

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

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2022  
TELECONFERENCE, 7:45 AM**

Silene St. Bernard, DVM, Chair  
Sylvia Betancourt, Member  
Ralph Brooks, RN, Member  
Reena Curtis, PharmD, Member  
Abraam Girgis, DDS, Member  
Manorama Gupta, Member  
Beth Lesen, Member



Miles McNeeley, LCSW, Member  
Sabrina Sanders, Member  
Barbara Schwerin, Member  
Nasir Tejani, MD, FAAP, Member  
Lydia Vaias, MD, Member  
Lauren Walton, MD, Member

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**FINISHED AGENDA AND DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

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

**TELECONFERENCE DIAL IN: (213) 306-3065      ACCESS CODE: 2481 634 3492**

At 7:49 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Chair St. Bernard presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Manorama Gupta, Beth Lesen,

**Present:** Miles McNeeley, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir  
Tejani, Lauren Walton and Silene St Bernard

**Commissioners** Sylvia Betancourt

**Excused:**

**Commissioners** Ralph Brooks and Lydia Vaias

**Absent:**

Also present: Kelly Colopy - Director of Health & Human Services; Dr. Anissa Davis - City Health Officer; Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant; and John Kindred - Long Beach Environmental Alliance.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 22-082BH Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held November 11, 2022.

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

**Yes:** 10 - Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Manorama Gupta, Beth Lesen, Miles McNeeley, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Lauren Walton and Silene St Bernard

**Excused:** 1 - Sylvia Betancourt

**Absent:** 2 - Ralph Brooks and Lydia Vaias

**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.

Mr. John Kindred spoke.

## EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS

2. 22-083BH Recommendation to receive and file a report from the Director of Health and Human Services.

Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services, provided the following information to the Board:

- The Health Department entered a float into the Belmont Shore Christmas Parade and won best in show. The theme of the float was "The Nightmare Before Christmas", and the float will also make another appearance at the Daisy Avenue Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 10th.
- Invited the Board to attend the Department's 2022 Holiday All Staff Meeting,

which will be held on December 15th at El Dorado Park.

- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) notified the Department that they will be providing the Department \$6.7 million in public health workforce/infrastructure funding. That amount will be in addition to the \$2 million per year received from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
- The City's Winter Shelter Program will be located this year on the Community Hospital campus, providing 81 beds. This item will go before the City Council on December 13th.
- Cynthia Howell, Long Beach Recovery Officer, will be taking on the role of Acting Physician Services Bureau Manager, filling the position vacated by Pamela Bright on an interim basis until a new manager is hired.

**This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.**

**3. 22-084BH**

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

Dr. Anissa Davis, City Health Officer, provided the following information to the Board:

- RSV cases reached a plateau and may be starting to show signs of decreasing.
- COVID-19 cases are increasing rapidly and earlier in the season than in previous years. We are experiencing a COVID-19 surge and we are currently in the CDC's medium transmission category. The County of Los Angeles is currently in the high transmission category, and the County is currently looking into masking mandates for crowded indoor spaces. The City will be aligning with any masking guidance released by the State.
- Flu cases are also increasing rapidly and earlier in the season than in previous years. California is in the very high CDC transmission category, with Southern California being hit especially hard. Cold and flu treatment medications are currently in short supply due to the high demand. Currently working diligently with skilled nursing facilities to vaccinate residents.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) officially changed the name Monkeypox to MPX. Cases have decreased and vaccinations are still available to all those who are interested.

- The City held a National Transgender Day of Remembrance event at Harvey Milk Park on November 20th.
- A World AIDS Day celebration was held on December 1st. Long Beach is one of the epicenters of HIV transmission in Los Angeles County. The Long Beach HIV Planning Group is working on the next iteration of the City's HIV/STD Strategy.

**This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

4. 22-085BH Recommendation to receive, file and discuss a presentation on the City's Health Equity Investment Framework.

Ms. Colopy provided a presentation on the City's Health Equity Investment Framework, a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record. The City will use this framework to identify conditions and their underlying causes, then invest in improving the outcomes stemming from these conditions through engaging the community and community-based organizations.

**This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.**

5. 22-086BH Recommendation to receive nominations and conduct elections for the positions of Chair, and Vice Chair of the Board of Health and Human Services for 2023.

The Board engaged in a brief conversation on the appropriate way to conduct elections of officers. This item was laid over until the January 13th meeting.

**This BH-Agenda Item was laid over.**

6. 22-087BH Recommendation to discuss mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Colopy indicated that the City will be receiving approximately \$750,000 in opioid settlement funds. The City will be focusing on several efforts including conducting an educational campaign and distribution of Narcan to schools, as

well as harm reduction strategies such as the distribution of opioid/fentanyl test strips and Narcan across the City and partnering with community organizations engaged in hard reduction activities.

Ms. Colopy indicated that recently toured the MLK Behavioral Health Care Center which aligns the County's mental health and substance abuse treatment services of all levels.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the challenges of providing mental health services to the homeless population. Ms. Colopy indicated that the City will be launching a mental health and substance abuse treatment van that can go out and provide services directly in the community.

**This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.**

7. 22-088BH Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues.

There was no new information to provide on this item.

**This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.**

8. 22-089BH Recommendation to discuss Board Goals and Infrastructure, including:

- Staff Reports on City Council communications
- Focus areas for 2022
- Recruitment efforts

Chair St. Bernard briefly discussed the need to review and reassign Board/Council Office assignments in light of incoming Council members. Chair St. Bernard requested that Board members confirm what Council District they currently reside in. Assignments will be reviewed and amended at the January 13th meeting.

**This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.**

**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 further public comment.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:06 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 in the Health and Human Services Department, 48 hours prior to the meeting at (562) 570-4014, or by email at [dennis.keith@longbeach.gov](mailto:dennis.keith@longbeach.gov).