

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

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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

---

**FINISHED AGENDA AND DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**BOARD OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE  
PURSUANT TO UPDATED EXECUTIVE ORDER N-08-21  
ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:48 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Chair St. Bernard presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley,

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

**Commissioners** Manorama Gupta

**Excused:**

**Commissioners** Ralph Brooks and Rebecca Ruiz

**Absent:**

Also present: Kelly Colopy - Director of Health & Human Services; Dr. Anissa Davis - City Health Officer; Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant; Julie Leung - Accreditation Coordinator, and John Kindred - Coalition for a Smoke-Free Long Beach.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-075BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meetings held July 16, 2021 and August 13, 2021.

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

**Yes:** 10 - Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias and Silene St Bernard

**Excused:** 1 - Manorama Gupta

**Absent:** 2 - 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.**

Mr. John Kindred spoke on behalf of the Coalition for a Smoke-Free Long Beach on a recent report released by the Canadian Medical Association Journal on frequent cannabis use among young adults being associated with an increased risk of heart attack. Mr. Kindred also spoke on the additional health and environmental impacts associated with the Cannabis industry.

## EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS

2. [21-076BH](#) Recommendation to receive, discuss 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 updates:

- The Department's violence prevention efforts have stepped up. Long Beach Advancing Peace, working with the Health Department, will be holding resource fairs in Long Beach Communities where violence rates are the highest.

- Launched the Office of Youth Development this summer. Working with the Commission on Families and Youth and Parks and Recreation, they will be holding their first youth forum on September 24th at Houghton Park.
- Healthy Active Long Beach is holding several bike and pedestrian safety events.
- Long Beach Recovery Act Work is continuing, with approximately \$17 million being distributed through the Department for health equity work, violence prevention, youth development, basic needs, mental health, and trauma work, among others. Cynthia Howell hired to lead this work.
- \$1.3 million in Measure US Funding received for community health, public health, youth development and planning. There was a strong push by the City Council to have at least \$1 million go to youth development.
- Appointment of four new managers in the Department. Ten more positions are currently in process.
- Ginger Lee, Collective Impact Bureau Manager, has announced her resignation.
- Received approximately \$10 million in additional funding for Homeless Services, as well as 582 additional emergency housing vouchers through the Housing Authority.

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

3. [21-077BH](#)

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

Dr. Anissa Davis, City Health Officer, provided the Board with the following updates:

- The City identified its first West Nile Virus case for the year.
- There was one legionella case associated with a local gym.
- There were a couple of local residents who had potential rabies exposures associated with their contact with bats. These exposures occurred outside of the Long Beach area.

- First congenital syphilis case of the year.

Chair St. Bernard provided a veterinary update on the following:

- Canine Influenza cases in northern L.A. County. Canine influenza cannot be transmitted to humans.
- Current Leptospirosis outbreak in dogs. Leptospirosis can be transmitted to humans.

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

## REGULAR AGENDA

4. [21-078BH](#) Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a presentation on the Health Department's 2022 Budget.

Ms. Colopy provided a presentation on the Health Department's 2022 Budget, a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record. The presentation reviewed the Department's goals, key services, and accomplishments over the past year, as well as the Department's 2022 focus, opportunities, and continuing challenges. Overall, there were no Health Department budget cuts for fiscal year 2022.

The Department is looking at the potential to bill for certain health and homeless services through CalAIM, a multi-year initiative by California Department of Health Care Services to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of our population by implementing broad delivery system, program, and payment reform across the Medi-Cal program.

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

5. [21-079BH](#) Recommendation to discuss the Health Department's re-accreditation process.

Julie Leung, Accreditation Coordinator, provided an update on the status of the Department's reaccreditation process. Documents and write ups for each of the required domains are still being reviewed internally. It is anticipated that the domains will be sent out to Boardmembers for their review in late September/early October. Ms. Leung shared a copy of the review sign up

sheet indicating which domain each of the Boardmembers had signed up to review. A copy of the sign-up sheet was received and filed as part of the permanent record.

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

6. [21-080BH](#)

Recommendation to discuss Board goals and infrastructure.

- Boardmember Vaias indicated that she had made multiple attempts to reach out to District 4 but has had no response from their office.
- Boardmember Schwerin reached out to the Mayor and Chief of Staff.
- Boardmember McNeely reached out to District 8, was informed that their office would reach out to him on any future matters of public health in their district.
- The Board briefly discussed the requirement to go back to holding in-person meetings. Unless Governor Newsom extends the executive order, the Board will be required to resume in-person meetings starting in October.
- Working on a letter to the School Board supporting the reinstatement of Health Education in schools
- A brief discussion ensued regarding Board vacancies and the terms of the current Board members.

**This BH-Agenda Item was received and filed.**

7. [21-081BH](#)

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

Dr. Anissa Davis, City Health Officer provided the following information:

- COVID-19 cases are leveling off and hospitalizations remain stable.
- Case and positivity rates are slowly decreasing.
- Vaccination rates are slowly increasing, with 67 percent of individuals 16 years of age and older being vaccinated.
- Currently providing third vaccine doses to immunocompromised individuals.

- Booster shots for everyone else are still being reviewed.

The LBUSD has started in-person attendance and will be conducting three weeks of screening unvaccinated students.

A brief discussion ensued regarding President Biden's six-point plan to combat COVID.

A brief discussion ensued regarding vaccine hesitant, and anti-vax areas of the City, and how the Department is working to increase vaccination rates among those populations.

**This BH-Agenda Item was received and filed.**

8. [21-082BH](#)

Recommendation to discuss reimagining City support for the Health Department.

There was no new information to provide on this item.

**This BH-Agenda Item was laid over.**

9. [21-083BH](#)

Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues in the City.

Chair St. Bernard inquired if there were any specific items to discuss or address on this matter.

Boardmember Betancourt suggested the Board set a foundation focusing on vulnerable communities (low-income, mono-lingual, low access to education and healthcare) as well as looking at the built environment of those communities, sources of pollution, and their cumulative impact.

The Board briefly discussed increased litter on beaches and parks.

The Board briefly discussed public health in regard to climate change.

The Board suggested a future presentation, possibly at the November 12th meeting, to help determine the focus of this topic.

**This BH-Agenda Item was received and filed.**

## ONGOING BUSINESS

10. [21-084BH](#) 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.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 9:32 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).