚ April 23, 2008, Marcia Goodman, Foreperson of the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury, spoke to the Commission about the selection process and the role of the Grand Jury members.



- ✚ June 18, 2008, Timothy Braden, General Manager, Facilities Operations Service, Internal Services Department, discussed the Internal Services Department's Apprenticeship Program.



The Sybil Brand Commission will continue to encourage the Auditor-Controller, Department of Children and Family Services, State of California Community Care Licensing Division, Internal Services Department, Department of Mental Health, Probation Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to work together and seek the assistance of the Commission to collaborate and help each Department achieve their independent goals.

Training and Conferences Attended

As mandated by the Board of Supervisors, the Commission works closely with the Los Angeles County 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 the 2008 calendar year, the Sybil Brand Commission attended the following training and conferences:

- ✚ January 6-8, 2008, **California Association of Human Relations Organizations Conference.**
- ✚ January 16, 2008, ***Sexual Harassment and Cultural Diversity Training***, a Board-Mandated training program for all Commissioners.
- ✚ May 21, 2008, ***The Leadership Conference*** where all County Departments and Commissions discussed overlapping concerns for collaborative efforts.
- ✚ October 30, 2008, ***Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Nexus XIII Training Conference*** on "Violence Within the Home and Its Effect on Children".

Professional Support

The Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, Commission Services Division provides administrative 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 primary support given is to publish notices, prepare agendas; record minutes, and maintain official records. The Executive Office also advises the Commission on County Commission procedures and regulations.



Sandra Barbee, Chief
Commission Services Division



Janice Davis, Staff
Commission Services Division



Garen Khachian, Staff
Commission Services Division

Sybil Brand Commission 2008 Scholarship Awards



During the Board of Supervisors meeting on August 12, 2008, the Sybil Brand Commission awarded \$250 scholarships to Jasmin Avila, Brian Quinteros, Travion Mixion and Courtney Nash, outstanding students from Los Angeles Trade Technical College and Group/Foster Homes. In keeping with our mission, the Commission has been a strong supporter of foster youths transitioning from group homes to

productive lives. The Commission was pleased to award scholarships to these deserving youths from similar backgrounds. The Commission hopes these scholarships will assist these deserving students to achieve their dreams of continuing onto a University in pursuit of a promising career; Jasmin Avila aspires to be a Cosmetologist and a Nurse, Brian Quinteros will use his Culinary Arts Degree as a pathway to becoming a professional Chef, Travion Mixion plans to pursue a career in Electrical Construction and Courtney Nash plans to obtain a degree in International Business or Engineering. In addition to awarding the students with the Scholarship Awards, a scroll presentation by the Board of Supervisors took place with the Commission present. We congratulate the recipients of the Sybil Brand Commission 2008 Scholarship Awards, Jasmin Avila, Brian Quinteros, Travion Mixion and Courtney Nash.



From Left to Right; Supervisor Gloria Molina, Jasmin Avila, and former Commissioner Helen Stathatos



From Left to Right; Travion Mixion and Supervisor Don Knabe



From Left to Right; Ruby Shelby-Mackey, Cousin of Recipient Courtney Nash and Supervisor Don Knabe



From Left to Right; Brian Quinteros and former Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke



Supervisor Antonovich attended the 2008 Annual Sybil Brand Commission Holiday Luncheon

Update on Goals for 2008

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, the Commission has identified and accomplished the following goals for 2008:

- ✚ Increase site visits and inspections of youth facilities and jails in the Northwest area of Los Angeles County at least quarterly.

Status: Completed

During the 2008 calendar year, forty-eight (48) site visits were conducted of youth facilities and jails in the Northwest area of Los Angeles County.

- ✚ Partner with various Junior colleges to increase the number of Scholarships awarded to deserving youths.

Status: Completed

During the Board of Supervisors Meeting on August 12, 2008, the Sybil Brand Commission increased the number of scholarships from two (2) in 2007 to four (4) in 2008.

- ✚ Provide recognition and commendations for all County agencies that maintain positive environments for youths in their Group Home and Probation facilities.

Status: In progress. The Commission will continue to pursue this goal in 2009.

- ✚ Enhance the Commission Website to provide the public with valuable information and resources.

Status: Completed

The Sybil Brand Commission Website was updated to include all relevant information and resources available to the public.

- ✚ Evaluate and modify, reporting forms to ensure that inspections address affecting group homes and jail facilities.

Status: Completed

The Sybil Brand Inspection Report Database was revised in 2008 to include addresses for all facilities inspected by the Commission.

Goals for 2009

- ✚ Continue to increase site visits and inspections of youth facilities and jails in the Northwest area of Los Angeles County at least quarterly.
- ✚ Evaluate and prepare a Sybil Brand Commission Education Scholarship Application to be disseminated during group home and probation camp inspections.
- ✚ Provide recognition and commendations for all County agencies that maintain positive environments for youths in their Group Home and Probation facilities.