

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  
Sabrina Sanders, Member  
Barbara Schwerin, Member  
Nasir Tejani, MD, FAAP, Member  
Lydia Vaias, MD, Member

---

**FINISHED AGENDA AND DRAFT 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: 2481 634 3492**

**ROLL CALL**

At 7:53 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Chair St. Bernard presiding.

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

**Present:** Robson, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani and  
Silene St Bernard

**Commissioners** Miles McNeeley

**Excused:**

**Commissioners** Ralph Brooks, Troy Ha and Lydia Vaias

**Absent:**

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

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 21-102BH Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held November 12, 2021.

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

**Yes:** 8 - Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Christopher Robson, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani and Silene St Bernard

**Excused:** 1 - Miles McNeeley

**Absent:** 3 - Ralph Brooks, Troy Ha and Lydia Vaias

**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.**

Mr. John Kindred from the Long Beach Environmental Alliance spoke.

## EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS

2. 21-103BH Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a report from the Director of Health and Human Services.

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

- The Department held a holiday staff meeting and celebration at the new Worsham Avenue facility.
- Ms. Colopy thanked the Board for their participation and support.
- The Department is working on a Council letter regarding the feasibility of increasing mental health services in the City.

- A presentation was made to the Public Safety Commission on the Department's Bike and Pedestrian Safety and Distracted Driving Programs.
- The Department joined with its community partners in observance of World AIDS Day.
- The Department also participated in the Transgender Day of Remembrance at Harvey Milk Park.
- The Department is working on a equity investment strategy for the release of Long Beach Recovery Act funding.
- The City Manager made changes to the annual budget process by moving Community Budget meetings up to occur earlier in the process.

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

3. 21-104BH Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a report from the City Health Officer on Communicable Disease Control activities.

Dr. Anissa Davis, City Health Officer, reported the following information to the Board:

- The Department created a healthcare provider resource guide on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)'s.
- The Department released several medical provider communications regarding increasing cases of congenital syphilis and perinatal HIV transmission.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently updated their Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) access guidelines for HIV.
- Flu cases are still low in California; however, cases are beginning to rise.

Board member St. Bernard provided a brief veterinary communicable disease update on the following:

- Canine influenza cases decreased in November.
- There was no new information to provide on the Leptospirosis outbreak.

- There is also now an outbreak of Parvo virus, with several breakthrough cases being reported among vaccinated dogs.

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

## REGULAR AGENDA

4. 21-105BH Recommendation to discuss Board goals and infrastructure.

Chair St. Bernard reminded the Board that the annual elections for Board Chair and Vice Chair will be held at the January 2022 meeting.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the three current vacancies on the Board, as well as the two future vacancies that will open up upon the completion of the final terms of Board members Robson and Ha.

The Board briefly discussed health equity programming in the Department and requested future presentations from Health Department programs that touch on health equity.

The Board briefly discussed attendance/participation at the community budget meetings which will be held in January.

The Board briefly discussed the attendance policy for Board members.

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

5. 21-106BH Recommendation to discuss the current status of COVID-19 in the City.

Dr. Davis reported the following information to the Board:

- The Omicron variant has been detected in Long Beach. The virus has been currently identified in 20 states to date. Dr. Davis indicated that there has been community spread, and not just transmission from those travelers returning from overseas.
- The Omicron variant is more transmissible, and breakthrough cases have occurred among fully vaccinated and boosted individuals. Although more contagious, the effects of the virus have so far been less severe, with fewer hospitalizations and deaths.

- Dr. Davis mentioned a December 10th Los Angeles Times article linking an increase in traffic accident fatalities to the pandemic, which has made U.S. drivers more reckless, and more likely to speed, drink or use drugs and leave their seat belts unbuckled. Of significant note, the death rate for Black drivers rose more than three times faster than the death rate overall. The article links this this behavior on the road as a reflection of widespread feelings of isolation, loneliness, and depression in response to COVID.
- The CDC now recommends COVID booster shots down to 16 years of age.
- A brief conversation ensued regarding what the future might look like in a COVID world.
- A brief discussion ensued regarding the Long Beach Unified School District's decision to stop their student COVID testing program.

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

6. 21-107BH Recommendation to discuss supporting an increase of mental health services in the City.

The Board briefly discussed holding off on producing a letter of support for an increase in mental health services in Long Beach until after the feasibility study Council item goes to Council.

Board member Robson briefly described a conversation he had with former City Councilwoman Bonnie Lowenthal. Board member Robson indicated that the former Councilwoman, a retired mental health professional, was willing to provide a presentation to the Board of the history of mental health services in Long Beach.

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

7. 21-108BH Recommendation to discuss re imagining City support for the Health Department.

Chair St. Bernard recommended that Board members reach out to their respective Council offices prior to the end of the year.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the status of the Department's reaccreditation process.

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

8. 21-109BH Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues in the City.

Chair St. Bernard asked Board member Betancourt to develop a list of topics and areas of future discussion in regard to environmental justice issues.

Board member Betancourt offered to provide the Board with a presentation providing a background on environmental justice issues in the City. The Board requested that this presentation be provided in March 2022.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:09 a.m. Board member Robson left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned due to the lack of a quorum.

### 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).