

March 10, 2023

DRAFT

2022 annual report for the City of Long Beach Board of Health and Human Services as outlined in the Long Beach Municipal Code (Chapter 2.18 - ADVISORY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES).

Report presented on Friday, March 10, 2023 at the regularly scheduled Board of Health and Human Services meeting.

Objectives and Functions

According to Chapter 2.24 (BOARD OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES) of the Long Beach Municipal Code, “The Board shall act as an advisory body to consult with and advise the Department Director, the Council and City Manager on matters relating to public health in the City including community health safety issues concerning impacts of animals on matters related to disease and public health, to conduct hearings on matters pertaining to the public health and social service affairs of the City, and to report any findings or recommendations to the proper authorities for action.”

Reports and recommendations presented to the City Council, including the number of subject matters referred by the City Council:

The City Council did not refer any items to the Board of Health and Human Services in 2022, despite taking up several issues that would have clearly benefited from the wealth of expertise of the members on this board. It is our hope that in the future our input will be considered for these discussions as we feel it is critical to the success of the Health and Human Services Department (Health Department).

Total number of meetings held: 11 (lack of quorum in July)

Attendance records of all members:

<i>2021</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Excused</i>	<i>Unexcused</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Abraam Girgis	6	2	0	
Barbara Schwerin	10	2	0	
Beth Lessen	3	0	0	Appointed October 2022
Chris Robson	5	1	0	Left Office July 2022
Lauren Walton	5	3	0	Appointed May 2022
Lydia Vaias	9	1	2	
Manorama Gupta	8	3	1	
Miles McNeeley	9	3	0	
Nasir Tejani	8	1	3	
Ralph Brooks	8	1	3	
Reena Curtis	7	3	2	
Sabrina Sanders	11	0	1	Appointed March 2021
Silene St. Bernard	10	2	0	
Sylvia Betancourt	10	2	0	
Troy Ha	4	1	1	Left Office July 2022

Board Engagement with Council District Offices:

The Board continues to prioritize communication with individual council offices to find ways to strengthen the relationship between the Health Department and the community as a whole.

The number of public hearings conducted: None

The amount of money, if any, expended in support of body: None

City personnel who regularly assist body:

- Kelly Colopy - Director of Health and Human Services
- Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant
- Anissa Davis, MD, MPH - City Health Officer
- Jessica Schumer, MD, MPH – Deputy Director

Board Member Bios and Organizational Connections: See attached document

Recommendation as to whether the body should be abolished, modified, or continued:

We recommend that the body be continued and encourage the Health Department’s leadership, as well as the Long Beach City Council, Mayor, and City Manager to utilize our combined expertise as outlined in the body’s objectives and functions above.

Board Summary:

Board member St. Bernard was nominated and accepted as Chair. Board Member Gupta was nominated and elected as Vice Chair. All meetings were conducted remotely online due to COVID restrictions.

Board Actions:

- There were no specific Board actions taken during 2022.

Presentations Received:

- January 14.....No presentation
- February 11.....Black Infant Health Program
- March 11.....Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma,
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice.
- April 8.....No presentation
- May 13Racial and Health Equity
- June 10.....Homelessness
- July 8No quorum – meeting not held
- August 12No presentation
- September 9.....No presentation
- October 14No presentation
- November 11CalAim presentation
- December 9.....Health equity investment framework

Topics of Discussion:

- Environmental justice
- Older adult support
- Mental health
- Homelessness
- Board and City leadership relationship building
- Board of Health Goals and Infrastructure

Emerging Trends and Incidences:

- COVID and the City’s management and response to the pandemic continued through 2022
- Increasing homelessness and concerns for improved ways to address the challenges

Public Participation (present and/or commented):

- January..... There was no public comment
- February..... John Kindred, from the Long Beach Environmental Alliance
- March..... There was no public comment.
- April..... There was no public comment
- May There was no public comment
- June..... There was no public comment
- July Meeting not held due to lack of quorum
- August..... There was no public comment
- September..... There was no public comment.
- October There was no public comment
- November There was no public comment
- December..... John Kindred, from the Long Beach Environmental Alliance

Board Recommendations for 2023:

1. The Board requests regular visitations from councilmembers and/or their designated staff at Board meetings, especially since Councilmembers generally don’t have staff dedicated to health issues and is planning to hold a meeting including Councilmember representatives since in person meetings have resumed.
2. The Board will continue direct outreach to Councilmembers for input as to the health needs of the community including, but not limited to, environmental impacts on health, infectious disease, wellbeing, mental health, addressing highly impacted communities and other areas addressed by the Community Health Needs Assessment and the Health Department Strategic Plan.
3. The Board will explore opportunities for collaboration with other City departments, Boards and Commissions, Educational organizations and other non-City Neighborhood Associations and Organizations, especially where there is City funding allocated for activities that are health related.

4. Support and ensure alignment of activities within the City of Long Beach and Health Department equity framework.
5. Provide input and guidance to the Health Department and City Council on health related issues as they may arise.
6. Once COVID guidelines allow and it is safe to do so, plan for a Board of Health retreat for Board members to participate in a strategic planning process similar to the one held by the Human Relations Commission.