

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

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2022
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

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Beth Lesen, Miles

Present: McNeeley, Sabrina Sanders, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Lauren
Walton and Silene St Bernard

Commissioners Sylvia Betancourt, Manorama Gupta and Barbara Schwerin

Excused:

Also present: Kelly Colopy - Director of Health and Human Services; Dr. Jessica Schumer -
Deputy Director; and Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [22-066BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held September 9, 2022.

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

Yes: 10 - Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Beth Lesen, Miles McNeeley, Sabrina Sanders, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Lauren Walton and Silene St Bernard

Excused: 3 - Sylvia Betancourt, Manorama Gupta and Barbara Schwerin

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. [22-067BH](#) 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 City will be launching a Youth Mentoring Program where 100 City staff will mentor 100 Long Beach Unified School District middle school students during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. An RFP was recently released for a vendor to assist with the implementation
- Announced that youth grants have been awarded. Further details on the awards and funding amounts will be forthcoming.
- A Re-entry Symposium will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at the

Billie Jean King Main Library from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

- The Oct. 15, 2022 Mental Health Resource Fair will be rescheduled due to weather concerns.
- The Health Department has selected and awarded a total of \$3,027,921 in funding to support community organizations implementing health equity-centered programs that address the impacts of COVID-19 in the most at-risk, historically underserved and under-resourced communities in Long Beach.
- Department staff presented at the California Health Executives Association of California conference on Long Beach's Health Equity Community Grant process.
- Received Centers for Disease Control funding for equity work. Some of this funding will be used for an oversampling project for the California Health Information Survey, which will provide additional data on underrepresented communities, gathering information about their experiences in health (e.g., diabetes) and society (e.g., gun violence).
- The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is being implemented in elementary schools which gathers information from Long Beach kindergarteners and is aggregated based on the neighborhoods where they live.
- Received \$1.2 million in California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) funding to design and implement a system to offer more equitable, coordinated, and person-centered care. The Board requested a future presentation on CalAIM, which will be scheduled for the November 11, 2022 meeting.
- The Department's re-accreditation site visit has been scheduled for October 19, 2022.
- Dr. Anissa Davis was elected as the president of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO).

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

3. [22-068BH](#)

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

Dr. Anissa Davis was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Colopy shared the

following information with the Board.

- MPX cases continue to decline. MPX vaccine is available at the City's vaccination site at the Long Beach City College Pacific Coast Campus.
- COVID-19 cases remain low. Staff are monitoring for any possible surge which typically occurs begins around Halloween and lasts throughout the New Year.
- The Department applied to the State for a test-to-treat grant, which will allow for a program where individuals testing positive for COVID to receive therapeutics without having to go to their primary care physician.
- An Ebola outbreak in Uganda. The U.S. is funneling travelers from Uganda to certain airports (none in the West or California) and Local Health Jurisdictions will be notified if a traveler returns to our jurisdiction. If so, we need to monitor them for symptoms for 21 days.
- Avian flu has been detected in Long Beach. Individuals are advised to not handle any sick or dead birds.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. [22-069BH](#) Recommendation to discuss mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Colopy informed the Board that Long Beach will receive \$240,000 in opioid settlement funds. The City Council has directed the Department to work with the schools to develop an opioid outreach and education campaign. The Department will also be looking into Narcan/Naloxone access to schools, as well as in the community. The campaign will focus on harm reduction and education strategies. Staff are also talking with local non-profit organizations that administer syringe exchange programs to see if there is any way they can support this effort. Los Angeles County is also engaging with Long Beach and Pasadena on the County's response.

The Community Health Information Survey shows a significant increase in youth contemplating suicide. The City's Mental Health Advisory Group and our contracted consultant are looking into this data. A report will be brought back to Council in early 2023 on the group's work. Youth wellness centers have

been established in middle schools and high schools.

Community Hospital was sold to Molina Healthcare who will be looking into establishing a wellness campus at the site. It is anticipated that mental health/behavioral health services will be available beginning in 2024.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

5. [22-070BH](#)

Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues.

The Board discussed the status of conducting small group tours for Board members interested in participating in a toxic tour of Long Beach. Chair St. Bernard indicated that she would work to coordinate a couple of dates and times for these small group tours and would forward that information out to the Board.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

6. [22-071BH](#)

Recommendation to discuss Board Goals and Infrastructure, including:

- Staff Reports on City Council communications
- Focus areas for 2022
- Recruitment efforts

A brief discussion was ensued regarding current Board positions or vacancies. At this time, there are no current vacancies. Two recently appointed Board members are moving through their onboarding process.

Nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair positions will be opened at the November 11th meeting, with elections of officers to occur at the December 9, 2022 meeting.

A brief discussion ensued regarding Board contact with Council offices and the need to reach out to new Councilmembers after the November elections.

Chair St. Bernard inquired if there had been any discussion on resuming in-person meetings.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

7. [22-072BH](#)

Recommendation to discuss the current status of COVID-19 in the City.

There was no new information to provide on this item.

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 9:02 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.