

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

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020  
WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING, 7:45 A.M.,  
PHONE: (213) 306-3065  
ACCESS CODE: 146 078 3060, 7:45 AM**

Milton Smith, Chair  
Silene St. Bernard, DVM, 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  
Susan Temple, Member  
Lydia Vaias, MD, Member

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**FINISHED AGENDA AND DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Manorama

**Present:** Gupta, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Susan Temple, Silene St Bernard and Milton Smith

**Commissioners** Rebecca Ruiz and Lydia Vaias

**Absent:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. 20-105BH Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meetings held Friday, November 20, 2020.

**A motion was made by Member Robson, seconded by Member Tejani, 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, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Susan Temple, Silene St Bernard and Milton Smith

**Absent:** 2 - Rebecca Ruiz and Lydia Vaia

**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. 20-106BH** 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:

- Thanked the Board for their input and feedback on the DHHS Strategic Plan. It is anticipated that the final Plan will be presented to the City Council in February 2021.
- Regarding CARES Act funding, the Department is poised to have approved \$12 million in funding to the community by the end of December. Funding through the CARES act has been provided to nonprofit organizations who provide COVID-19 services to the community, older adult services such as transportation/taxi services and programs that address isolation, youth leadership programs and early childhood education programming.
- The Health Department is working on a coordinated entry system which will provide a common intake for individuals seeking services. This will provide more efficient and effective service intake and referrals to Health Department programs which will improve customer services and outcomes. It will also improve access to data.

- The Youth Strategic Plan will be presented to the City Council on January 19, 2021.
- The Department is currently engaged in the hiring process for a Health Equity Coordinator, a Black Health Equity Coordinator, and an Office of Youth Development Coordinator.

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

3. 20-107BH Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a report from the City Health Officer on Communicable Disease Control activities.

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

- Los Angeles County received a \$3 million HIV Prevention grant. The County will be awarding approximately \$400,000 to Long Beach. This funding will improve Long Beach data collection and fund the City's work as defined in the City's HIV/STD Prevention Plan.
- Flu activity levels this season are very low. COVID-19 testing sites are currently including a test for the flu. To date, no individuals out of the thousands tested have tested positive for flu.

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

## REGULAR AGENDA

4. 20-108BH Recommendation to receive an update regarding the Department's COVID-19 activities.
- Currently there is a large surge in COVID-19 cases in long-term care facilities in Long Beach. In general, COVID-19 cases have increased dramatically, which is believed to be a result of gatherings during the Thanksgiving holiday.
  - Assembly Bill 685 requires business to report three or more cases in a worksite to their local health jurisdiction.
  - Daily case rates have increased from around 40 to over 500.

- First Long Beach vaccinations begin today, with a press conference being held at 9:00 a.m. this morning.

A discussion ensued regarding the lack of ICU beds and the potential for creating surge hospitals. Dr. Davis indicated that we have the ability to establish surge hospitals; however, the problem is the lack of qualified nurses and doctors to staff them.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the differences between the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Chair Robson briefly discussed the City Council's decision regarding the enforcement of the Masking Order and asked that the item be returned to the Board's future agendas under ongoing business.

Boardmember McNeeley joined the meeting at 8:19 a.m.

Ms. Colopy informed the Board that the California Department of Public Health is currently finalizing its review of Community Hospital. It is anticipated that the hospital will reopen soon and provide an additional 20 new non-COVID ICU beds.

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

**5. 20-109BH** Recommendation to discuss the election of officers.

Chair Smith informed the Board that this was his final meeting, as he has resigned from the Board. He briefly discussed the upcoming election of officers, which will be held at the January 15, 2021 Board meeting.

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

**6. 20-110BH** Recommendation to discuss Board goals and infrastructure.

Chair Smith discussed preparations for the Board's 2020 Annual Report and asked for volunteers to assist with the report's creation. A draft of the 2020 report will be presented for review at the January 15, 2021 Board meeting, and it is anticipated that the final report will be brought to the Board for approval at the February 12, 2021 Board meeting.

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

7. 20-111BH 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.**

### **ONGOING BUSINESS**

8. 20-112BH 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.**

9. 20-113BH Recommendation to receive and file an update on Community Hospital.

As Ms. Colopy previously mentioned as part of the COVID-19 update, the California Department of Public Health is currently finalizing its review of Community Hospital. It is anticipated that the hospital will reopen soon and provide an additional 20 new non-COVID ICU beds.

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

### **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, 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).