

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

**FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 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

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**FINISHED AGENDA AND APPROVED 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 7:46 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Chair St. Bernard presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Troy Ha, Miles

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

**Commissioners** Sylvia Betancourt

**Excused:**

**Commissioners** Rebecca Ruiz and Susan Temple

**Absent:**

Also present: Kelly Colopy - Director of Health and Human Services, Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-033BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held Friday, March 12, 2021.

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

**Yes:** 11 - Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias and Silene St Bernard

**Excused:** 1 - Sylvia Betancourt

**Absent:** 2 - Rebecca Ruiz and Susan Temple

**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.

## EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS

2. [21-034BH](#) 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 an update on the following items:

- The Health Department's 2021-26 Strategic Plan has been finalized and will be presented to the City Council at their April 20, 2021 meeting.
- The Ordinance banning flavored tobacco products passed its first reading and City Council review. It will be going back to the Council for its final review and approval.

- The Health Department has seen significant staffing increases over the past year in response to COVID-19, and increased COVID-19 funding received.
- The City is currently awaiting further guidance for the use of stimulus funding.
- The Federal Health and Human Services Department will be contracting with the City of Long Beach for the temporarily sheltering of 1,000 migrant children at the Long Beach Convention Center. Shelter operations at that location are anticipated to begin at the end of April and will continue until August 2021. The Board requested that this be added to the Board's future agendas as ongoing business for the Board to be provided with updates on shelter operations for the duration of the shelter's operation.
- The second Black Health Equity Town Hall meeting was held on April 8th at California State University Long Beach. This meeting facilitated conversation about Black Health Equity in Long Beach and informed participants about culturally tailored COVID care packages for Black residents, strategies to reduce health disparities, and how the community can get involved to achieve Black Health Equity in Long Beach. Meetings will be held quarterly.

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

3. [21-035BH](#) Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a report from the City Health Officer on Communicable Disease Control activities.

There was no communicable disease control update this month.

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

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

4. [21-036BH](#) Recommendation to discuss Board goals and infrastructure.

Chair St. Bernard reviewed the Board's current City elected official assignments. Board members assignments were confirmed as follows:

- Mayor Boardmember Schwerin
- District 1 Board member Gupta
- District 2 Board member Robson
- District 3 Board members Ha and Tejani

- District 4 Board member Vaias
- District 5 Vice Chair Temple
- District 6 Chair St. Bernard
- District 7 Board member Betancourt
- District 8 Board member McNeeley
- District 9 Board member Brooks

Boardmember Schwerin indicated that she had shared the current Board of Health Annual Report and Board Directory with the Mayor's Office.

Boardmember Robson indicated that he has held an initial meeting with Councilwoman Allen and is looking to follow up with District 2 staff.

Boardmember Vaias indicated that she has reached out; however, she has not received any response. She will follow up with an email.

Chair St. Bernard reached out twice via email to District 6 and received a response back thanking her for the information she provided and indicating that they would be in touch.

Boardmember McNeeley indicated that he has spoken with the District 9 Chief of Staff, and they will be checking in with each other monthly by email.

Chair St. Bernard indicated that the letter of support for the Flavored Tobacco Ban Ordinance, and for the Youth Leaders for Tobacco Control Program was being forwarded to the City Manager's Office.

Chair St. Bernard also indicated that she will be working with Ms. Colopy on the draft letter regarding ongoing structural support funding for the Health Department and is looking at potential comments for the April 20, 2021 City Council meeting.

Chair St. Bernard provided information to the Board on her meeting with the Health Departments new Public Affairs Officer, Jennifer Rice-Epstein regarding the writing of two op-eds. Ms. Rice-Epstein is currently drafting these pieces and, once completed, they will be brought to the Board for final review.

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

5. [21-037BH](#)

Recommendation to receive an update regarding the Department's COVID-19 activities.

Ms. Colopy provided the Board with updates on the following:

- Vaccination clinics are going well, with approximately 4,000 immunizations being provided daily.
- Case numbers remain stable. There was a slight uptick in the case rates due to the testing of school age children which resulted in approximately 170 asymptomatic cases being identified.
- Vaccinations are now available to all individuals over 16 years of age.
- The Governor is focusing on a June 15th date for the State to widely reopen. This is based on vaccine availability and maintenance of low and stable hospitalizations.
- It is estimated that approximately 83% of the Long Beach population will be vaccinated by June 15th if vaccine deliveries and progress continues as they have been.
- A brief discussion ensued regarding mobile clinics and the vaccination of homebound individuals.
- A brief discussion ensued regarding vaccine passports.
- A brief discussion ensued regarding messaging to the public regarding the need to continue to wear masks, even if fully vaccinated.
- A brief discussion ensued regarding the east coast COVID-19 surge. It is believed that the surge is attributed to both variant strains and young people gathering. Young people are the last groups to be vaccinated; however, their activities have been driving these surges.
- Ms. Colopy indicated that Community Hospital has been approved to administer COVID-19 vaccinations, and that approximately 500 doses have been provided to the facility.

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

**6. [21-038BH](#)**

Recommendation to discuss reimagining City support for the Health Department.

Chair St. Bernard discussed the nature of the current funding the Health Department is receiving for COVID-19 response activities. Funding currently being received is grant funding that will go away and is earmarked solely for

pandemic response. Chair St. Bernard discussed with the Board the need to increase awareness of what it takes to maintain a robust health department, and the need for dedicated structural funding.

A brief discussion ensued regarding California State Assembly Bill 240 which strives to provide \$200 million for local public health workforce and infrastructure needs.

Boardmember Sanders briefly spoke on the possibility of working with the California State University Long Beach Public Health Grad Program for a student or faculty member to take advantage of this moment to develop a report or White Paper on Public Health funding.

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

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

7. [21-039BH](#) Recommendation to receive, discuss and file an update regarding the enforcement of the Health Order to wear masks in public.
- Ms. Colopy indicated that the City was seeing a more general acceptance of masks and an uptick in mask usage. She indicated that the City had reviewed enforcement options but ultimately was not in favor of imposing any fines. Education is ongoing regarding the importance of wearing a mask, even though fully vaccinated. The Board requested that this item be removed from future agendas.

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

8. [21-040BH](#) 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 9:07 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](mailto:dennis.keith@longbeach.gov).