

From: banishida@aol.com
To: [Garcia-Delgado, Jazmine](#); [Cash, Tyler](#); [Gomez, Victoria](#); [Ayala, Angelica](#); [Lim, Esther](#); [CEO Health And Mental Health Services Cluster](#)
Cc: [Jeffrey Klausner](#); [Elle Seibert](#)
Subject: Re: Accessibility to Health Cluster Meetings
Date: Monday, March 23, 2026 7:16:22 PM

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

Hello!

Hope you had a great weekend. First, thank you so much for upgrading the technology for the weekly meetings. For the first time, I am able to hear the entire meeting and see the participants. I have not lost the connection during the past two meetings. For someone whose disability prevents them from attending the meetings in person, this is crucial.

Second, I was able to provide a public comment during the last meeting. At that time, I told you about the NBC Channel 4 news segment that highlighted Long COVID. Below, please find the link to the news segment.

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/video/news/local/6-years-since-pandemic-some-are-still-suffering-from-long-covid/3862212/>

We continue to ask for a time-limited task force appointed by the Board of Supervisors. We are meeting regularly with the DPH and have met with DHS. Please take the time to watch and listen to this segment.

Thank you!

Beth Nishida

On Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 08:03:24 PM PDT, banishida@aol.com wrote:

Hello!

I hope you are all doing well. I appreciated the opportunity to speak at your last meeting and appreciate the work that you all do for those of us who live in Los Angeles County. . At that meeting, I reminded you about the thousands of people that are living with the devastating, chronic illness that is long COVID. Long COVID impacts so many areas of life, and so many residents of LA County do not have access to what they need - medical resources, housing, other social resources. It can leave residents unable to work, struggling to maintain housing,

and unable to access the specialized medical care that they need.

LA City has declared tomorrow Long COVID Awareness Day. We are waiting for the County to also acknowledge the thousands of patients living with this disease that is debilitating and - as of right now - incurable. Further, it is important not to just acknowledge that we exist, but to commit to addressing the needs of those residents whose lives have been devastatingly altered by this illness.

I also told you during my public comment that we had been interviewed by the media. The first article was released in the LA Times on their app this afternoon. It will be in tomorrow's LA Times paper.

We have met with each of you. We have provided you with statistics. We have followed up with each one of your asks. We have met with DHS. We have met with DPH multiple times. I ask you again - please put this on the agenda to discuss at a health deputies' meeting in the next week or two. I also ask again that the Board of Supervisors appoint a limited-time task force to address these critical issues.

Please see the article below. I have attached both the link and the pdf. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you!

www.latimes.com

On Friday, February 6, 2026 at 08:36:47 AM PST, banishida@aol.com wrote:

Good morning,

I appreciated the opportunity to speak at the meeting on Wednesday. Thank you for the work that each of you and the Board of Supervisors are doing to address health concerns within LA County. As we have reiterated a number of times, there are thousands of long COVID patients living in LA County. Fatigue. Exhaustion. Pain. Difficulty with daily living skills. Possibly difficulty breathing. Eventually depression. A chronic illness that no one can cure, but can be managed with appropriate care. Many people do not have access to that care. Many people do not have access to resources that they need in order to live a functional life. As we have noted previously, like many other illnesses, long COVID disproportionately impacts women, those a higher economic instability, and people of color. Health equity continues to be an unaddressed issue.

This week, the Board of Supervisors reaffirmed their commitment to safety net

services for all LA County residents, even within the very difficult current budget situation. That includes residents who have long COVID. The longer they are sick without appropriate care, the more likely they are to need vital safety net services. If they cannot work because of their illness, many of them will eventually struggle with housing, paying bills, and food. We cannot leave this group of people behind.

The federal and state cuts to the LA County budget are set to disproportionately impact the same people that long COVID does. The number of people with long COVID in LA County continues to grow. The number of people who need medical resources, daily care help, and housing resources, is growing.

What are we, as a county, going to do to address this inequitable, ongoing situation? I reiterate the ask - that the health deputies invite DPH and DHS to present at the health deputies meeting. I am continuing to ask that LA County develop a limited-time task force to study long COVID within LA County and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding access to resources and medical services.

Thank you for taking your time to read this and for your commitment to the health issues throughout our county

Beth Nishida

Beth

On Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 01:27:11 PM PST, banishida@aol.com wrote:

Good afternoon,

I appreciated the opportunity to provide a public comment at the meeting today. Thank you for your support as we work to meet the needs of residents with long COVID. It is estimated that there are over 20 million US residents affected by long COVID, with over 600,000 of them residents of LA County.

Long COVID affects every part of life. Even those who are considered mild may be left unable to work. Many become more isolated. Some struggle with or are no longer able to pay bills because of their inability to work and can have issues with consistent housing. Many patients struggle with basic daily living skills. Being able to care for themselves can be a struggle. Like some other chronic illnesses, long COVID disproportionately affects women, those with a higher economic instability, and those with lower education levels.

The county budget is being significantly impacted by cuts at the federal level and the impact of HR 1. Those cuts are set to disproportionately impact the same people that long COVID does. Thank you for your proactive actions in addressing this issue. I don't want to downplay the significance of the budget cuts. Neither do I want to downplay how ill hundreds of thousands of people are, some who do not have access to appropriate care even now. The number of people with long COVID

in LA County continues to grow. The number of people who need medical resources, daily care help, housing resources, who cannot meet their living expenses is growing.

As some of you have requested, we have engaged DPH and DHS representatives in a conversation as well. I ask that you have an agenda item regarding long COVID and invite them to present. Please work together with them – and us – to determine how we can meet the needs of so many people who are chronically ill with long COVID.

I am continuing to ask that LA County develop a limited-time task force to study long COVID within LA County and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. It is critical that we understand which patients have adequate access to resources and medical services and that we address gaps in services across the county.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important ask.

Beth Nishida

On Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 05:32:44 PM PST, banishida@aol.com wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you all for meeting with us in the past few weeks. We have appreciated your expertise and suggestions, as well as your commitment to meeting the needs of residents throughout LA County. We also appreciate your ongoing support as we work toward a long COVID task force.

Several of you suggested that we join the health care cluster meetings in order to participate in public comments. I have joined the past three, and have experienced difficulty with hearing the presentations and conversation in each one of those meetings. I have seen comments in the chat from others that also have expressed similar frustration.

I have on occasion completely lost the sound on the call. This week, I was planning on commenting at the end of the meeting, but today's call was dropped several times. Each time, it took me a few minutes to get the call re-established on my laptop. The last time that the call was dropped, the meeting had completely finished by the time I had re-entered the call. I am not sure how long the comments section lasts, but I was out of the meeting for only a few minutes.

I am not sure about other options to participate. I am not having this issue with any other meetings and my laptop is up to date. We have connected with Dr. Emiley Chang at the Department of Public Health. We would encourage you to work with her on a long COVID presentation at an upcoming meeting. I want to ensure that we are able to continue to have this very important conversation.

If you have any questions regarding the data and resources that we have shared so far, please reach out. We are committed to health equity throughout our county. We want to ensure that each person with long COVID has access to the care and resources that they need.

Thank you for continuing to engage with us on this very important topic that impacts over 600,000 residents in our county.

Beth Nishida