



City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

Memorandum

Date: February 20, 2020
To: Thomas B. Modica, Acting City Manager *T.M.*
From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: **Submittal of 2019 Board of Health and Human Services Annual Report**

As required by Long Beach Municipal Code, Chapter 2.18.090, the Board of Health and Human Services for the City of Long Beach submits the attached Annual Report for calendar year 2019.

This report was approved by the Board of Health and Human Services at their regularly scheduled meeting of February 14, 2020.

Attachment

cc: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
DOUG HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
REBECCA GARNER, ACTING ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
AJAY KOLLURI, ACTING ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY TO THE CITY MANAGER
DEPARTMENT HEADS

February 14, 2020

2019 annual report for the City of Long Beach Board of Health and Human Services as outlined in the Long Beach Municipal Code (Chapter 2.18 - ADVISORY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES).

Report presented on Friday, February 14, 2020 at the regularly scheduled Board of Health and Human Services meeting starting at 7:45 am at Miller Family Health Education (3820 Cherry Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807).

Objectives and Functions

According to Chapter 2.24 (BOARD OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES) of the Long Beach Municipal Code, "The Board shall act as an advisory body to consult with and advise the Department Director, the Council and City Manager on matters relating to public health in the City including community health safety issues concerning impacts of animals on matters related to disease and public health, to conduct hearings on matters pertaining to the public health and social service affairs of the City, and to report any findings or recommendations to the proper authorities for action."

Reports and recommendations presented to the City Council, including the number of subject matters referred by the City Council:

The City Council did not refer any items to the Board of Health and Human Services in 2019, despite taking up several issues that would have clearly benefited from the wealth of expertise of the members on this board. It is our hope that in the future our input will be considered for these discussions as we feel it is critical to the success of the Health Department.

Total number of meetings held: 12

Attendance records of all members:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Excused</i>	<i>Unexcused</i>
Milton Smith, Chair	12	0	0
Christopher Robson, Vice Chair	7	4	1
Barbara Schwerin	11	1	0
Darshi Balasuriya (Vacated Seat - Sept. 2019)	6	2	0
Jody Rawles	11	1	0
Jose Carillo (Vacated Seat - June 2019)	1	0	4
Lydia Vaias	6	4	2
Manorama Gupta (Appointed Oct. 2019)	2	1	0
Menchie Caliboso (Vacated Seat - Dec. 2019)	8	4	0
Miles McNeeley (Appointed Nov. 2019)	2	0	0
Nasir Tejani	10	1	1
Ralph Brooks	11	1	0
Reena Curtis	7	5	0
Silene St. Bernard	7	5	0
Susan Temple	10	1	1
Sylvia Betancourt	8	4	0
Troy Ha	8	2	2

Board Engagement with Council District Offices:

The board continues to prioritize communication with individual council offices to find ways to strengthen the relationship between the Health and Human Services Department (Health Department) and the community as a whole.

The number of public hearings conducted:None

The amount of money, if any, expended in support of body:

Minimal. Breakfast refreshments, copies, and staff time.

City personnel who regularly assist body:

- Kelly Colopy - Director of Health and Human Services
- Dennis Keith - Executive Assistant
- Anissa Davis, MD,MPH - City Health Officer

Board Members Bios: See attached document

Recommendation as to whether the body should be abolished, modified, or continued:

We recommend that the body be continued and encourage the Health Department leadership, as well as the Long Beach City Council, Mayor, and City Manager to utilize our combined expertise as outlined in the body's objectives and functions above.

Board Summary:

Board members reported an increase in info sharing as it related to Health Department events and prevention activities. Board members also shared Health Department related information via their personal emails and their various social media networks.

Presentations Received:

- January 11.....No presentation
- February 8.....Presentation of BOH Annual Report
- March 8.....No presentation
- April 12.....No presentation
- May 10.....No presentation
- June 14.....No presentation
- July 12.....No presentation
- August 9.....No presentation
- September 13.....No presentation
- October 11.....No presentation
- November 8.....No presentation
- December 14.....No presentation

Topics of Discussion:

- Community Hospital Updates
- City's implementation of the legalization of marijuana
- The City's HIV/STD reduction efforts
- Sustainability: Health Department funding in City Budget; Financial impact of City Council requesting studies from Health Department; Ensuring Long Beach gets County funding and resources allocated to it; Health Department funding in light of the federal administration's political shifts
- Board and City leadership relationship building
- Increased visibility and value of the Health Department's contributions to improved health outcomes in Long Beach
- Board of Health Goals and Infrastructure

Emerging Trends and Incidences:

- Long Beach Public Health Officials are warning residents of the dangers of vaping and e-cigarette devices, which pose a potential risk to the health of the lungs, including severe lung injury that may lead to death. This warning comes after 530 cases, in 38 states, of Vaping Associated Pulmonary Injury (VAPI) have been reported, including seven deaths. California has reported 81 cases since late June, including two deaths. Emergency Department (ED) visits suggest that the e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury (EVALI) outbreak began in June 2019. Cases have been declining since a peak in September.
- Environmental Health Equity. The Board is exploring further education about these issues, as these environmental impacts affect our City's nine districts disproportionately.

Public Participation:

- JanuaryThere was no public comment.
- FebruaryThere was no public comment.
- MarchThere was no public comment.
- AprilThere was no public comment.
- MayJohn Kindred, Long Beach Environment Alliance; District 2 Staff
- JuneJohn Kindred, Long Beach Environment Alliance; District 2 Staff
- JulyDiane DeWalsche, Community Hospital Long Beach Foundation;
John Kindred, Long Beach Environment Alliance; Marvin
Cummings, Community Member
- AugustNida Chopra, Mental Health America Los Angeles; Marvin
Cummings, Community Member
- September.....There was no public comment.
- OctoberGretchen Swanson, Rose Park Neighborhood Association
- NovemberKathleen Boyless, Community Member
- DecemberThere was no public comment.

Board Recommendations for 2020:

1. The Board requests regular visitations from councilmembers and/or their designated staff at Board meetings, especially since Councilmembers don't have their own health deputies.
2. The Board requests that Council district offices regularly update their constituents on preventive measures per the Health Department's recommendations.
3. The Board would like the Councilmembers input as to the needs of the community that have yet to be addressed.
4. The Board would like for the City to develop a more equitable system for the public to submit public comments to our meetings without having to be physically present. This could be similar to the system used for City council meetings.
5. The Board would like to see more Health Department collaborations with other City departments, especially where there is City funding allocated for activities that are health related. Examples of possible collaboration include funding associated with the LBPD for issues related to public safety that can be connected to prevention work taking place within the Health Department. Another example could be finding ways for Parks, Recreation and Marine to work closer with the Health Department as it relates to youth and senior related issues.
6. Establish an integration and operational interface between the Long Beach HIV Planning Group/Board of Health/Community for the City's HIV/STD Strategy 2019-2022 Plan which includes an evaluation tool included to measure the effectiveness of the plan.
7. Direct funding and resources to operationalize the action items addressed in the City's HIV/STD Strategy 2019 – 2022.
8. Allocate funding for a Board of Health retreat for board members to participate in a strategic planning process similar to the one held by the Human Relations Commission.

Long Beach Board of Health & Human Services



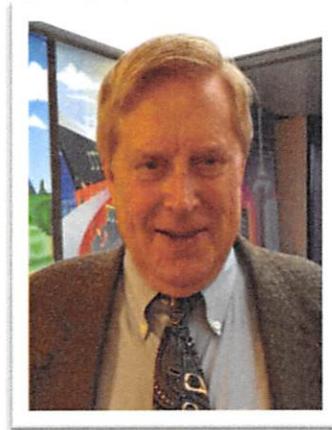
Milton Smith
Chair (At-Large)

Council District 2

Los Angeles native, and recent Long Beach transplant, Milton Smith describes himself as a “solution-focused community activist.” He has spent over 17 years working for and volunteering with various community-based organizations in both Los Angeles and New York City. As a strong advocate for youth, he has worked to increase funding for the arts, championed increasing access to higher education for disadvantaged youth, along with educating and empowering youth to invest in safer sex practices to reduce their risk for HIV and other STDs.

In his current role as the C2PLA Project Director at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Milton is responsible for managing a community mobilization research project that is part of a 14-city national project funded through the Adolescent Trials Network that looks at reducing HIV among youth and young adults. He also sits on the hospital’s institutional review board.

Locally he has participated in a wide range of HIV prevention activities including serving on panels, hosting community forums, and helping to coordinate the development and implementation of research studies sponsored by the National Institute of Health and the National Institute of Drug Abuse. He is a member of the UCLA’s CHIPTS Advisory Board and he also previously served as a member of the Los Angeles County HIV Prevention Planning Committee and is currently serving his first term as Vice President of the Alamitos Beach Neighborhood Association.



Christopher Robson
Vice Chair (At Large)

Council District 2

Christopher Robson, a thirteen-year resident of Long Beach has served for more than for decades in health care delivery and administration, including with Blue Cross of California/WellPoint, Health Net HMO, United Healthcare PricewaterhouseCoopers, St. Vincent Medical Center (Los Angeles) and Huntington Hospital (Pasadena) and the Kay Medical Group for Cardiovascular Surgery (Los Angeles). He currently serves as the Director of Marketing for Advanced Medical Management - based here in Long Beach - where he is responsible for the overall marketing and business development for AMM’s client IPA’s in Los Angeles, Orange and Santa Clara Counties; Seattle, Washington; Fairfax, Virginia; Atlanta Georgia and Oahu, Hawaii. Robson is the five-year President of the YES WE CAN Democratic Club – Long Beach and is an elected member of the California Democratic Party State Central Committee – and is very active in local, state and national politics. He a Certified Medical Practice Executive of the American College of Medical Practice Executives.

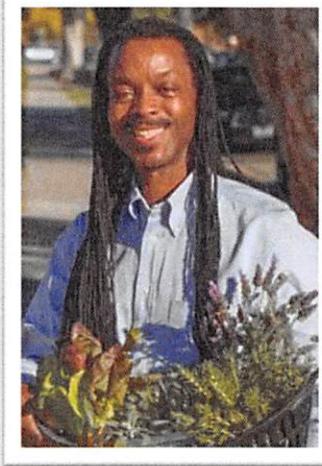


Sylvia Betancourt
Boardmember (At-Large)

Council District 7

Sylvia Betancourt is Program Manager at the Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma (LBACA), which is based at MemorialCare Medical Center of Long Beach / Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital. She has extensive experience in community outreach, engagement & policy advocacy in environmental health and justice, particularly in the context of freight transport industries. Sylvia is driven by her lived experience as a Mexican immigrant family on the fence line of industry and a passion for justice and healing. Sylvia serves on the Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital’s Asthma Center of Excellence Leadership Team, USC Environmental Health Centers Advisory Board, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District’s AB 617 Community Steering Committee. Together, with allies in Communities for Environmental Health and Justice (CEHAJ) and THE (Trade, Health, Environment) Impact Project, Sylvia is actively involved in efforts to decrease pollution at the Ports of LA and Long Beach and the inclusion of community voices and health concerns related to the proposed 710 freeway expansion. Together, with her talented colleagues at LBACA, she works to change the lives of children with asthma in our region through a promotora model that upholds equitable access to quality health education and care, physician training, and health policy work for cleaner air in our communities. Sylvia is a graduate of UCLA.

Long Beach Board of Health & Human Services



Ralph Brooks, RN

Boardmember (Registered Nurse)

Council District 9

Ralph Brooks is a native of Los Angeles and a Long Beach resident for 42 years. He has primarily worked in healthcare his entire life, which includes nursing, health education, case management, health care delivery and management. His work experience includes a few years as a Research Assistant at Los Angeles County USC Medical Center; a member Relations Representative at FHP, Inc.; Long Beach, CA, an Onsite Case Manager/Discharge Planner for Universal Care, Signal Hill, CA., and over a decade at St. Mary Medical Center, Long Beach, CA as a HIV/AIDS Resource Aide/Nurse, and a C.A.R.E. Program Certified Case Manager, HOPWA Liaison, HIV Educator and Resource Specialist. In Long Beach, he facilitated the first African American Men's Support Group (HIV/AIDS) with the support of the CSULB Community Behavioral Health Program. The last fourteen years he has worked for United Healthcare (UHC), Cypress, CA., as a Clinical Review Nurse, which makes him responsible for resolving concurrent access and quality of care grievances for all lines of business and states, including Hawaii and Guam. In 2015, UHC honored Ralph as a Service Hero, for his outstanding commitment and demonstration of world-class customer service. In 2016, the UHC Center for Clinician Advancement-Sages Clinical Services issued Ralph with a Recognition of Nomination certificate for his valuable contributions which reflect the UnitedHealth Group values of Integrity, Compassion, Relationships, Innovation, and Performance. He remains very active in Long Beach local community and social services. His volunteerism involved work with the American Cancer Society (Long Beach) where he served as Co-Chair for their LGBTQ Diversity Committee. He is currently active with the Houghton Park Neighborhood Association, is CERT certified and co-founder of the Annual Lime Avenue Block Party and the Uptown Green Team which focuses on community beautification and clean up. He enjoys gardening, assisting others, the monthly Uptown Crop Swap, community health education and resources, advocating for safer sex practices to reduce transmission of HIV/STI's, and promoting physical, emotional, economic and social wellness and balance.



Reena Curtis, PharmD

Boardmember (Pharmacist)

Council District 5

Reena Curtis, Pharm D earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Cell biology from the University of California, San Diego. She went on to complete her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Southern California and is Board Certified in Geriatric Pharmacy. Currently, she works at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles.

Long Beach Board of Health & Human Services



Manorama S. Gupta, MD
Boardmember (At-Large)

Council District 2

Now retired practiced Medicine for 22+ years. Not licensed now. She had Board Certification in OB/GYN and Cosmetic surgery. She practiced in Michigan, Westminster and Fountain Valley. She did her internship in OB/GYN in Coney Island Hospital in New York, Down State Medical center and residency in St Luke's Hospital Case Western University in Cleveland OH. She did Fellowship in General Cosmetic Surgery.

In past she served her Community by volunteering in different Organizations.

- She was Chairwoman of Board of Trustee and president of Indian Medical Association of Southern CA.
- She was also President and chairwoman of Federation of Indian Association.
- Advisory Board member of outpatient Surgery center of Fountain Valley Hospital in Fountain Valley.
- Vice chairwoman of Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Fountain Valley Regional Hospital in Fountain Valley CA.
- President and Chairwoman of India Association of Southern CA.
- Physician's Advisory Committee to California Assemblywoman Doris Allen.
- Producer, Community service program on Health, Paragon Television, Huntington Beach CA.
- Founder and President of Global Peace Foundation Inc. and arranged children's activities. Arranged Womens' Leadership Summit and World Peace Day in 2017, 2018 and 2019
- Represented Indian community in International Festival 2017
- Organizing committee member and emcee for Pho Festival in 2018
- Invited dignitary as president in Orange county Straw Berry Festival float in 2019
- Feed homeless, distributed joys and blankets for 6 years.
- Donated and Packaged over 10,000 meals to send all over the World for needy children.

For the last two years:

- Member of United Nations Long Beach chapter.
- Presently she is volunteering for Non-profit Organizations. She likes to travel, music and enjoying family life.



Tuongthuy (Troy) Ha DDS
Boardmember (Dentist)

Council District 3

Dr. Tuongthuy (Troy) Ha is a Self Employed Dentist, who has been practicing in Long Beach for the past 12 years. He earned his D.D.S. from the University of Southern California, School of Dentistry.

Long Beach Board of Health & Human Services



Miles McNeeley, MSW
Boardmember (At-Large)

Council District 8

Born at St. Mary Medical Center, Miles McNeeley is a lifelong resident of the City of Long Beach. He is a graduate of the LBSD public school system, Long Beach City College, and Cal State University, Long Beach where he studied Political Science and then obtained a Master of Social Work degree.

Mr. McNeeley has devoted much of his career to public health research, advocacy and social work with marginalized communities. At Children's Hospital Los Angeles he conducted behavioral health research with adolescents and young adults related to substance abuse and reproductive health. He then worked to reduce health disparities through community engagement and public education campaigns at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California.

Currently, Mr. McNeeley manages the Elder Abuse Prevention Program (EAPP) at WISE & Healthy Aging. The EAPP provides direct services to individuals and leads initiatives designed to promote elder justice through case management, counseling, capacity building, awareness, and advocacy throughout Los Angeles County.

Mr. McNeeley formerly served as Chair for the City of Long Beach Human Relations Commission.



Jody Rawles, MD
Boardmember (Physician)

Council District 8

Dr. Jody Rawles is a native Californian born in Claremont, CA. He grew up in both Claremont and the small farming community of McFarland in the Central Valley. He attended college at the University of California Santa Cruz, graduating with a degree in Psychology and minor in Biology. After college he worked at Stanford University for six years doing Psychiatric research and then went to Albany Medical College in New York.

After graduating from medical school, he moved to Long Beach in 1998 to start his residency training in Psychiatry at the University of California, Irvine. Upon completing his training in Psychiatry in 2002, he joined the faculty at the UC Irvine School of Medicine and continues to work there. He currently serves as the vice chair of clinical affairs for the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at UC Irvine. His expertise is Acute Care Psychiatry. He currently lives in Bixby Knolls with his wife and two daughters.



Barbara Schwerin
Boardmember (At-Large)

Council District 3

Barbara Schwerin was in private practice for 10 years, specializing in litigation, primarily in commercial, business and real estate disputes. In 1997, she returned to Loyola as the Founding Director of the Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC), a joint program of Loyola Law School and the Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC). While she was Director of the CLRC, she spoke at programs nationwide on cancer-related legal issues, supervised law school students who staffed the CLRC telephone intake line, served on the board of directors and advisory boards for several cancer organizations and was published in numerous cancer-related articles. During her tenure as Director of the CLRC, she designed and implemented a course for Loyola Law School on Cancer Rights and the Law. She was also an Adjunct Professor at Loyola Law School. She became the Deputy Director of Community Programs at the DRLC in 2005. In 2007, Schwerin was the CEO for The Maple Counseling Center in Beverly Hills, CA. She returned to Loyola and was appointed Director of Development, Major Gifts at Loyola Law School in 2008 and in 2010 was appointed Executive Director of the Advocacy Institute and Adjunct Professor of Law. During her tenure as Executive Director of Loyola's Advocacy Institute, she implemented programs for Loyola Law School students to extern at private entities. She retired from Loyola Law School in May 2017. Schwerin currently serves on the Loyola Law School Alumni Association Board of Governors, is a member of the Board of Directors for the Long Beach Public Library Foundation; is on the Advisory Board for the Miller Children's and Women's Hospital in Long Beach and a mentor for the CSULB - SCPD - Corporate Mentoring Program (CMP).

Long Beach Board of Health & Human Services



Silene St. Bernard, DVM
Boardmember (Veterinarian)

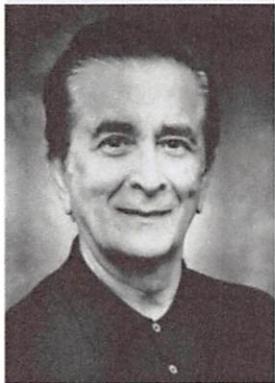
Council District 3

Dr. Silene St. Bernard is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (DACVPM), which focuses on zoonotic and infectious disease, epidemiology, food security and safety and public health. She received her Bachelor of Science in Zoology and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from The Ohio State University and also spent two years studying Biomedical Engineering and Business at the Master's level at Case Western Reserve University.

She has over 20 years of experience in companion animal veterinary medicine and has practiced in OH, WA, MO and CA. Dr. St. Bernard designed, operated and sold a companion animal veterinary practice and during her career practiced both emergency/critical care and general medicine.

Dr. St. Bernard is currently a Regional Medical Director for VCA, Inc., the nation's largest owner of freestanding veterinary hospitals in the United States. Prior to her role at VCA, she worked as a Regional Consulting Veterinarian for Elanco Animal Health helping to educate both internal and external clients on variety of disease states and products. Dr. St. Bernard spent two years as the Director of Veterinary Marketing for Veterinary Pet Insurance (now Nationwide) and spent 6 years with Bayer Animal Health in roles ranging from Field Veterinarian to Product Manager and Regulatory review.

Dr. St. Bernard has a passion for service and her most recent roles include Past President of the American Association of Industry Veterinarians (AAIV), Ambassador for the international charity World of Children and she is currently a Representative to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Legislative Advisory Council.



Nasir Tejani, MD, FAAP
Boardmember (Physician)

Council District 3

Nasir Tejani M.D. is a pediatrician and has been a practicing physician in Long Beach since 1978. After obtaining his medical degree in Bombay India, he moved to New York where he completed his pediatrics residency and fellowship and obtained certification for the American Board of Pediatrics and Specialty Board of Neonatal Perinatal Medicine.

Presently he is an active staff member at Miller Children's Hospital of Long Beach and Los Alamitos Medical Center.

Dr. Tejani donates his time to Casa Youth Shelter in Los Alamitos and is on their Board of Directors and has a special interest is community involvement for Adolescent Youth in Crisis and Student Homelessness.



Susan Temple
Boardmember (LBUSD)

Council District 5

Susan Temple comes to the Board of Health with 14 years of experience teaching Health and Science to middle school students. She is currently the Health Curriculum Lead for the Long Beach Unified School District and was excited to discover that part of her role for the position was to serve as a Commissioner on the Long Beach Board of Health. She is looking forward to working on strengthening wellness programs and Health education in the district and is hoping to learn ways to partner with the community to do so. Before coming into teaching, she worked in outdoor science education programs, including a camp for LACOE in the San Gabriel mountains and a company called Adventure Trek where she led backpacking trips to Alaska, Canada, and the Pacific Northwest. She grew up in Minnesota and attended the University of Minnesota majoring in Environmental Studies, and currently resides in Long Beach with her husband and two children ages ten and twelve. She enjoys running, reading, travelling, and yoga.

Long Beach Board of Health & Human Services



Lydia Vaias
Boardmember (Physician)

Council District 2

Lydia Vaias is a general surgeon practicing with the Southern California Permanente Medical Group in Anaheim, California and a 13-year Long Beach resident.

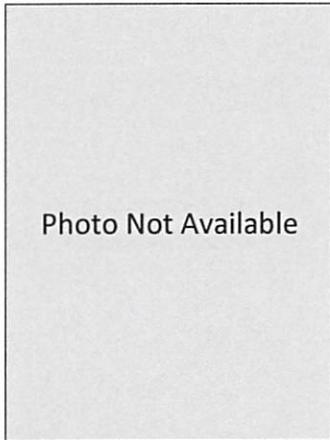
Dr. Vaias hails from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and attended Undergraduate and Medical School at Temple University. She moved to Long Beach in 1996 for Residency in Surgery at the University of California Irvine Medical Center. During her residency, she also completed a Masters of Public Health at the University of California Los Angeles. Recently she completed her training as a Certified Physician Executive through the American Association for Physician Leadership.

In her Surgical Career with Kaiser Permanente Dr. Vaias has served as Assistant Chief of Surgery, General Surgery Champion in the OR, Chair of the Highly Reliable Surgical Team and Elected Member of the Board of Trustees for SCPMG. Currently she holds positions as President of the Medical Staff for the KP Medical Centers of Orange County and Regional Surgical Coordinator for Peritoneal Dialysis for SCPMG.

Throughout her career, Dr. Vaias has worked with numerous organizations attending to the needs of underserved communities. In her training, she held positions in the American Medical Student Association eventually being elected National President.

During her residency training Dr. Vaias continued her community service and advocacy work eventually founding The National Physician's Alliance, a 20,000-member physician organization headquartered in Washington, DC, founded to return the values of service, integrity and advocacy to the practice of medicine.

In the non-working hours, Dr. Vaias and her family, which includes her spouse Dr. Susan Melvin, canine companions Mike and Gracie, and African Gray Parrot Doris, split their time between Long Beach and Palm Springs. They enjoy travel, photography, football, golf and time in the beautiful California sun with friends and family.



Vacant
Boardmember (At-Large)

Council District __