

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

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021
TELECONFERENCE, 7:45 AM**

Silene St. Bernard, DVM, Chair
Susan Temple, Vice 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
Barbara Schwerin, Member
Nasir Tejani, MD, FAAP, Member
Lydia Vaias, MD, Member

FINISHED AGENDA AND APPROVED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

**BOARD OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE
PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20
ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOME**

TELECONFERENCE DIAL IN: (213) 306-3065 ACCESS CODE: 146 310 8156

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:48 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Chair St. Bernard presiding.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Miles

Present: McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani,
Lydia Vaias, Susan Temple and Silene St Bernard

Commissioners Ralph Brooks, Troy Ha and Rebecca Ruiz

Absent:

Also present: Kelly Colopy - Director of Health & Human Services; Anissa Davis, MD, MPH -
City Health Officer; and Dennis Keith, Executive Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-012BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held Friday, January 15, 2021.

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

Yes: 10 - Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Susan Temple and Silene St Bernard

Absent: 3 - Ralph Brooks, Troy Ha and Rebecca Ruiz

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 participation.

EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS

2. [21-013BH](#) 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:

- On February 9, the Long Beach City Council unanimously approved the passage of a complete, and permanent, ban on all flavored tobacco products, including menthol, within the City. The ordinance is currently being drafted by the City Attorney's Office.
- The Youth Strategic Plan was also presented to the Mayor and Council, which provides a five-year blueprint focused on the development of young people, ages 10 to 24, residing in Long Beach. The Office of Youth Development, which will be responsible for implementation of this plan, will be housed in the

Health Department.

- The Health Department also provided a presentation to the Mayor and Council on the City's vaccination efforts to date.
- The Port of Long Beach announced the next round of their asthma grants. The Health Department applied as a coalition for funding under this grant.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

3. [21-014BH](#) 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:

- Hired Emily Johnson to lead the Department's congenital syphilis prevention efforts.
- Continuing efforts on Hepatitis B grant, and the UCLA Mobile Van study which will provide hepatitis C, STI and HIV screening, PREP and medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction.
- On February 17th there will be a virtual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Event from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Dr. Davis, and other community leaders will be hosting a discussion on current HIV trends and prevention strategies in Long Beach.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. [21-015BH](#) Recommendation to discuss Board goals and infrastructure.

The Board reviewed the draft 2020 Annual Report. The Board revised the final draft and the report was submitted for final Board review and approval.

A brief discussion ensued regarding sending a letter, or reaching out, to newly appointed Councilmembers and their staff inviting them to attend a future Board meeting.

A brief discussion ensued regarding exploring methods for e-comments to be submitted to the Board in advance of scheduled meetings, similar to how the City Council e-comments operate.

A motion was made to approve the 2020 Board of Health Annual Report for submittal to the Mayor and City Council.

Yes: 10 - Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Susan Temple and Silene St Bernard

Absent: 3 - Ralph Brooks, Troy Ha and Rebecca Ruiz

5. [21-016BH](#)

Recommendation to review and approve a letter of support for the Youth Leaders for Tobacco Control and a ban on flavored tobacco products.

The Board reviewed a draft letter of support for the Youth Leaders for Tobacco Control and a permanent ban on all flavored tobacco products in the City. A final draft was created and submitted to the Board for final review and approval.

A motion was made to approve the letter of support for submittal to the Mayor and City Council.

Yes: 10 - Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Susan Temple and Silene St Bernard

Absent: 3 - Ralph Brooks, Troy Ha and Rebecca Ruiz

6. [21-017BH](#)

Recommendation to receive an update regarding the Department's COVID-19 activities.

Dr. Davis provided the Board with the following information:

- COVID-19 rates continue to improve, and hospitalizations are decreasing. New cases are decreasing, but numbers remain high.
- Staff are currently working on a school reopening plan.
- Vaccination clinics are ongoing, currently providing appointments for 2nd vaccinations. Small mobile community points of dispensing (PODs) are being

conducted in communities most impacted by COVID-19.

- Long-term care facility case rates are improving.
- Ongoing hearings with Restoration are being conducted related to the restaurants continued operation against local health orders.

The Board expressed their gratitude and praise for the Department's vaccination efforts, which have been identified as a national model. Ms. Colopy briefly discussed the City's vaccination capabilities.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

7. [21-018BH](#)

Recommendation to discuss reimagining City support for the Health Department.

Board members discussed the following:

- The potential need to advocate for fiscal support for the Department's 2022 Budget.
- Accessing Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity funding from the County to ensure appropriate amounts are allocated to the City.
- County Measure B funding allocations to the City.
- Creating a City budget timeline to assist the Board in tracking the various Budget processes and due dates in order to provide Board member input in a timely manner.
- The potential of highlighting the Department's nationally-recognized COVID-19 vaccination efforts in order to secure dedicated support and structural funding for the Health Department. Dedicated structural funding for the department would reduce the need for the Department to be so heavily dependent upon consistently securing grant funding. The Board suggested drafting a letter of support for secure structural funding for the Health Department.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

ONGOING BUSINESS

8. 21-019BH Recommendation to receive, discuss and file an update regarding the enforcement of the Health Order to wear masks in public.

It was noted that more people are wearing their masks; however, enforcement options are still being investigated. A brief discussion ensued regarding long-haul COVID effects and their potential impact on the future public health system.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

9. [21-020BH](#) Recommendation to receive and file an update on the status of the City's implementation of the legalization of cannabis.

Ms. Colopy indicated that she will be requesting staff to provide a comprehensive cannabis equity presentation at the March 12 Board meeting.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

10. [21-021BH](#) Recommendation to receive and file an update on Community Hospital.

There was no new information to provide on this item.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boardmember Temple mentioned that in spite of the Departments focus on COVID-19, staff had been able to provide presentations to Long Beach Unified Students on Oral Health, as well as HIV Prevention presentations to High School students.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:37 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 for the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, 48 hours prior to the meeting at (562) 570-4014 or (562) 570-6626 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or by email at dennis.keith@longbeach.gov.