

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

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023  
TELECONFERENCE, 7:45 AM**

Sabrina Sanders, Chair  
Barbara Schwerin, Vice Chair  
Silene St. Bernard, DVM, Member  
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  
Nasir Tejani, MD, FAAP, Member  
Lydia Vaias, MD, Member  
Lauren Walton, MD, Member

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**FINISHED AGENDA AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:49 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Chair Sabrina Sanders presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Manorama

**Present:** Gupta, Beth Lesen, Miles McNeeley, Silene St Bernard, Lauren Walton, Barbara Schwerin and Sabrina Sanders

**Commissioners** Lydia Vaias

**Excused:**

**Commissioners** Ralph Brooks and Nasir Tejani

**Absent:**

Also present: Kelly Colopy - Director of Health & Human Services; Dr. Anissa Davis - City Health Officer; Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant; John Kindred - Long Beach Environmental Alliance; and Tess Kazenoff - Long Beach Business Journal.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. [23-008BH](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held January 13, 2023.

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

**Yes:** 10 - Sylvia Betancourt, Reena Curtis, Abraam Girgis, Manorama Gupta, Beth Lesen, Miles McNeeley, Silene St Bernard, Lauren Walton, Barbara Schwerin and Sabrina Sanders

**Excused:** 1 - Lydia Vaias

**Absent:** 2 - Ralph Brooks and 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.

John Kindred spoke.

## **EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS**

2. [23-009BH](#) 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 the following information:
- On February 21, 2023 the City will officially end the COVID-19 local emergency. COVID testing and vaccinations will be transitioned primarily to local health providers and the Health Department will operate as a safety net for those without healthcare access.
  - The Department received a \$100,000 grant from the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) to conduct a vaccine hesitancy study.
  - The City is getting ready to launch the Community Crisis Mental Health Team.
  - The City is currently working on the ongoing Homeless Emergency. A secondary winter shelter will be opened at Silverado Park providing an additional 84 beds. The City will also be opening a dump station where people living in their RV's can empty their waste tanks and fill their water tanks, and a 50 space safe parking site will also be opened for people experiencing

homelessness living in their cars. The City council also recently approved a modular housing contract for tiny homes to be built on property located at the Multi-Service Center.

- The Department's Black Infant Health Program was recently highlighted in a Long Beach Business Journal article highlighting Medi-Cal funding for Doulas.
- Currently in recruitment for the Department's Health Climate Officer.
- The Department is currently celebrating Black History Month with various events and presentations, including the addition of a webpage on the Department's website. Dr. Davis provided a brief overview of a story she shared as part of the Department's February 1st all staff meeting.
- Staff continue to work on mental health planning. A report highlighting current systems in place, key areas of focus and recommendations will be finalized and released in the near future.

Board member St. Bernard inquired if there was any action the Board wished to take to promote the Health Department and highlight the Department's work and recognition received during the COVID-19 emergency.

Dr. Anissa Davis, City Health Officer, mentioned that Dr. Jessica Schumer, Deputy Director, presented at a Long Beach Chamber of Commerce public safety discussion, highlighting public health's role in the triangle of public safety.

Board member Walton shared information on potential collaborative resources with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Greater Los Angeles County.

Board member Curtis inquired how ending the COVID-19 local emergency would affect the Department's budget.

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

**3. [23-010BH](#)**

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:

- The 2020 STI/HIV Annual Surveillance Report has been released. Production of this report was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr.

Davis took a moment to highlight some of the findings and statistics presented in the report.

- The Department is currently updating the goals and objectives of its HIV/STD Strategy.
- The MPX program has been transitioned to the Department's STI program.
- The Children's Clinic (TCC) Family Health Center secured an Ending the HIV Epidemic Prevention Primary Care HIV Prevention Award in the amount of \$325,000 per year, for two-years, to promote PrEP and HIV testing in the community. The Department will be collaborating with TCC on this project.
- The Department created a STD provider resource guide and a congenital syphilis prevention packet for distribution to local care providers.
- The Department's Bicillin distribution program reached its goal of securing ten providers. The Department will provide these providers with Bicillin for the treatment of syphilis in their patients.

Board member Curtis inquired if there had been any traction in getting health education reinstated in the LBUSD curriculum? A brief discussion ensued.

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

## REGULAR AGENDA

4. [23-011BH](#) Recommendation to review, discuss and approve a letter to the Mayor and City Council regarding aging services provided by the City of Long Beach.

The subcommittee shared a draft letter with the Board. The Board reviewed the letter, and with a few requested edits approved the letter for immediate transmittal to the City Manager's office for release to the Mayor and City Council.

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

5. [23-005BH](#) Recommendation to discuss mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Colopy shared that the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health recently presented to the regional Council of Governments (COG) on the work they are doing in the community.

Ms. Colopy reiterated that the Department is also continuing its mental health planning work and more information will be forthcoming.

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

6. [23-006BH](#)

Recommendation to discuss environmental justice issues.

Board member Betancourt indicated that she is working on coordinating a small group toxic tour for interested Board members, keeping the participant numbers within Brown Act guidelines. Board member Betancourt also inquired about bringing back future topics of discussion on environmental justice issues of concern to the community and to provide updates on local environmental projects and issues in Long Beach.

Board member McNeeley spoke briefly about the possibility of holding an open community forum to discuss a particular topic of interest and gain community feedback.

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

7. [23-007BH](#)

Recommendation to discuss Board Goals and Infrastructure, including:

- Staff Reports on City Council communications
- Focus areas for 2023
- Recruitment efforts

The Board reviewed and reassigned Council office liaison assignments.

The Board briefly discussed meeting start and end times. The Board decided that, based on the work schedules of many of the Board members, that the meeting would start at 7:45 a.m. and end by 9:30 a.m.

The Board was notified of the requirement to resume in-person meetings beginning in March 2023.

The Board briefly discussed current Board vacancies, and Board member terms that will end in 2024.

**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.

John Kindred spoke.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:25 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, in the Health and 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).