



### From the Director:

The kick-off of 2020 has brought some real adventures for our Health Department, ranging from the international Coronavirus (COVID19) outbreak and local preparedness efforts, a Hepatitis A outbreak at a local restaurant, new funding to increase access to healthy foods, Black History Month celebrations, a city-wide Shelter Exercise, opening a Safe Parking lot for people experiencing homelessness, hosting Youth Strategic Planning forums across the City (hosted by youth!), Census 2020 planning, kicking off the FY21 budget planning...the list just keeps going. The articles below provide more information. All of these efforts have required incredible levels of partnership and coordination across our Department, with other City Departments and often County, State, and Federal partners. I'm so proud of our Health and Human Services team and all that you accomplish together for the health and safety of our City.

### Employee of the Month:



**January's employee of the month is Crystal Sanders.** Crystal takes it upon herself to provide exceptional support to staff with the ability to quickly anticipate and discern the needs of the bureau. She is always ten steps ahead of us. Crystal is always ready to jump in to different tasks across the bureau and is never afraid to learn new things. Crystal tracks special requests across the largest bureau (in terms of staff and diversity of programming) operating in seven different locations. She keeps the Bureau Manager on track and accountable. Crystal has made many improvements to the office environment in Rm 250. Crystal is very calm under pressure, and her outstanding work and dedication is an inspiration to all, making her highly deserving as the Employee of the Month. Congratulations Crystal!



**February's employee of the month is Brett Bruhanski.** Brett is a smart and talented individual who has great passion for the Health Department. You may know that Brett takes care of all the recruitment and position support needs within the Department, but that is just the beginning. In addition to juggling multiple requisitions, Brett takes on numerous projects and initiatives from HR, he is a super user for LBcoast in which he represents Health's unique needs, he is one of the producers of Public Health Week and he is a key contributor in building Department-wide training. Furthermore, with last year's vacancy of an AO, Brett rolled up his sleeves and jumped in where needed, as well as assimilating not one but two new staff members in less than a six-month period. We want to recognize and say thank to Brett for his dedication, hard work and "can do" attitude!

### Welcome New Employees:

- Vanessa Lomeli: Receptionist/Clerk Typist II – Collective Impact and Operations Bureau
- Cliff Okada, MD: Public Health Physician – Physician Services Bureau
- Alexandria Huerta: Health Educator I – Community Health Bureau
- Chun Tsui: Environmental Health Specialist NC – Environmental Health Bureau
- Jessica Rosecrance: Public Health Nutritionist I – Community Health Bureau

### Upcoming Events:

- Save the Date: 2020 Public Health Week Conference - April 9, 2020 at the Long Beach Marriott



### Highlights:

- The Health Department has been closely monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and is in constant communication with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), local hospital emergency departments, urgent care centers, and local providers to obtain and provide the most updated guidance. On February 2, 2020, the Health Department began monitoring travelers returning from mainland China for 14 days after arrival to ensure they do not develop symptoms of COVID-19. Those who are undergoing monitoring are required to avoid school, work, and are asked to stay at home for the duration of the two weeks. The Health department has monitored or is currently monitoring a total of nine Long Beach individuals at this time. None of those undergoing active monitoring have developed symptoms. A press conference with Mayor Garcia, Dr. Anissa Davis and Emily Holman was held at the Health Department on February 27 to highlight the Department's preparedness work and to provide additional information on the virus and outbreak. The DOC has been activated to support response. For additional information, please [www.longbeach.gov/covid19](http://www.longbeach.gov/covid19).
- In 2016, the Long Beach Health Department was accredited by the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This accreditation means that our Department is committed to providing quality programs and services as measured by nationally-recognized standards. This year, we will be preparing all the documentation needed for reaccreditation and, as such, we will need to work with staff across all Bureaus. Your participation is essential to our reaccreditation efforts, so we look forward to working with you. Stay tuned!
- Healthy Active Long Beach is expanding its efforts to improve access to healthy foods with support from the Port of Long Beach and Carnival Cruise Lines! On November 25th the Board of Harbor Commissioners approved our Port of Long Beach Parks and Open Space Projects grant request and will be awarding \$21,472 to design and build a new shared use edible garden and plant fruit trees along the fence at Stephen's Middle School. The garden, inspired by students from Stephen's, will be shared by the YMCA's afterschool WRAP program, a church that uses the school for their Sunday services, and local residents who will benefit from the garden via neighborhood crop swaps that will be organized and led by the students and faculty. We are excited to begin this project and improve the food landscape for residents in West Long Beach!
- On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Carnival Cruise Lines presented a check for \$100,000 to the Healthy Active Long Beach team to support efforts to transform small markets through the Long Beach Healthy Market Partnership program. Carnival has made a commitment to reduce food waste and be more sustainable. They selected our program as they also wanted to support local efforts to improve access to healthy and affordable foods. We are thankful for their support and excited about the potential it brings to assist our locally owned small markets increase their healthy food offerings for the residents in each of our Healthy Market neighborhoods.





- In early February, the Health Department was notified of Hepatitis A cases in Long Beach. They determined that these cases were related to eating at 555 American Steakhouse. The Health Department conducted an extensive investigation which included activating our Long Beach Epidemiology Surge Team (LBEST), including dozens of Health Department staff and over 20 volunteers from other programs and departments, including Disaster Preparedness. The Environmental Health Bureau conducted intensive inspections of the restaurant. Outbreak responders contacted over 200 patrons who dined at 555 Steakhouse on or around December 24, 2019 to collect information on the food they consumed at the restaurant and whether they were experiencing symptoms. Currently, there are 22 cases (12 confirmed and 10 probable) associated with this outbreak. Epidemiological investigation showed that the source of the outbreak may have been a food item. Currently, the California Department of Public Health and Food and Drug Administration are conducting tracebacks of the food items to determine the origin. The restaurant provided a great deal of assistance during the investigation, and there is no ongoing risk of hepatitis A at 555 Steakhouse. This was a true partnership across the Department!
- On Thursday, February 20 multiple city departments participated in a full-scale mass shelter exercise. Led by the Health Department and Parks, Recreation, and Marine, “Operation Aquazzone”, consisted of a scenario where, due to torrential rains, parts of Long Beach become flooded resulting in the need to evacuate residents and house them in shelters. The exercise included a swift water rescue simulation and evacuation of the San Gabriel river by the Long Beach Fire Department, evacuee transport via Long Beach Transit, and two park locations being transformed into shelter sites. One of the sites was completely run by city staff, while the second site was coordinated by the American Red Cross with city staff support. Animal Care Services co-located an animal shelter at one of the sites. Long Beach Police provided security assistance at the shelter sites. Disaster Preparedness activated the EOC to support the exercise by filling resource requests and by activating a Joint Information Center (JIC) where all the City PIOs participated in their own exercise, “Mic Drop”, to test the city’s recently developed JIC plan. Also participating in the shelter exercise were Public Works, City Safety Office, and 37 volunteers from Long Beach CERT, Long Beach MRC, and CSULB Nursing School. Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/14D26bgDezJ45Pp36>
- The Black Infant Health Program (BIH) is proud to announce that Leandra McLaurin was awarded a scholarship by Breastfeed LA to enhance her lactation education and become a licensed lactation consultant - IBCLC. Leandra is currently a Health Educator for the BIH Program where she is a group moderator and advocates for women and infant health providing social support, empowerment, and stress-reducing techniques in order to promote the health, improve the life expectancy and birth outcomes for African American women. Please join us in congratulating Leandra!
- The BIH Program team was invited to participate in the Black History Month Celebration and Exhibit on February 4<sup>th</sup> in the Civic Center Plaza. The program theme this year is “Remembering Our Roots: A Timeline of Black History”. An exhibit highlighting a compilation of images of African-American history and culture will be displayed in the City Hall lobby during the month of February.





- The Homeless Services Division opened a Safe Parking Program (SPP) on February 26. SPP will be temporarily housed at the Multi-Service Center and operated by Pastor Steven Richardson of Good News Church. Upon completion of construction at the church lot, the SPP will be relocated to Good News Church. The Lot will be open from 6 pm to 7 am. People can be referred to the program through the Multi Service Center who will do the screenings and ensure that vehicles are registered and insured. MSC staff will provide an overview of the program policies and procedures. All program participants will be required to participate in case management and progress towards case management goals must be demonstrated to continue participation in the program. The site will have security and provide restroom and handwashing accessibility via portable toilets/washing stations that are in ADA compliance. Program participants will be allowed to reside in the program for up to 90 days for initial permits. Extensions may be granted on a case by case basis, provided verified evidence of a housing placement is pending. The SPP adds to a wide array of programs in place for people experiencing homeless in Long Beach.
- The Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Division is excited to announce that we have welcomed our new Healthy Active Long Beach Program Coordinator to the CDIP team! Hanna Stribling. Hanna Stribling holds a master's in social work from California State University Long Beach. She has been with the City since 2016 and comes to the Community Health Bureau from the Human Services Bureau where she lead the Department's Trauma- and Resiliency-Informed Long Beach (TRI LB) Initiative and previously, the Strengthening Community and Police Relations Program. She is excited to join the Chronic Disease and Illness Prevention Division as the Healthy Active Long Beach Program Coordinator! Outside of work, she enjoys cooking and baking bread, taking care of her small garden, or just hanging out with her husband and dog.
- The Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Division is also excited to welcome and introduce you to the newest Health Educator to join our Tobacco Education Team, Alexandria Huerta! "A little about me, I graduated from UC Davis with a degree in Neurobiology and I'm interested in disparities of drug use in emerging adults. I live my best life with my dog, Luna and fulfilled my lifelong dream of becoming a Disneyland passholder. I'm excited to be here and looking forward to this new beginning with TEP!"