

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

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**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 7:49 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Chair St. Bernard presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Manorama Gupta, Sabrina  
**Present:** Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Lydia Vaias, Lauren Walton and  
Silene St Bernard

**Commissioners** Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis and Miles McNeeley

**Excused:**

**Commissioners** Nasir Tejani

**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. [22-059BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held August 12, 2022.

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

**Yes:** 8 - Sylvia Betancourt, Ralph Brooks, Manorama Gupta, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Lydia Vaias, Lauren Walton and Silene St Bernard

**Excused:** 3 - Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis and Miles McNeeley

**Absent:** 1 - Nasir Tejani

**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. [22-060BH](#) 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:

- In response to the heat emergency, cooling centers have been opened across the City.
- The City Council approved and passed the 2023 Budget. Budget highlights for the Health and Human Services Department included:
  - o \$300,000 for early childhood programming.
  - o \$150,000 for reproductive health work.

- o Provided structural funding through measure US for a full-time position for the Older Adults Coordinator.
  - o Provided structural funding to increase the Veterans Affairs Coordinator position from part-time to full-time.
  - o Provided funding for a full-time position to handle noise ordinance complaints and issues.
- Receiving \$2.8 million from the State for workforce development
  - Also receiving over \$2 million a year from the CDC for workforce development
  - Currently hiring Community Crisis Response staff
  - Received \$30 million in funding to acquire and renovate another motel for homeless interim housing and to fund modular housing at the MSC.

**This BH-Agenda Item was received and filed.**

3. [22-061BH](#)

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 an update on the following:

- COVID case rates and hospitalizations continue to decrease.
- BA4 and BA5 variants are the majority of cases, with a few BA6 variants identified.
- The CDC approved a bivalent booster. Health Department staff are currently administering this booster at City vaccination sites.
- Flu vaccine has been released. New flu vaccines were released for those over the age of 65 which provide a higher degree of protection.
- Currently there have been 92 cases of MPX in Long Beach. The case rates have plateaued, and the growth rate seems to be slowing. Approximately 5,206 MPX vaccinations have been administered in Long Beach to date.
- West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in the mosquito population in Long Beach. No human cases of WNV to date.

**This BH-Agenda Item was received and filed.**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

4. [22-062BH](#) Recommendation to discuss mental health and substance abuse issues.

The Board discussed current shortages in qualified mental health and public health staff and discussed possible ways to expose young people to public health careers at an early age and increase interest in pursuing a career in public health. The Board briefly discussed the potential of expanding internship opportunities.

The Board also briefly discussed the availability of mental health providers funded through the CARES Act and LBRA to specifically address the mental health needs of the uninsured and underinsured.

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

5. [22-063BH](#) Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues.

The Board discussed what was within their power/ability to accomplish in regard to environmental justice issues. It was determined that the Board's focus is advocacy, and that the Board would advocate either by submitting letters or through providing testimony in-person regarding their support or concerns related to environmental justice issues.

The Board discussed forming a subcommittee to participate in an in-person toxic tour of Long Beach. Board member Betancourt indicated that she would look into setting this up.

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

6. [22-064BH](#) Recommendation to discuss Board Goals and Infrastructure, including:
- Staff Reports on City Council communications
  - Focus areas for 2022
  - Recruitment efforts

Chair St. Bernard discussed re-engaging the Board regarding ongoing communication with the Mayor and City Council offices.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the status of the onboarding process of the three new Board members appointed at the July 12, 2022 City Council meeting.

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

7. [22-065BH](#) Recommendation to discuss the current status of COVID-19 in the City.

COVID-19 information was provided as part of the City Health Officer's report. There was no additional information to provide.

**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 9:17 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 Health & Human Services Department, 48 hours prior to the meeting at (562) 570-4014, or by email at [dennis.keith@longbeach.gov](mailto:dennis.keith@longbeach.gov).

