

Date: March 15, 2021

To: Thomas B. Modica, 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 2020 Board of Health and Human Services Annual Report**

As required by Municipal Code 2.18.090, the Board of Health and Human Services for the City of Long Beach submits the attached Annual Report for calendar year 2020.

This report was approved by the Board of Health and Human Services at their regularly scheduled meeting of February 12, 2020.

Attachment

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
REBECCA G. GARNER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS

February 12, 2021

2020 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 12, 2020 at the regularly scheduled Board of Health and Human Services meeting starting at 7:45 am via Zoom conference call due to COVID restrictions on in person meetings.

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 2020, 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		
Christopher Robson, Vice Chair	11	1	
Barbara Schwerin	11	1	
Jody Rawles (Vacated seat July 2020)	6		
Lydia Vaias	9		3
Manorama Gupta	12		
Miles McNeeley	9	2	1
Nasir Tejani	11	1	
Ralph Brooks	7	2	3
Rebecca Ruiz (Appointed Oct 2020)	2		1
Reena Curtis	8	4	
Silene St. Bernard	12		
Susan Temple	9	2	1
Sylvia Betancourt	9	3	
Troy Ha	10	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 and Organizational Connections: 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 member Milton Smith was retained as Chair and Board member St. Bernard was nominated and accepted as Vice Chair. From March forward, all meetings were conducted remotely online due to COVID restrictions.

Board Actions:

- A letter supporting a mandatory mask mandate for the City of Long Beach was approved by the Board and sent to City Council for review. This resulted in the City Council requesting research from the city staff on the feasibility of implementation.
- Input and recommendations for modifications to the Health Department 5-year Strategic Plan draft document were provided

Presentations Received:

- January 10.....No presentation
- February 14Presentation of BOH Annual Report
- March 13.....No presentation
- April 10No presentation

- May 8.....No presentation
- June 12.....No presentation
- July 10.....No presentation
- August 14.....No presentation
- September 11No presentation
- October 9.....Rose Park Neighborhood Safe Streets and Sidewalks Program
- November 20.....Draft 5-year Health Dept Strategic Plan
- December 18No presentation

Topics of Discussion:

- Financial sustainability of Health Department
- Community Hospital Updates
- City's implementation of the legalization of marijuana
- HIV/STD and other infectious disease updates
- COVID-19 response
- Homelessness and housing
- 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:

- COVID and the City's management and response to the pandemic became a major focus for the Board during 2020.

Public Participation (present and/or commented):

- JanuaryEdwin Cockrell, resident spoke on HIV issues
- February Karla Estupinian, Office of 2nd District; John Kindred, Long Beach Environmental Alliance
- MarchThere was no public comment.
- AprilKarla Estupinian, Office of 2nd District
- May.....Bill Pearl, LongBeachReport.com.
- June.....There was no public comment.
- July.....There was no public comment
- August.....There was no public comment

- SeptemberThere was no public comment.
- OctoberGretchen Swanson, Rose Park Neighborhood Association
- NovemberThere was no public comment
- DecemberThere was no public comment.

Board Recommendations for 2021:

1. The Board requests regular visitations from councilmembers and/or their designated staff at Board meetings, especially since Councilmembers generally don't have staff dedicated to health issues.
2. The Board will continue direct outreach to Councilmembers for input as to the health needs of the community including, but not limited to environmental impacts on health, infectious disease, wellbeing, mental health, addressing highly impacted communities and other areas addressed by the Community Health Needs Assessment and the Health Department Strategic Plan.
3. 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.
4. The Board will explore opportunities for collaboration with other City departments, Boards and Commissions, Educational organizations and other non-city Neighborhood Associations and Organizations, 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.
5. Support and ensure alignment of activities within the City of Long Beach and Health Department equity framework.
6. Provide input and guidance to the Health Department and City Council on health-related issues as they may arise.
7. Once COVID guidelines allow and it is safe to do so, plan 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.



Silene St. Bernard, DVM
Chair (Veterinarian)

Appointed 2016
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.



Susan Temple
Vice Chair (LBUSD)

Appointed 2018
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.



Sylvia Betancourt
Boardmember (Environmental Health)

Appointed 2018
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 and 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.



Ralph Brooks, RN
Boardmember (Registered Nurse)

Appointed 2016
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)

Appointed 2016
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.



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

Appointed 2020
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)

Appointed 2014
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.



Miles McNeeley, MSW
Boardmember (At-Large)

Appointed 2020
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 LBUSD 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.



Christopher Robson
Boardmember (Hospital/Healthcare)

Appointed 2014
Council District 2

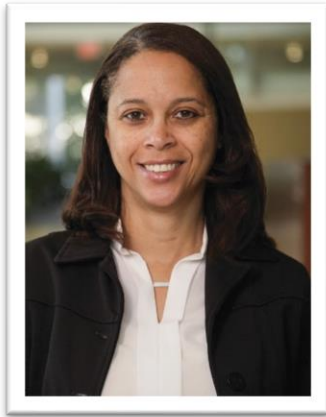
Christopher Robson, a resident of central Long Beach, has served for three terms on the Board of Health and Human Services, including one as Vice Chair and one as Chair. He has more than five decades in health care delivery and administration experience, including with Anthem Blue Cross of California, 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). Recently retired as the Director of Marketing for Advanced Medical Management - based in Long Beach - where he was responsible for the overall marketing and business development for AMM's client Independent Practice Associations in Los Angeles, Orange and Santa Clara Counties; Seattle, Washington; New Jersey, Virginia; Georgia and Hawaii. Robson is the multi-year President of the YES WE CAN Democratic Club – Long Beach and is a member of the California Democratic Party State Central Committee. Recently elected Secretary of the Rose Park Neighborhood Association. He is highly active in local, state and national politics. He is a Certified Medical Practice Executive of the American College of Medical Practice Executives and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Lake Forest College, Illinois



Rebecca Ruiz
Boardmember (At-Large)

Appointed 2020
Council District 2

Rebecca has an undergraduate degree in Marketing, but after working for Planned Parenthood Orange and San Bernardino Counties in their Community Education Department, she discovered her passion for public health. She just recently started working for AltaMed in their HIV Prevention Department as an HIV Project Empowerment Trainer, and she is currently getting her Master of Public Health from California State University Fullerton.



Sabrina Sanders
Boardmember (At-Large)

Appointed 2021
Council District 9

Sabrina Sanders is a community leader in the City of Long Beach. She served as a District Captain for 9th District-City of Long Beach, was on the 52nd Assembly District Citizen Advisory Board, served as a Commissioner on the Long Beach Community Investment Company and is currently on the Port of Long Beach Community Grants Program Advisory Committee, as appointment by the Mayor of Long Beach. She is an Alum of Leadership Long Beach. This past year, she was appointed to the California Organized Investment Network Advisory Board by the Senate Rules Committee. Dr. Sanders was a recipient of the social justice leadership award by The Center Long Beach and “Woman of the Year” by State of California Speaker of the Assembly, Anthony Rendon, 63rd District. She has a passion for equity, justice and advocacy.

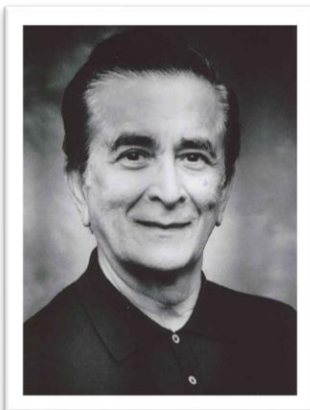
Dr. Sanders' professional expertise is in postsecondary education and encompasses the areas of equity, assessment, leadership development, student health and psychological services, international student programs, athletic academics, student government, Title IX, and student conduct. Dr. Sanders is employed with the California State University Office of the Chancellor, the largest four-year higher education system in the country that leads the country in providing affordable, high quality degree opportunities for students from all backgrounds. She was the lead administrator in the development of the CSU Basic Needs Initiative, addressing food and housing insecurity in the CSU and has served as adjunct faculty in the College of Education at California State University, Long Beach.



Barbara Schwerin, Esq.
Boardmember (At-Large)

Appointed 2019
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).



Nasir Tejani, MD, FAAP
Boardmember (Physician)

Appointed 2018
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.



Lydia Vaias
Boardmember (Physician)

Appointed 2018
Council District 3

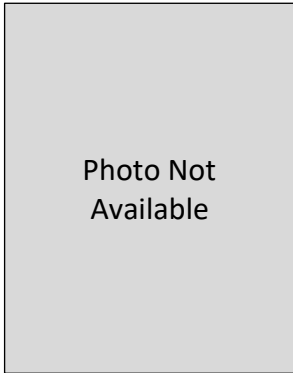
Lydia Vaias is a general surgeon practicing with the Southern California Permanente Medical Group in Anaheim, California and a 20-year Long Beach resident.

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 Master of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles. She also 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 Assistant Director of Patient Safety and Quality for KP 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 Alegria and Enzo, 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, MD
Boardmember (Mental Health)

Council District __

Bio Pending