

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

**FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019  
MILLER FAMILY HEALTH EDUCATION  
CENTER  
3820 CHERRY AVENUE, 7:45 AM**

Milton Smith, Chair  
Christopher Robson, Vice Chair  
Darshi Balasuriya, Member  
Sylvia Betancourt, Member  
Ralph Brooks, RN, Member  
Menchie Caliboso, Member  
Reena Curtis, PharmD, Member



Troy Ha, DDS, Member  
Jody Rawles, MD, Member  
Silene St. Bernard, DVM, Member  
Barbara Schwerin, Member  
Nasir Tejani, MD, FAAP, Member  
Susan Temple, Member  
Lydia Vaias, MD, Member

---

**FINISHED AGENDA AND DRAFT MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:56 a.m. Chair Smith called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Darshi Balasuriya, Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Troy Ha,  
**Present:** Jody Rawles, Silene St Bernard, Nasir Tejani, Susan Temple  
and Milton Smith

**Commissioners** Ralph Brooks, Menchie Caliboso, Barbara Schwerin, Lydia  
**Excused:** Vaias and Christopher Robson

Also present: Kelly Colopy - Director of Health and Human Services; Anissa Davis, MD, MPH,  
- City Health Officer; Morgan Venter - Cannabis Education Program Coordinator; Christina  
Boatwright - Early Childhood and Family Specialist; Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant; Karla  
Estupinian - Office of 2nd District Councilwoman Jeannine Pearce and John Kindred - Long  
Beach Environmental Alliance.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 19-042BH Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meetings held Friday, May 10, 2019.

**A motion was made by Member St Bernard, seconded by Member Tejani, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 9 - Darshi Balasuriya, Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Troy Ha, Jody Rawles, Silene St Bernard, Nasir Tejani, Susan Temple and Milton Smith

**Excused:** 5 - Ralph Brooks, Menchie Caliboso, Barbara Schwerin, Lydia Vaias and Christopher Robson

**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.**

Karla Estupinian, from the Office of 2nd District Councilwoman Jeannine Pearce informed the Board of 2nd District Community Health and Fitness Fair, which will be held on Saturday, June 29th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Bixby Park.

John Kindred, from the Long Beach Environmental Alliance, spoke regarding the urgency for action related to climate change, and displayed posters showing the amounts of trash accumulating on City streets, waterways and beaches. He urged action and requested an opportunity to provide input on the Board's plans to conduct a Toxic Tour of Long Beach.

## REGULAR AGENDA

2. 19-043BH Recommendation to discuss the Health and Human Services Department 2020 Budget.

Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services, spoke briefly on the Department's 2020 budget. Ms. Colopy confirmed that the Department's 2020 Budget included increases to fund a full-time Public Information Officer (PIO) and to provide for a full-time position for the Language Access Program Coordinator.

The Mayor's Budget and City Manager's Budget will be forwarded to the Budget Oversight Committee, who will be negotiating out the small pieces between these budgets, which is anticipated to begin in mid-July.

Ms. Colopy also mentioned that Vector Control Program Benefit Assessment District ballots were sent out to those property owners in Long Beach not currently covered by the Los Angeles County Vector Control District. The voting period will officially close on July 2nd and ballots will be reviewed and presented to the City Council on July 16th for official action. It is anticipated that revenues from this assessment would be seen as early as December.

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

3. 19-044BH Recommendation to receive and file a report from the Vice Chair on community outreach efforts to Long Beach Neighborhood Associations.

This item was held over for the July 12th meeting.

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

4. 19-051BH Recommendation to discuss youth in crisis, ages 12-17.

Boardmember Tejani provided the Board with information on Casa Youth Shelter, for which he is a member of the Board of Directors. Casa Youth Shelter provides temporary shelter, clinical services, case management and parenting programs for youth in crisis (between the ages of 12-17) facing issues such as child abuse, substance abuse, homelessness, mental health issues, gang involvement, human trafficking, running away from a crisis at home, or dealing with issues related to LGBTQ+ identification. Dr. Tejani shared that, on average, Casa Youth Shelter annually receives 1,123 calls to their 24-hour crisis hotline, provides approximately 7,000 counseling hours and has a 88 percent success rate for those exiting their shelter.

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

## ONGOING BUSINESS

5. 19-045BH Recommendation to receive and file an update on the status of the City's efforts to reduce the rates of HIV and STD's.

Dr. Anissa Davis, City Health Officer, informed the Board of the following STD and Communicable Disease funding changes at the State level, including:

- An increase of \$2 million for STD Control, from \$1.6 million to \$3.6 million
- An increase of \$40 million over four years to fight infectious diseases, and
- Various stakeholder budgeted requests for CBO's or CBOs/Local Health Departments including:

- AIDS Health Care Foundation and Essential Health Access request of \$20 million for STD prevention and treatment, to date \$5 million approved in budget,

- The California HIV Alliance requested \$20 million for HIV prevention, to date \$5 million approved in budget, and

- The California Hepatitis Alliance requested \$20 million, with \$5 million currently approved in the Budget.

The Budget is anticipated to be reconciled by June 15th.

Dr. Davis also informed the Board that the Los Angeles County Department of HIV and STD Programs released an RFP making \$66 million in funding available, over 3 - 5 years, for STD screening, diagnosis and treatment; sexual health express clinics; HIV testing and HIV and syphilis screening, diagnosis and linked referrals in commercial sex venues.

Dr. Davis mentioned that the Mayor is proposing approximately \$200,000 in one-time funding for HIV/STD reduction efforts in the FY 20 City budget.

Ms. Colopy briefly mentioned a recent HIV Planning Group meeting which convened to discuss and identify priorities. A brief discussion ensued regarding how much funding is needed to effectively tackle the problem. Ms. Colopy provided a rough estimate of approximately \$2 million in funding annually citywide on top of what the Health Department currently is able to bill for and receives from other funding sources.

Chair Smith briefly discussed the possibilities of public/private partnerships and the need for creative ways to address the problem.

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

6. 19-046BH Recommendation to receive and file an update from the Toxic Tour Subcommittee.

The subcommittee did not have an opportunity to meet within the past month. Boardmember Betancourt discussed the timing of the tour and suggested holding a subcommittee meeting in July, focusing on holding the tour in late September, early October. Boardmember Betancourt is looking to incorporate the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) into the tour and shared with the Board some test samples from SCAQMD units that sample air quality at various sites around the City. A brief discussion ensued regarding the samples and the increased health risk from ultra-fine particles of pollution.

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

7. 19-047BH Recommendation to receive and file an update on the status of the City's implementation of the legalization of cannabis.

Morgan Venter, Cannabis Education Program Coordinator, provided the Board with an update on GreenlightLB activities including;

- The Department has applied to the Office of Traffic Safety for funding to continue the drug impaired driving program which will include education and prevention related to impairment by prescription, over the counter, and other recreational substances other than alcohol, including cannabis. The FY 20 focus will be on decreasing all types of substance impaired driving.
- Working with the Office of Cannabis Oversight to launce the #BuyLicensed campaign, which educates consumers to purchase products that meet safety and purity guidelines through a licensed vendor.
- Responsible cannabis vendor training.
- Launched the #beBlunt and Learn to #BeBlunt campaign which provides frank discussion on cannabis use.
- Participation in various community outreach events and through social media.
- Working on Know Your Limit outreach events and education with the LBPD.

Working on the use of games/simulations, and mobile apps, such as the Druid App, to informally gauge and determine personal impairment.

- Adapting the #BeBlunt program and proposing it to the Long Beach Unified School District as curriculum.
- The State is interested in spotlighting many of our social media messaging and activities, as Long Beach is one of the only jurisdictions in the State that is doing risk-reduction messaging related to recreational cannabis.

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

8. 19-048BH Recommendation to receive and file an update on Community Hospital.

Ms. Colopy reported that the City was continuing to make progress, and that the State Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. OSHPD has approved a 5-year extension pursuant to AB 2190 to get the seismic issues corrected with the facility. All efforts are currently aligning, and the necessary steps are being taken to move forward with reopening the facility.

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

9. 19-049BH Recommendation to receive and file a report from the Director of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Colopy provided the Board with an update on the following items:

- The results of the 2019 Point in Time Homeless Count were released. Long Beach had a 2% increase, which is considered statistically flat, compared to increases of 16% in the City of Los Angeles (12% overall in LA County), a 43% increase in Orange County, and an overall State increase of 14%. Overall, Long Beach has seen an 8% decrease in chronic homeless; however, it has seen an increase in those that are newly homeless. It is estimated that approximately 20,000 to 30,000 households in Long Beach are precariously housed, meaning over 50% of their incomes go to rent alone. A discussion ensued regarding the need for prevention funding, and Ms. Colopy indicated that the Department is seeking a grant for short-term rental assistance. Resources are needed to keep families in their homes, so they never fall into homelessness.
- The City received \$12.39 million from the first round of HEAP funding, which providing funding for the purchase of the year-round homeless shelter, storage facility and a jobs program. The next round of HEAP funding will be more for

service provision.

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

- 10. 19-050BH** Recommendation to receive and file a report from the City Health Officer.

The City Health Officer provided her report as part of agenda item 5.

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Boardmember Betancourt informed the Board of a Healthy Communities Resource Fair being held on Saturday, June 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Admiral Kidd Park.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:17 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

### **Note:**

A digital recording of this meeting will be available in the Health and Human 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 Health and Human Services Department, 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](mailto:dennis.keith@longbeach.gov).