



County of Los Angeles

“Enriching Lives through Effective and Caring Service”



**Eleanor R. Montaña
Chairperson**

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS

2007 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. Montaño, 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 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In calendar year 2007, the Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) accomplished the following objectives:

Reports

- ✚ Conducted annual inspections of 295 facilities;
- ✚ Traveled an estimated annual mileage of 20,000 miles to conduct site inspections;
- ✚ Presided over thirty-three regular meetings where reports on Institutional Inspections were discussed.
- ✚ Presided over six 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, Community Care Licensing Division, Mental Health, Internal Services, Probation and LA County Sheriff's Department to identify, discuss and find solutions to the problems arising at these facilities;
- ✚ Chair Eleanor R. Montañó and Commissioner Vito Cannella appeared before the Audit Committee to discuss the condition of group homes throughout 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;
- ✚ Launched the Los Angeles County Sybil Brand Commission webpage;
- ✚ Issued correspondence to various group homes, law enforcement and County agencies as it relates to Commission activities.

Presentations and Invited Guests

During the 2007 calendar year, the Sybil Brand Commission was addressed by invited guests from various liaison departments throughout Los Angeles County.

- ✚ February 14, 2007, Patricia Ploehn, newly appointed Director of the Department of Children and Family Services and Ed Sosa, Division Chief for DCFS made a presentation on the current status, operation and strategic plan of the Department of Children and Family Services.

- ✚ April 4, 2007, Ramon Castillo, Vice President of Student Services, Los Angeles Trade Technical College, Martin Flores, Camp Gonzales, and Daniel Laughlin, Youth Opportunity Movement, spoke to the Commission about career training for foster youth and scholarship programs.



- ✚ June 6, 2007, Sergeant Leo Bauer, Transit Services Bureau of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department spoke on the Girls & Boys Town fundraiser.



- ✚ July 25, 2007, Robin Guerrero, Deputy Executive Officer, Board Operations discussed the new County Governance Structure.
- ✚ October 24, 2007, Timothy Braden, General Manager, Facilities Operation Force, Internal Services Department, discussed their partnership with the Probation and Children and Family Services Departments in creating "The Youth Career Development Program", which helps find job opportunities for youths from foster homes.

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:

- ✚ April 20, 2007, ***Gang Awareness and Intervention Conference***
- ✚ May 23, 2007, ***The Leadership Conference*** where all County Departments and Commissions discussed overlapping concerns for collaborative efforts.
- ✚ October 11 and 12, 2007, ***The 2007 Annual Group Home Conference***, on "*Footsteps Towards Independence*" Training on Emancipation programs for foster youths in group homes.
- ✚ November 14, 2007, ***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.
- ✚ December 19, 2007, ***Sexual Harassment and Cultural Diversity Training***, a Board-Mandated training program for all Commissioners.

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 2007, Sybil Brand Commission made the following donations:

- ❖ The Dedie Ward Memorial Fund - \$200
- ❖ The American Cancer Society - \$100
(in memory of Commissioner James Cragin)
- ❖ Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship Awards - \$500 (2 at \$250 each)
- ❖ California Alliance of Child and Family Services - \$155
- ❖ Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities - \$120
- ❖ The Tierra Del Sol Foundation - \$100

Professional Support

Executive Office Board of Supervisors



Sandra Barbee
*Chief,
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.



Janice Davis
*Staff,
Commission
Services Division*



Andrew Sevrin
*Staff,
Commission
Services Division*



Garen Khachian
*Staff,
Commission
Services Division*

Sybil Brand Scholarship Awards



During the Board of Supervisors meeting on July 31, 2007, the Sybil Brand Commission awarded a \$250 scholarship to both Angelica Carter and Oscar Larios, outstanding students from Los Angeles Trade Technical College. In keeping with their mission, the Commission has been a strong supporter of foster youth transitioning from group homes. In partnership with Los Angeles Trade Technical College, the Commission was pleased to award these deserving youths from similar backgrounds. The Commission hopes these scholarships will assist these deserving students to achieve their dream of continuing onto college in pursuit of a promising career; Oscar Larios aspires to be a Chef and Angelica Carter, a Public Defender. 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 first recipients of the Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship Award, Angelica Carter and Oscar Larios!



Sybil Brand Commission Website Launched



It is with great pride that the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors and the Sybil Brand Commission release the Sybil Brand Commission webpage which can be accessed 24 hours a day by logging onto: <http://sbc.lacounty.gov>

This comprehensive webpage provides a Welcome and Overview that explains the role of the Sybil Brand Commission and a Biography Page with photographs and listing of current Commissioners as they are nominated by the Board of Supervisors and selected on the basis of experience and knowledge. Visitors can keep abreast of Commission activities by accessing the extended and valuable links to the Commission's calendar, minutes and agendas. Additionally, there are very important links which can provide vital information regarding Los Angeles County Jails, Teen Help, Healthcare and information regarding Sex Crimes and Child Abuse.

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, 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.**

Status: Completed

Site visits were conducted on May 1, 2007 at the Barry J. Nidorff Detention Center and on August 29, 2007 at Camp David Gonzales, Camp Fred Miller and Camp Vernon Kilpatrick.

- ✚ **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.**

Status: Completed

During the Sybil Brand Commission Meeting on October 24, 2007, the Commission was informed that the Probation, Children and Family Services, and Internal Services Departments have combined forces to help youth find job opportunities in an Emancipation Program called the "Youth Career Development Program".

- ✚ **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.**

Status: In progress. The Commission will continue to pursue this goal in 2008.

- ✚ **Provide gift bags to youths in selected group homes during the holiday seasons.**

Status: Completed

The Sybil Brand Commission donated candy gift bags to Camp Scott on February 14, 2007, for Valentine's Day and to the Boy's Republic Group Home on April 3, 2007 for Easter.

- ✚ **Introduce the Los Angeles County Sybil Brand Commission webpage.**

Status: Completed

The Sybil Brand Commission Website was launched on May 16, 2007.

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 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.
- ✚ Partner with various Junior colleges to increase the number of Scholarships awarded to deserving youths.
- ✚ Provide recognition and commendations for Children's Social Workers who maintain positive environments for youths in their Group Home and Probation facilities.
- ✚ Enhance the Commission Website to provide the public with valuable information and resources.
- ✚ Evaluate and modify, reporting forms to ensure that inspections address current concerns and issues affecting group homes and jail facilities.