

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
BOARD OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021
TELECONFERENCE, 7:45 AM**

Silene St. Bernard, DVM, Chair
Sylvia Betancourt, Member
Ralph Brooks, RN, Member
Reena Curtis, PharmD, Member
Manorama Gupta, MD, Member
Troy Ha, DDS, Member



Miles McNeeley, Member
Christopher Robson, Member
Rebecca Ruiz, Member
Sabrina Sanders, Member
Barbara Schwerin, Member
Nasir Tejani, MD, FAAP, Member
Lydia Vaias, MD, Member

FINISHED AGENDA AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

**BOARD OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE
PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361**

TELECONFERENCE DIAL IN: (213) 306-3065

ACCESS CODE: 146 310 8156

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:47 a.m. Boardmember Schwerin presiding (pro tem).

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Manorama

Present: Gupta, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Rebecca Ruiz, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani and Lydia Vaias

Commissioners Silene St Bernard

Excused:

Also present: Kelly Colopy - Director of Health and Human Services; Dr. Anissa Davis - City Health Officer; Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant; Lara Turnbull - Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention Officer; Richard Nunez - Program Coordinator, GreenlightLB and Patricia Alamo, Strategic Government Affairs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-085BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held September 10, 2021.

A motion was made by Member Robson, seconded by Member Gupta, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Rebecca Ruiz, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani and Lydia Vaias

Excused: 1 - Silene St Bernard

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Members of the public are invited to address the Board on items of interest to the public within the Agency Board jurisdiction. Each speaker will be limited to two minutes unless that time is extended by the Chair.

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS

2. [21-086BH](#) Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a report from the Director of Health and Human Services.

Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services, provided the Board with an update on the following items:

- Successful Youth Forum held at Houghton Park.
- Reopening of the Department's North Facility Center, which is now named the Ronald R. Arias Health Equity Center. Anticipated grand opening celebration in early November.
- The Huntington Beach oil spill has not impacted Long Beach waters or beaches.

- Continuing work on Recovery Act funding. Processes are in place for the distribution of these funds.
- Developing the “Mi Vida Cuenta” report identifying priorities around the Latino/Latinx population. The report will guide and frame the Department’s work and investments moving forward over the next few years. The report should be released within the next few weeks.
- Hiring several Health Equity Coordinators specific to certain populations (Black; Latino; Cambodian, Filipino & Pacific Islander; and multicultural).
- Increased and strong focus on Mental Health needs in the City. The Department will be beginning conversations and planning around what can happen around mental health beyond what is available now.
- A job offer has been made for a new Deputy Director in the Department. The offer was accepted, and the onboarding process is moving forward.

This BH-Agenda Item was approved recommendation.

3. [21-087BH](#)

Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a report from the City Health Officer on Communicable Disease Control activities.

Dr. Anissa Davis, City Health Officer, provided the Board with an update on the following items:

- Seeing an increase in Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), which causes the most severe illness in infants and adults over the age of 65. Typically, at this time of the year we see less than 1% of the specimens tested showing positive for this virus; however, this year we seen 12.9% of these specimens testing positive for RSV.
- Department was successful at opening a bicillin delivery program, which is a treatment for syphilis. Most providers do not carry this medication, as it is very expensive, however the Health Department is able to purchase this medication at a reduced cost.
- New Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) guidelines have been released by the CDC. The name was officially changed from STD to STI to reflect the fact that its an infection and not a disease.
- An issue with Quest Diagnostic Labs regarding false positive syphilis lab

results. Department DIS workers noticed the anomaly and brought it to the attention of the State. The State found that as many as 1,500 individuals received false positive lab results. The cause was tracked to a Quest employee incorrectly classifying the results of these tests.

- Launched a quarterly digest of HIV/STD strategy showing how we are doing, and highlights of happenings in the community.
- The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently passed a motion around the STD crisis in Los Angeles County directing LA County Public Health, and their partners, to report back within 120 days with a plan of action to address the STD crisis. The Department is also submitting a letter of support as a matter of public comment in regard to this process.
- The Department also released a “STI Snapshot” report providing an overall snapshot of current STI case rates in the City.

The Board briefly discussed a letter being drafted to the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Supervisors regarding the reinstatement of a requirement for health education curriculum to be taught in schools. A letter is currently being drafted and will be brought back to the Board in November for final review and approval.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. [21-088BH](#) Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a presentation providing an update on the GreenlightLB program.

Richard Nunez, Program Manager for the Department’s GreenlightLB Program, provided the Board with a presentation on the GreenlightLB Program, a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record. The report provided the Board with a quick overview of the program, the current work being performed, as well as a look at the future of the program moving forward.

A discussion ensued regarding statistics related to impaired driving citations and the programs focus on education, and responsible use.

A brief discussion ensued regarding any statistics related to cannabis addiction and on it being considered a gateway drug.

Mr. Nunez spoke briefly on the program's Responsible Cannabis Vendor Training for management and staff on appropriate cannabis social media messaging, advertising, and avoidance of making any claims regarding the medicinal benefits of cannabis.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

5. [21-089BH](#) Recommendation to discuss Board goals and infrastructure.

There was no new information to provide on this item. Board members are continuing to reach out to their respective Council district contacts.

This BH-Agenda Item was laid over.

6. [21-090BH](#) Recommendation to discuss the current status of COVID-19 in the City.

Kelly Colopy spoke on the following items:

- Cases and hospitalizations are beginning to decline. The State of California overall is doing better than most of the Country.
- Third doses for individuals who are eligible are being provided. Pfizer booster shots are now also being provided at City vaccination sites. Pfizer booster clinics are also being held at the Main Health facility on Wednesdays and Fridays during October.
- Moderna and Janssen have submitted data for their boosters. The data are currently under review with the FDA. It is anticipated that they will be approved.
- Pfizer has submitted their request for approval for ages 5 to 11. It is anticipated that this will also be approved. The Department is preparing for the provision of these vaccinations in early November.
- The Department is continuing to work with the LBUSD regarding their testing protocols.
- The State announced that COVID vaccinations will be required as part of the standard vaccine panel for school-aged children over the age of five after full authorization of the vaccine.

A brief discussion ensued regarding local pharmacies providing third doses to

individuals who do not qualify, and the provision of vaccines that have not yet been approved for a third dose. Health Department staff will be looking into this matter further.

Dr. Anissa Davis spoke on the following items:

- The recent health order requiring proof of vaccination for bars, wineries, and lounges.
- Patrons are required to be vaccinated, with no testing option or exemption. Employees are also required to be vaccinated unless they have a valid medical or religious exemption.
- New orders related to outdoor mega events, with attendees greater than 10,000, where participants need to show proof of vaccination or a negative test and wear a mask.

Ms. Colopy informed the Board of a recent healthcare order that requires any of our City Health Department facilities containing a clinic to mandate vaccinations for staff located at those facilities.

A brief discussion ensued regarding what constitutes an exposure, and on the recommendations for testing and isolation related to both vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

ONGOING BUSINESS

7. [21-091BH](#) Recommendation to discuss reimagining City support for the Health Department.

There was no new information to provide on this item.

This BH-Agenda Item was laid over.

8. [21-092BH](#) Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues in the City.

Board member Betancourt shared that she had spoken to her community partners regarding providing a presentation on Environmental Justice issues in the City, and her partners were supportive. Board member Betancourt asked

the Board for clarification regarding any specific questions they might have on this subject, and their thoughts on the specific goals of the presentation. A brief discussion ensued.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

9. [21-093BH](#) Recommendation to receive and file an update on the status of the City's implementation of the legalization of cannabis.

There was no new information to provide on this item.

This BH-Agenda Item was laid over.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:24 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Note:

A digital recording of this meeting will be available in the Health and Human Services Department. The City of Long Beach provides reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If a special accommodation is desired, or if an agenda is needed in an alternative format, please contact Dennis Keith, Executive Assistant, 48 hours prior to the meeting at (562) 570-4014, or by email at dennis.keith@longbeach.gov.