



SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS

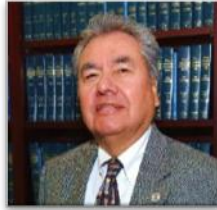
**Annual Report
2013/2014**



“Enriching Lives through Effective and Caring Service”

2013 – 2014 COMMISSIONERS

First Supervisorial District



Frank S. Bacio, Vice Chairperson

Second Supervisorial District

*Commissioner
Cheryl Grills, Ph.D.*



*Commissioner
Susan Burton*

Third Supervisorial District

Commissioner Maxine Russell, M.A. M.S.
(Not pictured)

Fourth Supervisorial District

*Chairperson
Eleanor R. Montaña*



*Commissioner
Donald S. Andrews*

Fifth Supervisorial District

*Commissioner
Barbara Bigby*



*Commissioner
Anne S. Hill*

THE 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 FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTION

AUTHORITY

The Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections (Commission) 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 Commission meets weekly on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., in Room 372 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

OBJECTIVE

The activities of the Commission are aligned with the County's Strategic Goal #1 and #3.

- ***LOS ANGELES COUNTY STRATEGIC GOAL #1***
Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability: Maximize the effectiveness of processes, structure, operations, and strong fiscal management to support timely delivery of customer-oriented and efficient public services.
- ***LOS ANGELES COUNTY STRATEGIC GOAL #3***
Integrated Services Delivery: Maximize opportunities to measurably improve client and community outcomes and leverage resources through the continuous integration of health, community, and public safety services.

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

The duties of the Commission are generally defined by sections 2.82.070, 2.82.080, and 2.82.090 of the Los Angeles County Code.

- **2.82.070 General Duties**
The Commission shall conduct inspections as provided in this chapter and shall advise on industrial and educational programs for both juvenile and adult detention inmates in County jail facilities and probation camps.
- **2.82.080 Inspection of jails, probation and correctional facilities**
At least once each year and as more often as the Commission may deem necessary or proper or as directed by a judge of the Superior Court, the members of the Commission or of a committee of the Commission shall visit and inspect each jail or lockup in the County, County probation and correctional facilities, and toy-loan facilities.
- **2.82.090 Inspections**
The members of the Commission, in visiting and inspecting jails and lockups as provided in this chapter, shall examine every department of each institution visited and shall ascertain its condition as to effective and economical administration, the cleanliness, discipline and comfort of its inmates, and in any other respects, whether such institution is located within or without the corporate limits of any incorporated city.

2013 & 2014 Accomplishments:

During calendar year 2013 and 2014 the Commission:

- Conducted approximately 499 and 468 inspections of group homes, probation camps and jail/lockups (facilities), respectively. The inspections included both the exterior and interior of the facilities, including bathrooms, bedrooms, kitchens and common areas. The Commissioners also inspected vehicles used to transport the youth, medical emergency kits and staff credentials. Unannounced inspections helped the Commissioners identify issues relative to cleanliness, discipline, effective administration and the safety and comfort of the individuals, some of which necessitated corrective action by service providers to correct the identified deficiencies.
- Presided over 37 and 31 weekly meetings, respectively, to report on institutional inspections and explore ways to maximize inspection activities to ensure maximum performance of the group homes, probation and lockup facilities.



Members of the Commission deliberating on the inspection findings

- Presided over 11 and 9 monthly business meetings, respectively, with representatives from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Probation Department (Probation), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Sheriff's Department (LASD), Auditor-Controller (A-C) and the Internal Service Department (ISD) to discuss specific issues relative to the Commission's inspection findings and necessary follow-up by the respective departments.



Monthly Business meeting with representatives from various County Departments

2013 & 2014 Accomplishments:

- Attended the DCFS and Probation Department's System Improvement Plan (SIP) Annual Stakeholder meeting to discuss and evaluate the status of SIP key outcome areas; and obtain stakeholder feedback as it relates to placement stability, permanency/self-sufficiency, enhanced organizational performance and successful reunification.
- Attended DCFS Out-of-Home Care Management Division's quarterly Group Home Forums with contract providers, during which a variety of topics such as scorecard update, contracts and substance abuse were presented/discussed.
- Met with Jay R. Stroh, Chairman, LASD Inmate Welfare Commission (IWC) who presented the role of the IWC, the revenue and expenditure of the Inmate Welfare Fund, as well as the programs and services provided to the inmates.
- Met with Commissioners from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection regarding processes to ensure that group homes are providing safe, warm, engaging and a well maintained environment for children/youth in their care. The Commission in turn provided recommendations regarding the following concerns with group home activities:
 - Potential prevalence of current practices used to monitor the administration of psychotropic medication for children in group homes.
 - Group homes are not complying with the licensing requirements for Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) to reflect important information regarding the health, education, mental health, family status and other relevant matters for youth placed in group homes.
 - Provision of adequate access to extracurricular and recreational activities to youth while in placement at group home facilities.
 - Providers to establish methods to protect children in placement from sex trafficking exploitation.
 - Ombudsmen assigned to group home personnel to assist them in ensuring that probation officers and social workers are in compliance with monthly visits and timely reviews of NSPs.
 - DCFS and Probation to establish a clearer rating scale that alerts staff and group homes of the quality rating of each facility.
- Recommended the Board to make further inquiry into the use of psychotropic medications in the group homes.

2013 & 2014 Accomplishments:

- In its continued efforts to support industrial and educational programs for both juvenile and adult detention inmates in County jail facilities and probation camps, a total of three \$300 educational scholarships were offered each year to group home and foster home youth to help them further their education in a collegiate classroom.



2013 Scholarship Recipient and the Commissioners

Chairman of the Board, Honorable Supervisor
Ridley-Thomas pictured with the Commissioners and the
2013 Scholarship Recipient Jordan Sosa (4th from right)



2013 Scholarship Awards Board Presentation

Scholarship recipient Jordan Sosa being presented a Mark
scroll by Honorable Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (right)
and Chair of the Commission Eleanor R. Montaño (left).



2014 Scholarship Awards Presentation

From the left: Chairman of the Board, Honorable
Supervisor Don Knabe pictured with SBC Commissioners
and the 2014 Scholarship Recipients Quron Clarks,
Alicia Rodriguez and Irma Munoz



2014 Scholarship Awards Presentation

Scholarship Recipients, Quron Clarks, Alicia Rodriguez and
Irma Munoz



Scholarship Recipients and their family members

2015 Goals:

In January 2015, the Commission established and approved the following goals and objectives to strategically assess and plan the work of the Commission throughout the year:

1. Visit one Los Angeles County Probation camp or Juvenile Hall per month to ensure equitable coverage of all juvenile lockup facilities and ensure compliance with policies and practices related to the management of Probation camps and Juvenile Halls.
 2. Visit and inspect all Los Angeles County group homes, jails and lockup facilities at least once per year to ensure compliance with policies and practices related to the management of group homes, jails and lockup facilities.
 3. Collaborate with Department of Children and Family Services, Probation Department, Los Angeles Sheriff Department, Auditor- Controller, Department of Mental Health and Internal Services Department to ensure the safety of the youth in group homes, probation camps and inmates in the jail/lockup facilities.
 4. Collaborate and coordinate with relevant Los Angeles County Commissions to share information and support efforts of mutual interest related to group homes and jail facilities.
 5. Identify issues, trends and efforts related to Child Trafficking to determine how the Commission can assist current County efforts.
 6. Obtain the floor plans of each Los Angeles County jail and increase inspection coverage of all sections of each jail.
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ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
Commission Services Division
500 W. Temple Street, Room B-50
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 974-1431
Fax: (213) 633-5102

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Commission would like to thank the Board of Supervisors and the Executive Office for their ongoing support.

Don Knabe
Chairman of the Board
Fourth District

Gloria Molina
Supervisor
First District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor
Third District



Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor
Second District

Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor
Fifth District

Executive Officer
Sachi A. Hamai

The Commission would also like to acknowledge and thank the following participants who attended the Commission's Business Meetings during 2013 & 2014 calendar year:

Department of Auditor Controller

Michele Day
Julie Turtle

Department of Children and Family Services

Rhonda David-Shirley
Korliss Robinson

Internal Services Department

Brian Lear

Department of Mental Health

Zoe Trachenburg

Probation Department

Lisa Campbell-Motton
Michael Varela
Pamela Pease

Sheriff's Department

Commander Ralph Orleanas
Commander Samuel Dacus



“Enriching Lives through Effective and Caring Service”

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