

Sabrina Sanders, Chair
Barbara Schwerin, Vice Chair
Silene St. Bernard, DVM, Member
Sylvia Betancourt, Member
Reena Curtis, PharmD, Member
Abraam Girgis, DDS, Member



Manorama Gupta, Member
Beth Lesen, Member
Miles McNeeley, LCSW, Member
Nasir Tejani, MD, FAAP, Member
Lydia Vaias, MD, Member
Lauren Walton, MD, Member

FINISHED AGENDA AND DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

At 8:22 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Chair Sanders presiding.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Miles McNeeley, Silene St Bernard, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias,

Present: Lauren Walton, Barbara Schwerin and Sabrina Sanders

Commissioners Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta and Beth

Excused: Lesen

Commissioners Abraam Girgis

Absent:

Also present: Kelly Colopy - Director of Health and Human Services; Anissa Davis, MD, MPH - City Health Officer; and Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [23-012BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held February 10, 2023.

A motion was made by Member St Bernard, seconded by Vice Chair Schwerin, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Miles McNeeley, Silene St Bernard, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Lauren Walton, Barbara Schwerin and Sabrina Sanders

Excused: 4 - Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta and Beth Lesen

Absent: 1 - Abraam Girgis

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. [23-013BH](#) 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 Department will celebrate Public Health Week the week of April 3 - 9, 2023. Various events will be held that week, and a calendar of events will be shared with the Board once finalized. Ms. Colopy provided the Board with a save the date for the Department's Public Health Conference which will be held on April 6th at the Long Beach Airport Marriott. Invitations will be forthcoming.
- The Governor's Budget proposes substantial cuts to the Heroes Fund, which provides for Public Health workforce development.
- Kelly's attendance at the Big Cities Health Coalition in-person meetings in Washington, DC.
- The City's has officially ended the COVID-19 Emergency. Ms. Colopy briefly

discussed the loss of funding for staff hired with federal COVID funds. Ms. Colopy discussed efforts to keep these staff wherever possible, either through transition to other positions or by seeking additional funding opportunities to cover those staff.

- The City's ongoing Homeless Emergency. There was a brief discussion of the City's attempt to open an emergency homeless shelter at Silverado Park. The winter shelter located at Community Hospital will be extended by one additional month due to ongoing inclement weather. Ms. Colopy also briefly discussed the creation of 60 warming beds at the City's Multi-Service Center in response to cold, wet weather.
- The Department's Central Facilities Center is undergoing needed repairs and upgrades.
- A brief conversation regarding efforts to transform the former Community Hospital site into a wellness campus, providing needed health and wellness services.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

3. [23-014BH](#)

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

Anissa Davis, City Health Officer, provided the Board with the following information:

- The City ended its COVID-19 emergency on February 21st, and the State ended its emergency declaration on February 28th. The federal government will officially end its emergency declaration on May 11th.
- Changes to Medi-Cal reenrollment requirements and a reduction in CalFresh / SNAP financial assistance amounts.
- Changes to the State's COVID-19 Health orders regarding isolation guidance, masking, and vaccination mandates. The City will be aligning with Los Angeles County to continue the vaccination requirements for healthcare workers and the masking requirement for healthcare workers providing direct patient contact.
- The illicit use of Xylazine, also known as tranq, which was primarily affecting

communities on the east coast, but is now showing up locally.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. [23-015BH](#) Recommendation to receive an overview of the Health and Human Services Department's website.

Ms. Colopy provided an overview of the Health and Human Services Department's website.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

5. [23-016BH](#) Recommendation to discuss Board Goals and Infrastructure, including:

- Staff Reports on City Council communications
- Focus areas
- Recruitment efforts
 - * Registered Nurse
 - * Long Beach Unified School District Representative
 - * Hospital/Healthcare Administrator

Council Communications

- Board member Schwerin provided an update on her communications with the District 3 Council office.
- Chair Sanders reviewed Board member Council liaison assignments.
- The Board discussed reaching out monthly to their assigned Council districts.

Focus Areas

- The Board briefly discussed the status of the Board's 2022 Annual Report. It was requested that this item be brought back to the Board in May for final review and approval.

Recruitment

- The Board requested an updated status of current vacancies.

The Board briefly discussed the possibility of holding a strategic planning

retreat. A subcommittee, consisting of Board members Vaias, Schwerin and Walton was formed to look into the planning and logistics of the retreat.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

ONGOING BUSINESS

6. [23-017BH](#) Recommendation to discuss mental health and substance abuse issues.

Board member Walton discussed having someone provide a Mental Health Services presentation at the May 12, 2023 Board meeting as part of Mental Health Awareness Month.

Ms. Colopy mentioned that the City will still be receiving Opioid settlement funds, and the Department is working on a youth education campaign, as well as Narcan distribution.

Ms. Colopy reiterated that the Department is also continuing its mental health planning work and more information will be forthcoming. The Board requested a formal presentation once the report is complete.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the enforcement of underage cannabis sales.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

7. [23-018BH](#) Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues.

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 comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 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.