

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

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 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  
Beth Lesen, 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**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Beth Lesen,

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

**Commissioners** Ralph Brooks and Lauren Walton

**Excused:**

**Commissioners** Manorama Gupta

**Absent:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. [22-073BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held October 14, 2022.

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

**Yes:** 10 - Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Beth Lesen, Miles McNeeley, Sabrina Sanders, Barbara Schwerin, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias and Silene St Bernard

**Excused:** 2 - Ralph Brooks and Lauren Walton

**Absent:** 1 - Manorama Gupta

**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 participation.

## **EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS**

2. [22-074BH](#)

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 following information to the Board:

- Announced that the Health Department had passed the re-accreditation process.
- The Health Department was notified regarding the receipt of State workforce funding. We are currently awaiting a response from the CDC.
- A Reentry Symposium was held at the Billie Jean King Library with more than 100 people in attendance.
- The Department will be receiving approximately \$240,000 in opioid settlement funding and will be looking at harm reduction efforts, Narcan distribution and an education campaign with the LBUSD.
- Work on the mental health system continues and the City's consultant will be presenting on the current state of the mental health system in December. Community Hospital continues to have some opportunities to support the City's need under the new operator.
- The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is almost completed.

- Work on the new My Sidewalk Dashboard is also almost complete.
- Discussed the City Manager's Year in Review Report and provided the Board with a few examples of the Health Department's accomplishments.

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

3. [22-075BH](#)

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 following information to the Board:

- There has been a slight uptick in COVID-19 cases; however cases remain relatively stable.
- There has been a surge in Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) among pediatric patients. Flu cases have also started earlier than normal this year. Orange County declared a public health emergency in response to pediatric hospital admissions related to the RSV surge. Long Beach is monitoring its hospital capacity.
- Update on the Ebola outbreak in Uganda. According to the World Health Organization there have been 131 confirmed cases to date. Long Beach is currently monitoring two returned travelers who had a moderate-risk of exposure.
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza has been detected in the local wild bird population and across Southern California. Education campaigns are ongoing advising residents on how to take proper safety precautions.
- Monkeypox (MPX) cases have slowed, with 122 cases and three hospitalizations to date in Long Beach. Community outreach and vaccinations continue.
- The Los Angeles County Commission on HIV identified three epicenters of new HIV diagnoses in Los Angeles County: Hollywood/Wilshire, the Central Los Angeles area, and Long Beach. These three areas have the highest level of unsuppressed viral load. The Commission also discussed revised messaging around the Undetectable = Untransmissible (U=U) slogan. The CDC is now clearly indicating that if you are undetectable (viral load under 200 copies/ml) there is zero chance you can transmit the virus through sex.

- The bi-valent COVID-19 vaccine booster is working well to reduce the chance of severe illness, hospitalizations, or death.

Chair St. Bernard provided a brief veterinary update regarding a mild outbreak of a non-infectious canine respiratory virus. Cases are not severe, and it is recommended that owners keep their pets' vaccinations up to date.

Chair St. Bernard also announced that the week of November 14th is World Antibiotic Awareness Week.

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

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

4. [22-076BH](#) Recommendation to receive, file and discuss a presentation on the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Program.

Dr. Schumer provided a presentation on the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Program, a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record. The CalAIM Program is a far-reaching, multiyear plan to transform California's Medi-Cal program and to make it integrate more seamlessly with other social services, with the goal to improve outcomes for millions of Californians covered by Medi-Cal, especially those with the most complex needs.

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

5. [22-077BH](#) Recommendation to discuss and receive nominations for the positions of Chair, and Vice Chair.

Chair St. Bernard requested that Boardmembers submit their nominations for Chair and Vice Chair via email for consideration and voting at the December 9, 2022 Board meeting.

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

## ONGOING BUSINESS

6. [22-078BH](#) Recommendation to discuss mental health and substance abuse issues.

Dr. Schumer reiterated that, as mentioned earlier in the Director's Report, the Health Department will be receiving approximately \$240,000 in opioid settlement funding and will be looking at harm reduction efforts, Narcan distribution and an education campaign with the LBUSD.

Dr. Schumer also restated that work on the City Council's request for a Mental Health Feasibility Study on localizing the mental health ecosystem is ongoing.

Dr. Davis spoke briefly on the City Council's directive for the Health Department to work with the LBUSD on a campaign around Opioid education geared towards high school students. Conversations with the school district have been ongoing.

Dr. Davis also mentioned that the Los Angeles County Department of Education held a townhall meeting on opioid education and Narcan distribution in schools.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the availability of any data relating to shifts in trends over the past 10 years regarding where opioid overdoses are taking place.

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

7. [22-079BH](#) Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues.

Small group toxic tours were unable to take place since the October Board meeting. Board members will make another attempt to schedule small group tours in December.

Board member Betancourt shared a quick update on local environmental justice related projects.

Dr. Schumer briefly mentioned the Metro Auxiliary lane construction project affecting Northwest Long Beach. Metro plans to plant additional trees in the neighborhood, and to distribute air filtration devices to the neighboring

residences. The Health Department is assisting with the distribution of these devices.

Dr. Schumer informed the Board that the 2023 California Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) annual meeting will be held in Long Beach. She is hoping to schedule a group toxic tour for interested conference attendees.

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

8. [22-080BH](#) Recommendation to discuss Board Goals and Infrastructure, including:
- Staff Reports on City Council communications
  - Focus areas
  - Recruitment efforts

There was no new information to provide on this item. Chair St. Bernard requested that the listing of current Board/Council assignments be reviewed and updated based on the new Board members coming onboard.

A brief conversation ensued regarding the possibility of resuming in-person meetings.

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

9. [22-081BH](#) Recommendation to discuss the current status of COVID-19 in the City.

There was no new information to provide on this item. Chair St. Bernard requested that this item be removed from being a stand-alone agenda item and moving forward, included as part of the City Health Officer's Report.

**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 participation.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Schumer mentioned that the Health Department had received a very strong response related to the RFP released for COVID-19 recovery projects. A Health Equity Investment framework presentation will be made to the Board in 2023.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:14 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 by email at [dennis.keith@longbeach.gov](mailto:dennis.keith@longbeach.gov).