

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

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

Silene St. Bernard, DVM, Chair
Susan Temple, Vice 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

FINISHED AGENDA AND DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

**BOARD OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE
PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20
ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOME**

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

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:45 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Chair St. Bernard presiding.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Manorama Gupta, Troy Ha,

Present: Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Susan Temple and Silene St Bernard

Commissioners Reena Curtis

Excused:

Commissioners Rebecca Ruiz

Absent:

Also present: Anissa Davis, MD, MPH - City Health Officer, Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant, Carolyn Wong, PhD - Assistant Professor, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, Emily Armstrong - City of Long Beach Cannabis Program Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 21-022BH Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held Friday, February 12, 2021.

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

Yes: 12 - Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Manorama Gupta, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Susan Temple and Silene St Bernard

Excused: 1 - Reena Curtis

Absent: 1 - 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.

Chair St. Bernard took a moment to welcome incoming Board member Sabrina Sanders and asked each Board member in turn to provide a brief introduction.

EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS

2. 21-023BH Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a report from the Director of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Anissa Davis, City Health Officer, provided a brief update on the American Recovery Act, which will provide approximately \$207 million in COVID-19 relief

funding to the City of Long Beach, with approximately \$51 million going towards economic recovery, approximately \$72.8 million for community public health and safety and approximately \$83.2 million for City of Long Beach recovery, offsetting fiscal shortfalls created by the City's COVID-19 response.

Boardmember Robson spoke briefly on ensuring equitable vaccine access.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

3. 21-024BH Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a report from the City Health Officer on Communicable Disease Control activities.

There was no new information to provide on this item.

This BH-Agenda Item was laid over.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. 21-025BH Recommendation to receive and file a presentation on the Young Adult Marijuana Study.

Dr. Carolyn Wong, PhD, Assistant Professor of Research Pediatrics at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, provided a presentation on the Cannabis, Health and Young Adult's Study (2014-2021), a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record. The study, which is currently ongoing and funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, tracks trends in use among cannabis-using young adults in Los Angeles. Dr. Wong opened the floor to questions from the Board.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

5. 21-026BH Recommendation to receive and file a presentation on Cannabis Equity.

Emily Armstrong, Cannabis Program Manager for the City of Long Beach, presented on the Cannabis Social Equity Program, a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record. The Cannabis Social Equity Program promotes opportunities in the industry for individuals most impacted by the prior criminalization of cannabis. Ms. Armstrong opened the floor to questions from the Board.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

6. 21-027BH Recommendation to receive an update regarding the Department's COVID-19 activities.

Dr. Davis provided a brief presentation on the City of Long Beach - Long Symptoms Project, a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record. The project is a Long Beach-specific case study collecting data on the various long-term, lingering illnesses attributed to individuals who've had a COVID-19 infection.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

7. 21-028BH Recommendation to discuss Board goals and infrastructure.

Chair St. Bernard briefly discussed the release of the 2020 Board of Health Annual Report, and the letter of support to the Mayor and City Council regarding the revision of the City's Tobacco Ordinance, banning all flavored tobacco products.

Chair St. Bernard reminded Board members to meet with their assigned City elected officials. The Board requested that this item be moved up to being the first item on the regular agenda, so as to allow sufficient time for discussion.

A motion was made by to approve recommendation.

8. 21-029BH Recommendation to discuss reimagining City support for the Health Department.

Chair St. Bernard indicated that she is working to set up a meeting with Ms. Colopy to discuss drafting two letters of support for secure structural funding for the Health Department. One for Measure B structural support for Public Health Emergency funding through Supervisor Hahn's Office and the other for overall structural funding in the City.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

ONGOING BUSINESS

9. 21-030BH Recommendation to receive, discuss and file an update regarding the enforcement of the Health Order to wear masks in public.

There was no new information to provide on this item.

This BH-Agenda Item was laid over.

10. 21-031BH Recommendation to receive and file an update on the status of the City's implementation of the legalization of cannabis.

There was no new information to provide on this item.

This BH-Agenda Item was laid over.

11. 21-032BH Recommendation to receive and file an update on Community Hospital.

There was no new information to provide on this item. As the facility is now open, the Board requested that this item be removed from future agendas.

This BH-Agenda Item was laid over.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair St. Bernard briefly discussed her experience volunteering with the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at the Long Beach Convention Center. A request was made to add a discussion item to the April 2021 agenda regarding the potential of producing an op-ed article acknowledging the Health Department's COVID-19 response efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:36 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, 48 hours prior to the meeting at (562) 570-4014 or (562) 570-6626 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or by email at dennis.keith@longbeach.gov.