

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

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021  
TELECONFERENCE, 7:45 AM**

Silene St. Bernard, DVM, 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  
Sabrina Sanders, Member  
Barbara Schwerin, Member  
Nasir Tejani, MD, FAAP, Member  
Lydia Vaias, MD, Member

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**FINISHED AGENDA AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**BOARD OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE  
PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361**

**TELECONFERENCE DIAL IN: (213) 306-3065      ACCESS CODE: 146 310 8156**

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

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley,  
**Present:** Christopher Robson, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Lydia  
Vaias and Silene St Bernard

**Commissioners** Sabrina Sanders

**Excused:**

**Commissioners** Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks and Rebecca Ruiz

**Absent:**

Also present: Kelly Colopy - Director of Health & Human Services; Dr. Jessica Schumer -  
Deputy Director; Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant, and John Kindred - Long Beach  
Environmental Alliance.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-094BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held October 8, 2021.

Board member Schwerin called attention to a minor typo on page three of the minutes.

**A motion was made by Member Robson, seconded by Member Schwerin, to approve the corrected minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 9 - Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias and Silene St Bernard

**Excused:** 1 - Sabrina Sanders

**Absent:** 3 - Sylvia Betancourt, 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. [21-095BH](#) Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a report from the Director of Health and Human Services.

The Board was introduced to Dr. Jessica Schumer, MD, MPH, who was recently hired as the Deputy Director for the Long Beach Health and Human Services Department. Dr. Schumer provided a brief overview of her background and each Board member took a moment to introduce themselves to Dr. Schumer.

Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services, reported the following information to the Board:

- The City Council requested the Department to look into the feasibility of increasing mental health services in the City. The Board engaged in a brief discussion and requested that a mental health item be added to future Board agendas.
- The Department is currently designing the framework for the distribution of over \$5 million in American Recovery Act and CDC funding to the community for health equity.
- The Veteran's Strategic Plan is nearing completion. It is estimated to go before the City Council in January 2022.

Board member Robson inquired about the closure of the Community Hospital emergency room. Ms. Colopy indicated that the City is engaged in conversations and renegotiations with the operator on how best to utilize that facility.

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

3. [21-096BH](#)

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

Dr. Anissa Davis was not present at the meeting. Ms. Colopy briefly mentioned a local foodborne illness outbreak.

Chair St. Bernard provided information on two veterinary outbreaks:

- A large outbreak of canine influenza (H3N2) with well over 800 cases identified in Los Angeles County to date.
- A large outbreak of leptospirosis with over 150 cases identified in Los Angeles County to date.

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

## REGULAR AGENDA

4. [21-097BH](#) Recommendation to discuss Board goals and infrastructure.

The Board discussed membership terms and vacancies. Current vacancies include a representative from the LBUSD and a mental health representative. In June 2022, two additional vacancies will open up upon the conclusion of Board member's Robson and Ha's final term. Those positions include a Hospital/Healthcare representative and a Dentist.

The Board also discussed Board attendance records for 2021. Two Board members were identified with high absence rates. The Board agreed that these Board members should be contacted to ascertain if they are able to fulfill the responsibilities of Board membership. A brief discussion ensued about the application process for interested candidates.

The Board reviewed and discussed the final draft of a letter to the LBUSD in support of the reinstatement of health education curriculum as a requirement for graduation.

A motion was made to approve the final draft of the letter and to send it to Dr. Jill Baker, LBUSD Superintendent and the LBUSD School Board. The motion was moved by Board member Curtis and seconded by Board member Schwerin. Approved unanimously.

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

5. [21-098BH](#) Recommendation to discuss the current status of COVID-19 in the City.

Ms. Colopy indicated that we are seeing an uptick in new cases. Currently 80.5 percent of those age 12 and over have had at least one vaccination, and 72 percent of those 12 and over are now fully vaccinated. Pediatric vaccinations have kicked off with over 1,041 pediatric doses provided directly by the Department to date. Almost 9,700 booster vaccinations have also been provided to date by the Department.

The Board briefly discussed reports of issues related to local pharmacies incorrectly providing vaccinations. Board member Curtis indicated that although retail pharmacies were receiving funding to administer COVID vaccinations, retailers were not increasing their staffing in order to provide the

service.

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

6. [21-099BH](#) Recommendation to discuss reimagining City support for the Health Department.

The Board briefly discussed the timeline for the review and submittal of the Department's reaccreditation documents.

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

7. [21-100BH](#) Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues in the City.

The Board briefly discussed the potential environmental impacts related to the number of container ships currently holding position in the harbor due to the supply chain backlog.

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

## ONGOING BUSINESS

8. [21-101BH](#) Recommendation to receive and file an update on the status of the City's implementation of the legalization of cannabis.

Ms. Colopy indicated that over \$3 million in funding has come into the City earmarked for Cannabis Equity. Funding earmarked for prevention/education go directly to the County, and the City is looking at ways to tap into this funding.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 9:04 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).