

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

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021
TELECONFERENCE, 7:45 AM**

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

FINISHED AGENDA AND APPROVED MEETING 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: 146 870 3689

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:52 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Vice Chair St. Bernard presiding.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Troy Ha,
Present: Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir
Tejani, Susan Temple and Silene St Bernard

Commissioners Lydia Vaias

Excused:

Commissioners Ralph Brooks and Rebecca Ruiz

Absent:

Also present: Kelly Colopy - Director of Health and Human Services; Annisa Davis, MD, MPH - City Health Officer; Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant; Lara Turnbull - Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Officer; Eipryl Tello - Tobacco Education Program Coordinator; Maria Garcia - Community Worker - Tobacco Education Program; Ava Carbonara, Jakarta Robinson, Victor Sandoval and Kimberly Morales - Youth Tobacco Control Program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-001BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meetings held Friday, December 18, 2020.

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

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

Excused: 1 - Lydia Vaias

Absent: 2 - Ralph Brooks 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 comment.

EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS

2. [21-002BH](#) 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:

- The City, through Project Homekey, opened an isolation and quarantine site providing 33 beds for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- The City is moving forward on the creation of a Homeless Navigation Center. The center will provide shelter for homeless youth, as well as storage for personal belongings.
- Work on the Department's North Facility Center continues. The Center was closed in 2019 and is undertaking a complete remodel.
- The Youth Strategic Plan is scheduled to go to the City Council on February 9, 2021.
- The Department's Strategic Plan is scheduled to go to the City Council in March/April 2021.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

3. [21-003BH](#)

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:

- An upcoming UCLA study on the effectiveness of integrating opioid, HIV/STI and Hep C treatment from a mobile unit.
- A presentation she gave on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in cases resulting in death from COVID-19.
- Informed the Board that Belinda Prado, who had left the Health Department's employment several months ago, would be returning to the Department and her work leading HIV/STD Surveillance.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. [21-004BH](#) Recommendation to receive an update regarding the Department's COVID-19 activities.
- Cases in Long Beach have currently reached a plateau. The City's case count peaked on December 31, 2020, with 1,067 cases reported on one single day. Currently cases are running at approximately 600 new cases per-day.
 - Local mortuaries have requested an expansion to the Vital Records office hours to keep up with the increased workload. To date there have been over 500 deaths reported in Long Beach, with a peak of 54 deaths in one day.
 - A brief discussion ensued regarding the criteria for reopening schools.
 - A brief discussion ensued regarding hospital capacity and case rates.
 - Vaccinations provided to over 15,000 individuals to date. A brief discussion ensued regarding vaccine distribution and the issues encountered related to vaccination scheduling. Dr. Davis mentioned that mobile vaccination clinics are also being planned for the future.
 - A brief discussion ensued regarding the need for a public relations campaign directed towards counteracting the negative messaging circulation around the COVID-19 vaccine.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

5. [21-005BH](#) Recommendation to receive and file a presentation from the Youth Leaders for Tobacco Control.
- Maria Garcia, Community Worker for the Tobacco Education Program, introduced the Youth Leaders for Tobacco Control who provided a presentation on E-Cigarettes and the effects they have on health in Long Beach, a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record, and responded to questions from the Board. The presentation discussed the various types of electronic nicotine delivery devices, the prevalence of flavors to enhance the appeal of such devices and the health effects and risks associated with their use.

Vice Chair St. Bernard suggested drafting a letter of support to be sent to the Mayor and City Council, showing the Board's support of a permanent ban on flavored tobacco products and their support of the work being conducted through the Youth Leaders for Tobacco Control Program. Motion made by Board member Temple, seconded by Board member Curtis and approved unanimously.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

6. [21-006BH](#)

Recommendation to conduct the annual election of officers.

Vice Chair St. Bernard opened the floor to nominations for the Chair position. Boardmember Robson nominated Vice Chair St. Bernard to the position of Chair, seconded by Board member Ha. There being no other nominations, Vice Chair St. Bernard was unanimously elected to the position of Chair.

Vice Chair St. Bernard opened the floor to nominations for the Vice Chair position. Boardmember St. Bernard nominated Boardmember Susan Temple to the position of Vice Chair, seconded by Board member Mc. Neeley. There being no other nominations, Board member Temple was unanimously elected to the position of Vice Chair.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

7. [21-007BH](#)

Recommendation to discuss Board goals and infrastructure.

- Chair St. Bernard briefly discussed the draft 2020 Board of Health and Human Services Annual Report and requested Board members to review the draft and provide their edits/input for discussion at the February 12, 2021 meeting.
- A brief discussion ensued regarding the Board's 2021 goals.
- A brief discussion ensued regarding vacant positions on the Board.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

8. [21-008BH](#)

Recommendation to discuss reimagining City support for the Health Department.

- Boardmember Temple indicated that she had met with Councilwoman Stacy Mungo in Council District 5.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

ONGOING BUSINESS

9. 21-009BH Recommendation to receive, discuss and file an update regarding the enforcement of the Health Order to wear masks in public.

Ms. Colopy indicated that the Health Department was working with other City departments on the enforcement of the City's masking order. More information will be available in the near future.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

10. [21-010BH](#) Recommendation to receive and file an update on the status of the City's implementation of the legalization of cannabis.

Cannabis equity work is ongoing. Ms. Colopy will provide a more detailed update to the Board at the February 12th Board Meeting.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

11. [21-011BH](#) Recommendation to receive and file an update on Community Hospital.

Community Hospital is currently open, providing 11 non-COVID ICU beds, and 40 additional ICU beds for overflow/surge capacity. Emergency Room services are not currently available at that facility but will be opening in the coming months.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boardmember Temple announced that the Long Beach Unified School District will be holding a Human Trafficking Panel Discussion on January 28, 2021 in recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

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, 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.