

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

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022
TELECONFERENCE, 7:45 AM**

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



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

FINISHED AGENDA AND DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

**BOARD OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE
PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361**

TELECONFERENCE DIAL IN: (213) 306-3065

ACCESS CODE: 2481 634 3492

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:52 a.m. the meeting was called to order.

In the absence of our Chair and Vice Chair, the Board elected Board member Lydia Vaias as Chair pro-tem.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis,

Present: Miles McNeeley, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir
Tejani and Lydia Vaias

Commissioners Manorama Gupta, Lauren Walton and Silene St Bernard

Excused:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [22-052BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held July 8, 2022.

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

Yes: 9 - Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Miles McNeeley, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani and Lydia Vaias

Excused: 3 - Manorama Gupta, Lauren Walton 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. [22-053BH](#) 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 an update on the following:
- The Health Department held a large scale Monkeypox (MPX) vaccination clinic at the Main Health Facility on August 11, 2022.
 - Through an agreement with Los Angeles County, the Department is working to distribute 1,000 cans of infant formula to the community.
 - The Department received \$3.8 million in funding from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for the expansion of the City's Violence Prevention (Peace Keeping) programming. Some of the funding will be utilized to expand the City's Safe Passages Program.
 - The Department will be providing its 2023 Budget Presentation to the City Council on Tuesday, August 16, 2022.

A motion was made to elect Board member Sabrina Sanders to represent the Board of Health and Human Services at the August 16, 2022 City Council meeting and to provide commentary on the Health and Human Services Department's budget.

Yes: 9 - Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Miles McNeeley, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani and Lydia Vaias

Excused: 3 - Manorama Gupta, Lauren Walton and Silene St Bernard

3. [22-054BH](#)

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 updates on the following:

- COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations are declining. There has been a slight uptick in COVID-19 deaths. We currently remain in the medium transmission category.
- The CDC released recommendations streamlining COVID-19 prevention recommendations.
- MPX cases are increasing. Over 10,000 cases have been identified in the U.S., with 1,945 cases in California, 735 in Los Angeles and 36 cases currently in Long Beach. The U.S. currently has the most cases of any other country.
- MPX vaccinations are being offered to those that qualify. Over 900 vaccinations were provided at a drive through clinic at the Main Health Facility on August 11th.
- A potential MPX medication (TPOX) is currently being investigated for human use.
- The CDC and FDA recently approved switching MPX vaccinations from subcutaneous to intradermal administration of the vaccine. Subcutaneous administration uses 100 percent of the dose, while intradermal administration only uses 20 percent. This allows for the vaccine, which is in limited supply, to vaccinate five times more individuals than by the original method.
- Currently investigating a potential case of foodborne botulism.

- Syphilis cases remain an issue in Long Beach, with cases continuing to rise.
- TB cases remain stable, with approximately 15 to 20 active cases occurring annually in Long Beach.

This BH-Agenda Item was received and filed.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. [22-055BH](#) Recommendation to discuss mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Colopy informed the Board that the Mental Health Advisory Committee had held several meetings to date. Further committee meetings are currently on hold pending additional work to gather information on all of the mental health capacities within the City, current mental health services available, and how to expand needed services.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

5. [22-056BH](#) Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues.

Board member Betancourt encouraged Board members to complete the toxic tour of Long Beach in order to have the ability to engage in more robust conversations on this subject. The Board requested that the tour information be re-sent to the Board as a reminder, and for new Board members who have joined the Board since this item was first discussed.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

6. [22-057BH](#) Recommendation to discuss Board Goals and Infrastructure, including:
- Staff Reports on City Council communications
 - Focus areas for 2022
 - Recruitment efforts

Board member Mc Neeley briefly discussed his affiliation with the Long Beach Aging Services Collaborative and indicated that a local community activist who was recently appointed to the Los Angeles County Commission on Older

adults, and her partner a sociology professor from California State Long Beach University, had shown interest in providing a presentation to the Board on older adult issues. The Board suggested scheduling this presentation for the September 2022 meeting.

Board member Schwerin reminded Board members to continue to reach out and maintain communication with their assigned Council district offices.

This BH-Agenda Item was approve recommendation.

7. [22-058BH](#) Recommendation to discuss the current status of COVID-19 in the City.

A COVID-19 update was included in the City Health Officer Report. There was no additional 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 9:04 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 Dennis Keith, Executive Assistant, 48 hours prior to the meeting at (562) 570-4014 or by email at dennis.keith@longbeach.gov.