

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

**FRIDAY, JULY 16, 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 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:50 a.m. Chair St. Bernard called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Manorama  
**Present:** Gupta, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Rebecca  
Ruiz, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani and  
Silene St Bernard

**Commissioners** Lydia Vaias

**Excused:**

**Commissioners** Susan Temple

**Absent:**

**Also present:** Kelly Colopy - Director of Health and Human Services; Anissa Davis, MD, MPH - City Health Officer; Ginger Lee - Collective Impact Bureau Manager; Julie Leung - Accreditation Coordinator; Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant; and John Kindred, Long Beach Environmental Alliance.

1. [21-057BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meetings held May 21, 2021 and June 18, 2021.

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

**Yes:** 12 - Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Rebecca Ruiz, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani and Silene St Bernard

**Excused:** 1 - Lydia Vaias

**Absent:** 1 - 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.**

John Kindred, from the Long Beach Environmental Alliance spoke on the need to address the environmental impacts of the Cannabis industry, including the increased amounts of plastic litter on City beaches and parks created through the sale of cannabis products, the enforcement of the ban on open, public use of cannabis products and the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

## **EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS**

2. [21-058BH](#) 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 updates on the following items:

- Currently in the process of hiring four key management positions Administrative and Financial Services Bureau Manger, Homeless Services Bureau Manager, Deputy Director and Administrative Officer.
- Department has grown from a \$110 million annual budget to a \$170 million annual budget and staffing has increased from 300 to nearly 600 employees.

- American Recovery Act funding received to assist the community and provide for health equity, food security, youth development, violence prevention, basic needs, mental health, and homelessness.
- Also received a \$7.7 million, two-year, CDC grant for health equity.
- Working on recalling and realigning City staff for COVID-19 response and contact tracing and investigation in response to the increase in cases due to the Delta variant.
- The Department's FY 22 Budget Presentation takes place on August 10th.
- Kelly will be leading/facilitating Strategic Visioning Sessions at three Community Budget Meetings.

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

3. [21-059BH](#)

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 an update on the following:

- The Department's Communicable Disease Controller, Emily Holman, has left her position with the Department to work for the Centers for Disease Control.
- The Department is reorganizing its structure. Under the new structure the City Health Officer will no longer be a Bureau Manager. The position will be realigned to focus more on clinical, policy development and medical subject-matter expertise.
- STD/HIV Surveillance Report statistics show decreases in newly diagnosed HIV, down 15%, and HIV deaths, down 52%; however, there have been significant increases in other STD's including a 12% increase in Chlamydia, a 59% increase in Gonorrhea and a 613% increase in Congenital Syphilis.
- The CDC is releasing funding for Disease Investigation Specialists.
- Ongoing Typhus cases in Long Beach.

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

## REGULAR AGENDA

4. [21-060BH](#) Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a presentation on the Health Department's re-accreditation process.

Ginger Lee, Collective Impact Bureau Manager and Julie Leung, Accreditation Coordinator provided a presentation on the Department's re-accreditation process, a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record. The presentation reviewed the purpose of accreditation, the core functions and twelve domains that assess the Department's proficiency. Boardmembers were requested to volunteer to review documentation the Department will be submitting as examples of meeting each domain's requirements. Final documents need to be submitted to the Public Health Accreditation Board by December 31, 2021.

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

5. [21-061BH](#) Recommendation to discuss Board goals and infrastructure.

Boardmember Gupta indicated that she recently met with her Council representative.

Chair St. Bernard encouraged the Board to continue to reach out and keep in touch with their assigned Council representatives.

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

6. [21-062BH](#) Recommendation to discuss the current status of COVID-19 in the City.

Dr. Anissa Davis provided the following information:

- Long Beach vaccination rate for individuals over the age of 16 is currently 60%.
- The Delta variant has become the dominant strain.
- The case rate has increased 288%.
- The vaccine continues to remain effective against the variants, preventing

severe illness and hospitalization.

- There have been some breakthrough cases among vaccinated individuals; however, by far the majority of the cases are among unvaccinated individuals.
- The City will be aligning with the County's reinstatement of the indoor masking mandate. This will become effective midnight Saturday, July 17, 2021.
- All City operated testing sites remain open.

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

## ONGOING BUSINESS

7. [21-063BH](#) Recommendation to discuss reimagining City support for the Health Department.

Boardmembers were encouraged to attend Community Budget Presentations.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the status of California structural funding for Public Health. Dr. Davis informed the Board that she is participating in a Statewide Future of Public Health Workgroup, and that they will be crafting a memo of support for the funding request. The memo should be released by September 1, 2021.

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

8. [21-064BH](#) Recommendation to receive, discuss and file an update on the status of the City's temporary migrant shelter operations.

The last group of children arrived at the Long Beach Shelter on July 3, 2021. Approximately 200 children remain at the shelter and will be reunified or transferred to another shelter site by July 26, 2021. The Long Beach shelter will close on August 2, 2021. It was requested that this item be removed from future agendas.

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

9. [21-065BH](#) Recommendation to receive and file an update on the status of the City's implementation of the legalization of cannabis.

Kelly Colopy briefly discussed the Joints for Jobs promotion that was a partnership between a group called Healthy Long Beach and the Long Beach Collective Association a nonprofit cannabis trade organization. The City and Health Department had no affiliation with this promotion.

Ms. Colopy indicated that the current focus remains on equity, and the ability for individuals in communities who have previously been negatively impacted by cannabis laws and regulations to have the opportunity to generate income.

The Board briefly discussed addressing various cannabis concerns that have been brought up at previous meetings, such as the environmental concerns, smoking/use in public spaces, second-hand smoke, and the negative health impacts of cannabis use.

The Board requested an update on the City's cannabis education campaigns, and recommendations for sustainability of the mitigation of negative environmental health impacts.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the appropriate response to individuals during the public comment portion of meetings.

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:26 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 (562) 570-6626 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or by email at [dennis.keith@longbeach.gov](mailto:dennis.keith@longbeach.gov).