

Date: August 13, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Alison King, Director of Health & Human Services



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **2023/24 Board of Health and Human Services Annual Report**

On August 9, 2024, in accordance with Long Beach Municipal Code 2.18.090, the Board of Health and Human Services (BOH) approved a recommendation to transmit the BOH's 2023/2024 Annual Report to the Mayor and City Council.

Please find the BOH's 2023/2024 Annual Report to the Mayor and City Council enclosed. If you would like further information, please contact Alison King, Director of Health & Human Services, at (562) 570- 4016 or Alison.King@longbeach.gov.

ATTACHMENT

cc: DAWN MCINTOSH, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
APRIL WALKER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
MEREDITH REYNOLDS, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
GRACE YOON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TYLER BONANNO-CURLEY, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS

August 9, 2024

2023 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, June 14, 2024, at the regularly scheduled City of Long Beach Board of Health and Human Services meeting.

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 Board made one recommendation to the Mayor and City Council:

- Recommendation that the Office of Aging undergo a vision and mission development process, relying on input from older adult community members, the aging service network, and other key community stake holders and the completion of an updated strategic plan for older adults.

The City Council did not refer any items to the Board of Health and Human Services in 2023, despite taking up several issues that would have clearly benefited from the wealth of expertise of the members of 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 and Human Services Department (Health Department).

Total number of meetings held:Nine (lack of quorum in April, August, and November)

Attendance records of all members:

<i>2023</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Abraam Girgis	5	4	
Alexander Red Eagle	2	2	Appointed July 2023
Barbara Schwerin	6	3	
Beth Lessen	6	3	
Lauren Walton	7	2	
Lydia Vaias	7	2	
Manorama Gupta	8	1	
Miles McNeeley	8	1	
Nasir Tejani	8	1	
Paula Clark	2	3	Appointed June 2023
Reena Curtis	6	3	
Rose Van Meeveren	3	2	Appointed May 2023
Sabrina Sanders	7	2	
Silene St. Bernard	9	0	
Sylvia Betancourt	6	3	

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 Department and the community as a whole.

The number of public hearings conducted:.. None

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

- \$1,400 September 29, 2023, Strategic Planning Retreat

City personnel who regularly assist body:

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

Board Member Bios and Organizational Connections: See attached document.

Board Summary:

Board member Sanders was nominated and accepted as Chair. Board Member Schwerin was nominated and elected as Vice Chair.

Board Actions:

- February 2023 Older Adult Needs Assessment & Strategic Planning Recommendation

Presentations Received:

- January 13 Needs of Older Adults in Long Beach
- February 10..... No presentation.
- March 10..... Presentation on the Department’s Website.
- April 14..... No quorum – meeting cancelled.
- May 12 Developing a Robust Mental Health System in Long Beach.
- June 9 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- July 14 Homeless Emergency
- August 11 No quorum – meeting cancelled.
- September 29 (Special Meeting)..... Strategic Planning Retreat
- October 13 City’s Ethics Program
- November 11 No quorum – meeting cancelled.
- December 8 No presentation.

Topics of Discussion:

- Environmental justice
- Older adult support
- Mental health
- Homelessness
- Board and City leadership relationship building
- Board of Health & Human Services strategic planning

Emerging Trends and Incidences:

- Decreasing funds related to federal funds for COVID 19 planning and programming.
- Maximizing the expertise and experience of the Board Members in serving as Board Members.
- Increasing homelessness and concerns for improved ways to address the challenges.
- Staying updated on any declared health emergencies.

Public Participation (present and/or commented):

- January John Kindred – Long Beach Environmental Alliance
Erin Hoops – Resident
- February..... John Kindred, Long Beach Environmental Alliance
- March..... There was no public participation.
- April..... Meeting cancelled.
- May There was no public participation.
- June There was no public participation.
- July There was no public participation.
- August..... Meeting cancelled.
- September There was no public participation.
- October There was no public participation.
- November Meeting cancelled.
- December There was no public participation.

Board Recommendations for 2024:

- The Board requests regular visitations from Councilmembers and/or their designated staff and the Mayor's office at Board meetings, especially since Councilmembers generally do not have staff dedicated to health issues and is planning to hold a meeting including Councilmember representatives since in-person meetings have resumed.
- The Board will continue direct outreach to Councilmembers for input as to the health needs of the community including, but not limited to, environmental health and justice impacts on health, infectious disease, wellbeing, and mental health, addressing highly impacted communities and other areas addressed by the Community Health Needs Assessment and the Health Department Strategic Plan.
- 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.
- Support and ensure alignment of activities within the City of Long Beach and Health Department equity framework.
- Provide input and guidance to the Health Department and City Council on health-related issues as they may arise.
- The Board is in the process of working on strategic planning and leverage the experience and roles of the Board Members in supporting the needs of the health and wellness of the community.

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

We recommend that the body be continued and encourage the Health Department's 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.