

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

**FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT TRAINING CENTER  
3861 WORSHAM AVE., LONG BEACH, CA  
90808, 7:45 AM**

Sabrina Sanders, Chair  
Barbara Schwerin, Vice Chair  
Silene St. Bernard, DVM, Member  
Sylvia Betancourt, 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  
Paula Clark, CRNA, Member  
Rose Van Meeveren, RN, Member

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**FINISHED AGENDA AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Paula Clark, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Beth Lesen, Miles  
**Present:** McNeeley, Silene St Bernard, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Lauren  
Walton, Rose Van Meeveren and Barbara Schwerin  
**Commissioners** Sylvia Betancourt, Abraam Girgis and Sabrina Sanders  
**Excused:**

Also present: Dr. Jessica Schumer - Deputy Director; Dr. Anissa Davis - City Health Officer;  
Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant; Traute Winters - Executive Director, NAMI Greater Los  
Angeles County; and Sally Sagario - Operations Manager, NAMI, Long Beach/Whittier.

The Board took a moment to welcome incoming Board member Paula Clark, who is filling the  
Board's vacant Registered Nurse position, and Board member Rose Van Meeveren, who is  
filling the Boards vacant Long Beach Unified School District representative position.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### [23-025BH](#)

Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Board of Health and Human Services meeting held Friday, May 12, 2023.

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

**Yes:** 11 - Paula Clark, Reena Curtis, Manorama Gupta, Beth Lesen, Miles McNeeley, Silene St Bernard, Nasir Tejani, Lydia Vaias, Lauren Walton, Rose Van Meeveren and Barbara Schwerin

**Excused:** 3 - Sylvia Betancourt, Abraam Girgis and Sabrina Sanders

**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

### [23-026BH](#)

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:

- Briefly discussed Department actions and policies toward workplace wellness.
- Health Department 2023 Accomplishments submitted for the FY 24 Budget Book.
- A brief update on the status of the local Emergency on Homelessness.

- The City Council established its top three priorities for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25. These priorities are intended to guide the staff's development of upcoming budgets and departmental work plans. These priorities include Homelessness and Housing; Economic Development; and Public Safety.
- Dr. Schumer provided a brief overview of the Homelessness Digital Dashboard.

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

[23-027BH](#)

Recommendation to receive and file a report from the City Health Officer on Communicable Disease Control activities.

Dr. Anissa Davis provided the Board with a brief update on the Federal Health and Human Services Secretary, Xavier Becerra's June 1, 2023 visit to Long Beach. Coordinated by the office of Congressman Robert Garcia, the meeting brought together State, County, and local healthcare representatives for a public health roundtable discussion regarding preparedness. Other topics discussed included homelessness, mental health needs, and sustainable uncategorical funding.

A brief discussion ensued regarding a shortage of healthcare professionals, and a trend toward healthcare staff moving from an employee status to a contractor status.

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

**REGULAR AGENDA**

[23-028BH](#)

Recommendation to receive and file a presentation on mental health from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

Traute Winters, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Greater Los Angeles County, and Sally Sagario, Operations Manager for NAMI Long Beach/Whittier, provided a presentation on NAMI's programs and services, a copy of which was received and filed as part of the permanent record. A brief discussion ensued regarding NAMI's advocacy efforts.

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

23-029BH

Recommendation to discuss Board Goals and Infrastructure, including:

- Staff Reports on City Council communications
  - Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report
  - Recruitment
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- There was no new information to provide on City Council communications.
  - Board member Vaias provided an update from the Strategic Planning subcommittee. The Board is looking to identify a date in September or October for a four-hour retreat to discuss and define the goals and objectives of the Board.
    - o The Board discussed meeting and interviewing the Director, Deputy Director, and City Health Officer to gather their thoughts regarding the Board's goals and objectives.
    - o The Board also discussed drafting a set of questions to interview the Mayor and City Council members and gather their input ahead of the strategic planning retreat.
    - o A request was made to send a Doodle Poll to the Board members to assist in identifying a date for the retreat.

**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**

Dr. Schumer announced that the Long Beach Advancing Peace Initiative is hosting a violence prevention symposium on June 30, 2023, from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Miller Family Health Education Center at 3820 Cherry Avenue.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:24 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, no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting at (562) 570-4014, or by email at [dennis.keith@longbeach.gov](mailto:dennis.keith@longbeach.gov).