

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

**FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2022
TELECONFERENCE, 7:45 AM**

Silene St. Bernard, DVM, Chair
Sylvia Betancourt, Member
Ralph Brooks, RN, Member
Reena Curtis, PharmD, Member
Abraam Girgis, Member
Manorama Gupta, MD, Member
Troy Ha, DDS, Member



Miles McNeeley, Member
Christopher Robson, Member
Sabrina Sanders, Member
Barbara Schwerin, Member
Nasir Tejani, MD, FAAP, Member
Lydia Vaias, MD, Member
Lauren Walton, Member

FINISHED AGENDA AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:46 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Vice Chair Gupta presiding.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis,
Present: Manorama Gupta, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley, Christopher
Robson, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani and
Lauren Walton

Commissioners Lydia Vaias and Silene St Bernard
Excused:

Also present: Dr. Jessica Schumer - Deputy Director; Dr. Anissa Davis - City Health Officer;
Erica Valencia-Adachi - Collective Impact Bureau Manager; Jeremy Scruggs - Racial &
Health Equity Program Manager; Harold Dela Cruz - Filipino, Native Hawaiian, Pacific
Islander Health Equity Coordinator; Nicole Sun - Cambodian Health Equity Coordinator;
Diego Gamoba - Latinx Health Equity Coordinator; Kevin Hatcher - Black Health Equity
Coordinator; Maricela de Rivera - Multicultural Health Equity Coordinator; and Dennis Keith -
Executive Assistant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [22-029BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held April 8, 2022.

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

Yes: 12 - Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Manorama Gupta, Troy Ha, Miles McNeeley, Christopher Robson, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani and Lauren Walton

Excused: 2 - Lydia Vaias and Silene St Bernard

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. [22-030BH](#) Recommendation to receive and file a report from the Director of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Jessica Schumer, Deputy Director for the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, provided the Board with the following information:

- The Department provided \$600,000 to the Mayor's Fund for Education to establish a Early Childhood Hub.
- The Celebration of the Young Child event was held on Saturday, May 7, 2022.
- Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services, spoke at Cal State University Long Beach on training and building a public health informatics workforce.

- Ms. Colopy spoke with Dr. Jill Baker at Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) regarding a replacement for the Board's vacant LBUSD seat.
- Ongoing pressure on the Department's Environmental Health Bureau regarding restaurants and sidewalk food vendor inspections. The Department will be providing a report to the City Council in the next few months on the Food Inspection Program's operations.
- The Department continues to engage with the County on the potential Supreme Court overturning of Roe vs. Wade.
- The first Mental Health Advisory Committee meeting was held on May 4, 2022.

This BH-Agenda Item was received and filed.

3. [22-031BH](#)

Recommendation to receive 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 information:

- A hepatitis outbreak of unknown origin has been detected across the U.S. and Europe. As of May 5, 2022, 109 children have been affected in over 25 states and territories. There have been nine cases to date in California. No cases have been identified in L.A. County.
- First human case of Avian Flu (H5N1) has been identified in a poultry farm worker in Colorado.
- The Health Department has implemented its bicillin distribution program for local medical providers in the treatment of syphilis.
- Disease Intervention Specialists are now co-located in Health Department clinics in order to gain more timely access to patients recently diagnosed with a STI.

This BH-Agenda Item was received and filed.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. [22-032BH](#) Recommendation to receive, discuss and file a presentation on Health Equity.

Erica Valencia-Adachi, Collective Impact Bureau Manager, introduced Jeremy Scruggs, Racial & Health Equity Program Manager, who introduced the Department's Racial and Health Equity Program staff, and provided a presentation on the Program's goals and accomplishments to date, a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

5. 22-001CY Recommendation to discuss mental health issues.

There was no new information to provide on this item.

This CY-Agenda Item was laid over.

6. [22-034BH](#) Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues.

There was no new information to provide on this item.

This BH-Agenda Item was laid over.

7. [22-035BH](#) Recommendation to discuss Board Goals and Infrastructure, including:
- Staff Reports on City Council communications
 - Focus areas for 2022
 - Recruitment efforts

The Board briefly discussed remaining Board vacancies. An applicant from the LBUSD has applied for the Board's vacant LBUSD seat. The Mayor's office anticipates that an appointment will be made within the next month. In July two additional seats will become available upon the departure of Board members Robson and Ha, whose final terms conclude at the end of June.

Vice Chair Gupta informed the Board that she had attended several of the

meetings held by candidates for the upcoming elections. And suggested that the Board continue to meet with Council offices after the elections are completed.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

8. [22-036BH](#) Recommendation to discuss the current status of COVID-19 in the City.

Dr. Davis provided the following information:

- COVID case rates continue to increase. Hospitalizations currently remain stable, and deaths have been low
- A new Omicron subvariant has been identified
- There has been a slight uptick in school cases
- We expect to hear from the FDA in June around vaccinations for the six months to six year age group
- The FDA and CDC have authorized a second booster shot for those over 50 years of age, or for those who are immunocompromised

A brief conversation ensued regarding obtaining Paxlovid or other COVID therapeutics.

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

Vice Chair Gupta informed the Board of an upcoming Women's Leadership Summit on June 3, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:17 a.m. the meeting as 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.