

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

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023  
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**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:48 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Chair St. Bernard presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Miles

**Present:** McNeeley, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Lydia Vaias,  
Lauren Walton and Silene St Bernard

**Commissioners** Ralph Brooks and Abraam Girgis

**Excused:**

**Commissioners** Beth Lesen and Nasir Tejani

**Absent:**

Also present: Kelly Colopy - Director of Health & Human Services; Anissa Davis, MD, MPH - City Health Officer; Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant; Claudia Lopez, MD - California State University Long Beach; Karen Reside - Long Beach Gray Panthers; John Kindred - Long Beach Environmental Alliance; Jeremiah Dobruck - Long Beach Post; Gretchen Swanson - Long Beach Aging Services Collaborative; and Erin Hoops - Long Beach Resident.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. [23-001BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held December 9, 2022.

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

**Yes:** 9 - Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Miles McNeeley, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Lydia Vaias, Lauren Walton and Silene St Bernard

**Excused:** 2 - Ralph Brooks and Abraam Girgis

**Absent:** 2 - Beth Lesen and Nasir Tejani

**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.

John Kindred spoke.

Erin Hoops spoke.

## **EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS**

2. [23-002BH](#) 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 Board with the following information:
- The Mayor announced his 100-day plan, which includes a focus on homelessness, increasing access to mental health services, violence prevention, youth civic engagement and investment in youth.
  - On January 10th, the City Council officially declared a Homeless Emergency.
  - Currently close to finalizing the Community Crisis Response Team, with an anticipated launch towards the end of February 2023.
  - Going to the City Council on January 17, 2023 to accept Centers for Disease Control workforce funding.
  - Community Budget Meetings have been scheduled.

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

3. [23-003BH](#)

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

Anissa Davis MD, MPH, City Health Officer, provided the Board with the following information:

- COVID, RSV and flu case numbers are declining.
- Hospital capacity is stabilizing.
- The STI/HIV Surveillance Report will be released towards the end of January 2023.
- The Department is partnering with The Children's Clinic (TCC) with their Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEp) Grant.
- The Department met its goal of signing up ten local providers our Bicillin distribution program.
- Long Beach HIV diagnoses and deaths have decreased; however, Long Beach is still considered an epicenter of HIV diagnoses in Los Angeles County.
- The Department is launching syndromic surveillance for hospitals, collecting information on why individuals came to the emergency room in order to detect trends.

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

**REGULAR AGENDA**

4. [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.

Chair St. Bernard opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair. Board member Schwerin nominated Board Member Sabrina Sanders. Ms.

Sanders accepted the nomination. Board member Vaias nominated Barbara Schwerin. Ms. Schwerin declined the nomination for chair. Being that there were no other nominations submitted for Chair, Ms. Sanders was summarily elected.

Chair St. Bernard opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Board member Vaias nominated Board Member Barbara Schwerin. Ms. Schwerin accepted the nomination for Vice Chair. Being that there were no other nominations submitted for Vice Chair, Ms. Schwerin was summarily elected.

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

5. [23-004BH](#)

Recommendation to receive, file and discuss a presentation on the needs of older adults in Long Beach.

Claudia Lopez, MD from California State University Long Beach and Karen Reside from the Long Beach Gray Panthers provided a presentation titled The Needs of Older Adults: Housing in Long Beach California, a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record. The presentation discussed housing instability in California and the housing burden in Long Beach. Ms. Reside spoke on her personal experiences as an older adult living in Long Beach.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the City's Office of Aging.

John Kindred spoke on this item.

Gretchen Swanson spoke on this item

Erin Hoops spoke on this item.

A subcommittee consisting of Board members McNeeley, Curtis and Betancourt was established to draft the letter which will be brought back to the Board for review and approval at the February 10, 2023 meeting.

**Board member McNeeley made a motion, seconded by Board member Betancourt, to draft a letter to the Mayor and City Council regarding aging services provided by the City of Long Beach.**

**Yes:** 9 - Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Miles McNeeley, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Lydia Vaias, Lauren Walton and Silene St Bernard

**Excused:** 2 - Ralph Brooks and Abraam Girgis

**Absent:** 2 - Beth Lesen and Nasir Tejani

6. [23-005BH](#) Recommendation to discuss mental health and substance abuse issues.

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

7. [23-006BH](#) Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues.

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

8. [23-007BH](#) Recommendation to discuss Board Goals and Infrastructure, including:
- Staff Reports on City Council communications
  - Focus areas for 2023
  - Recruitment efforts

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

**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 additional public comment.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board member Sanders suggested agendizing a brief training on how individuals can access Board and Commission meeting agendas, minutes, and videos. It was also requested that a visual step by step guide be created that could be provided to individuals who are having difficulties accessing this information.

Board member Vaia proposed reaching out and inviting other community agencies to present at future Board meetings.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:21 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 for the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting at (562) 570-4014, or by email at [dennis.keith@longbeach.gov](mailto:dennis.keith@longbeach.gov).