SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS

2010 Annual Report

"Enriching Lives through Effective and Caring Service"

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS

Front Row: Chairperson Eleanor Montaňo
Second Row: Commissioners Carl Moore, Rita Hall, John Hammargren, Barbara Bigby and Frank Bacio
(Commissioner Anne Hill not shown in picture)

Eleanor R. Montaňo
Chairperson

Los Angeles County Strategic Plan

Mission: *The County Mission is to "Enrich Lives through Effective and Caring Service".*

Vision: *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.*

Sybil Brand Commission

Activities of the Commission represent goal number five of the 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 emotional well-being; and education/workforce readiness.

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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 list the Supervisorial District and the Commissioner(s) appointed to represent the District.

1st Supervisorial District	Frank S. Bacio, Vice Chairperson Vacant (1)
2nd Supervisorial District	Carl E. Moore Rita Hall
3rd Supervisorial District	Vacant (2)
4th Supervisorial District	Eleanor R. Montaňo, Chairperson John A. Hammargren
5th Supervisorial District	Barbara Bigby Anne S. Hill

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. They 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 and juveniles at Probation camps. 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. The Commission also inspects group home facilities to ascertain its condition.

2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In calendar year 2010, the Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) accomplished the following objectives:

Reports

- The Commission conducted 328 site inspections.
- Traveled an estimated annual mileage of 23,946 miles to conduct site inspections.
- Presided over 49 meetings where reports on Institutional Inspections were discussed.
- Presided over 12 Business Meetings with representatives from the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller, Children and Family Services, Internal Services, Mental Health, Probation, and Sheriff's Departments and the State of California Community Care Licensing Division, to identify, discuss and find solutions to problems that arise at various facilities. These meetings have established an unique means of communication and an invaluable collaboration among jurisdictions.
- Issued three letters of concerns, two letters were sent to the Courthouses regarding the safety of judicial officers' parking location and one to Camp Kenyon Schudder relating to Commission activities.
- Issued three letters of commendation to Sheriff Baca for implementation of innovative program and ideas and responsiveness at the following facilities:
  - Pico Rivera Sheriff Station's innovative effectiveness of placing florescent tape on cell/exterior door locks;
  - The Men's Central Jail Father Program, wherein inmates record a children's book and mail a CD recording and the book to their child and the Dog Program wherein inmates can be paired with a dog to handle and nurture; and
  - North County Correctional Facility Deputies for their attentiveness, responsiveness, and courteous escort of Commissioners that inspected their facility.

Donations

The Sybil Brand Commission maintains a savings account funded strictly through the voluntary monthly dues paid by each commissioner. These funds are used exclusively

to support programs and events associated with Sybil Brand Commission activities. Each transaction is voted on and any disbursement of Commission funds are place on the agenda and approved by the majority vote of the Commission.

In 2010, the Sybil Brand Commission financially supported the following:

- On August 24, 2010, the Commission awarded four $300 scholarships to four exceptionally deserving graduating high school foster youth. The $1200 in scholarship funds will be used to support the awardees in their pursuant of higher education.
- On November 17, 2010, the Commission donated $100 to the Tierra Del Sol Foundation to be used to assist individuals with disabilities to establish meaningful and productive lives.

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

During the 2010 calendar year, the Sybil Brand Commission was addressed by invited guests from various departments throughout Los Angeles County.

Front Row: Chairperson Montaňo and Commissioner Bigby
Back Row: Vice Chairperson Bacio, La Sonya Gibbs, DCFS, Commissioner Hall, Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor-

On February 3, 2010, La Sonya Gibbs, MPA, Department of Children and Family Services, Administrator of the Communications/Scholarship Youth Development Services Division, provided a Department of Children and Family Services scholarship packet to Commissioners and briefly summarized its program.

On March 17, 2011 at the Regular Business Meeting the Commission met with Department Representatives to receive updates on group homes and probation facilities. The Commissioners also discussed experiences from inspections of recent group home visits.

The Business Meeting

Chairperson Montaňo, and
Commissioners Bigby, Moore, Hammargren and Hill

On June 2, 2010, the Commissioners gathered to review and revise the Commission's Bylaws.

On June 9, 2010, the Commissioners congratulated former Commission Services' Division Chief, Sandra Barbee on her promotion to Administrative Deputy for the Department of Treasurer-Tax Collector of Los Angeles County.

Vice Chairperson Bacio, Chairperson Montaňo, Sandra Barbee, Commissioners Bigby, Hammargren and Hill

The Annual Scholarship Presentation

Front Row: Awardees Hannah Callebs, Wayne Criner, III, Jordan Silveira and Supervisor Gloria Molina

Second Row Left to Right: Commissioner John Hammargren, Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio, Commissioner Rita Hall, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Chairperson Eleanor Montaño, Commissioner Anne Hill, Lautasha Marie Wright (Criner's Mom), Margaret Ann Criner (Criner's Grandmother) and Commissioner Carl Moore.

On August 24, 2010, the Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections and Supervisor Gloria Molina hosted a Breakfast Reception and Awards Presentation in honor of scholarship recipients: Hannah Callebs, Wayne Criner, III, and Jordan Silveira (Robin Wolvek not present). Each recipient was awarded a $300 scholarship, following the presentation, the Commissioners escorted the scholarship recipients to the Board of Supervisors meeting where each of them received a five-signature scroll presented by Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair of the Board of Supervisors.

Sybil Brand Commission 2010

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

Collaborative Efforts

As mandated by the Board of Supervisors, the Commission works closely with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Departments of Children and Family Services, Probation, Mental Health and the Auditor-Controller 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 2010 calendar year, the Sybil Brand Commission participated in the following:

- **On June 9, 2010, the Probation Department invited the Commission to be a stakeholder in their Focus Group on "Transitional Youth Aging Out of the System Without Permanent Connections"**

Administrative Support

The Commission Services Division of the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors provides administrative support and coordinates the activities of the Commission. Staff members support the day-to-day operations, conduct research on issues of importance to the Commission, and prepare agendas, meeting minutes, reports and correspondence on behalf of the Commission. In addition, the staff advises the Commission on County policies, procedures, and regulations.

Angie Montes, Chief
Commission Services Division

Lee Millen, Staff
Commission Services Division

Nyla Jefferson, Staff
Commission Services Division

Roy Sinclair, Staff
Commission Services Division

Update on Goals for 2010

In our continuing effort to monitor and ensure the effective and economical administration, cleanliness, discipline and comfort of inmates, and of the care of group home clients, the Commission identified the following goals for 2010:

- Create a new inspection reporting form that is more comprehensive and well -organized.

  Status: Completed

- Evaluate changes to the Sybil Brand Commission Education Scholarship Application to be disseminated during group home and probation camp inspections.

  Status: Completed

- Increase the Scholarship monetary award.

  Status: Completed

- Partner with various schools, including the Department of Children and Family Services and Probation Department to increase awareness of efforts to identify Scholarship awardees.

  Status: In progress. (The Commission will receive presentations in early 2011 from school district contacts and Department of Children and Family Services regarding this issue.)

- 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 2011.)

- Continue to increase site visits and inspections of youth facilities and jails in the Northwest area of Los Angeles County, at least monthly.

  Status: In Progress. Inspection of Group Homes in the Northwest area of Los Angeles County is 40% complete. (The Commission will continue to pursue this goal in 2011.)

- The Commission as a whole will schedule each month an inspection of the larger probation camps/jails facilities.

  Status: In Progress. (The Commission will continue to pursue this goal in 2011.)

- Continue dialogue between the respective County Departments to enhance collaboration and efficiencies.

  Status: In Progress (The Commission will continue to pursue this goal in 2011.)

Goals for 2011

- To inspect all of the youth facilities and jails in the Northwest area of Los Angeles County by the end of the year.
- Once a month, the Commission as a whole, is to inspect the larger probation camps/jails.
- Encourage County departments to enlist the Commission's participation in conducting specific inspections, employment interviews, review panels, focus groups, etc.
- Establish a partnership with the Auditor-Controller's Office Ombudsman Program that would include distributing their written materials and collaborating in special projects.
- Select scholarship recipients by May 31, 2011 in order to mention SBC Scholarship Award in the recipient's June 2011 Graduation Program.
- Remain in contact with former scholarship recipients.
- Continue to network with Group Homes to recruit potential scholarship recipients.

The Commission would like to thank the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS and the Executive Office for their ongoing support.

Michael D. Antonovich
Mayor
Fifth District

Gloria Molina
Supervisor
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Chair Pro Tem
Third District

Don Knabe
Supervisor
Fourth District

Executive Officer
Sachi A. Hamai

The Commission would like to acknowledge and thank the following participants who attended the Commission's Business Meeting held monthly in 2010:

Allan Henry, California Community Care Licensing
Barbara Butler, Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services
Brian Hendrix, Los Angeles County Auditor Controller's Office
Cassandra Youngblood, Los Angeles County Auditor Controller's Office
Cesar Menchala, Los Angeles County Internal Services Department
David Coleman, Los Angeles County Internal Services Department
Dorothy Channel, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
Elizabeth A. Howard, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
Eric Kuehl, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Hilda Estrella, California Community Care Licensing
Jason Ford, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Jason Stepinski, Los Angeles County Auditor Controller's Office
Jennifer Ruiz, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Jim Nicoles, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Kellee Coleman, California Community Care Licensing
Lisa Campbell-Motton, Los Angeles County Probation Department
Commander Margaret Ruiz, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Michael Henderson, Los Angeles County Internal Services Department
Michael Varela, Los Angeles County Probation Department
Paul McIver, Department of Mental Health
Sergeant Peter Hahn, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Sandra Petrocelli, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Tosin Adenmosui, California Community Care Licensing
Commander Warren Asmus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
William Kiryan, Los Angeles County Internal Services Department

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

Los Angles County Mission Statement

To enrich lives through effective and caring service