

Sabrina Sanders, Chair  
Barbara Schwerin, Vice Chair  
Silene St. Bernard, DVM, Member  
Sylvia Betancourt, Member  
Reena Curtis, PharmD, Member  
Abraam Girgis, DDS, Member



Manorama Gupta, Member  
Beth Lesen, Member  
Miles McNeeley, LCSW, Member  
Nasir Tejani, MD, FAAP, Member  
Lydia Vaias, MD, Member  
Lauren Walton, MD, Member

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## FINISHED AGENDA AND DRAFT MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING

At 7:57 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Chair Sanders presiding.

### ROLL CALL

**Commissioners** Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Manorama  
**Present:** Gupta, Beth Lesen, Miles McNeeley, Silene St Bernard, Nasir  
Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Barbara Schwerin and Sabrina Sanders  
**Commissioners** Lauren Walton  
**Excused:**

Also present: Dr. Jessica Schumer - Deputy Director; Dr. Anissa Davis - City Health Officer; Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant; and Dr. Alex Red Eagle and Paula Clark - incoming Board members.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [23-019BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held Friday, March 10, 2023.

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

**Yes:** 11 - Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Manorama Gupta, Beth Lesen, Miles McNeeley, Silene St Bernard, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Barbara Schwerin and Sabrina Sanders

**Excused:** 1 - Lauren Walton

**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. [23-020BH](#) Recommendation to receive and file a report from the Director of Health and Human Services.

There was no Director's Report this month.

**This BH-Agenda Item was withdrawn.**

3. [23-021BH](#) 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:

- The COVID-19 Emergency has officially ended on all fronts as of May 11, 2023.
- Long Beach still has a health order in place requiring the vaccination of healthcare workers, which will be re-evaluated before September 30, 2023.
- Discussion will be forthcoming at the federal level to discuss the probability of having an annual booster, similar to the flu.
- Surveillance will focus primarily on hospitalizations and deaths moving forward.

- Full COVID-19 vaccination can now be obtained with one bivalent immunization, instead of the two immunizations previously needed.

**This BH-Agenda Item was received and filed.**

## REGULAR AGENDA

4. [23-023BH](#) Recommendation to receive and file a presentation on Developing a Robust Mental Health System in Long Beach.

Dr. Jessica Schumer, Deputy Director for the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provided a presentation on the City's recently completed mental health feasibility report titled "Developing a Robust Mental Health System in Long Beach", a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record. The report was a directive of the City Council for the City Manager to work with the DHHS and local mental health providers to explore the feasibility of establishing a more robust infrastructure for mental health services in collaboration with the County of Los Angeles. In response to this directive, the DHHS began convening a Mental Health Advisory Group in May of 2022 comprised of providers, County representatives, educational and business partners, as well as City departments and other key partners in these efforts and hosted meetings to obtain input regarding the strengths and challenges of the mental health system, focusing on the following populations of concern: children and youth in schools, adults living with depression and anxiety, people experiencing homelessness, and those in crisis.

Following the early convenings of the Mental Health Advisory Group, the DHHS entered into an agreement with Capstone Solutions Consulting Group (in October of 2022) to conduct a provider survey, provide technical information, and make recommendations that could support an enhanced mental health system in Long Beach.

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

5. [23-024BH](#) Recommendation to approve the Board of Health and Human Services 2022 Annual Report.

The Board reviewed the draft 2022 Annual Report and suggested two minor edits.

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

**Yes:** 11 - Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Manorama Gupta, Beth Lesen, Miles McNeeley, Silene St Bernard, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Barbara Schwerin and Sabrina Sanders

**Excused:** 1 - Lauren Walton

6. [23-022BH](#) Recommendation to discuss Board Goals and Infrastructure, including:

- Staff Reports on City Council communications
- Focus areas
- Recruitment efforts
  - \* Registered Nurse
  - \* Long Beach Unified School District Representative
  - \* Hospital/Healthcare Administrator

Board member Vaias provided an update from the Strategic Planning Subcommittee. The Board discussed the next steps toward the scheduling of a half-day planning retreat.

**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 public participation.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:10 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](mailto:dennis.keith@longbeach.gov).