

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 17, 2020

Special Meeting Minutes¹

On July 17, 2020 at 3:30 p.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met for a special meeting as members of the local Yuma County COVID Task Force. Chairman Dean Wingfield, Commissioner Trent Bushner, Commissioner Robin Wiley, and Administrator Andrea Calhoon were present throughout the meeting with meeting members joining via teleconference. Also in attendance were various municipal and hospital officials as well as Northeast Colorado Health Department Director Trish McClain.

COVID Task Force – The group reviewed the event plan for the Ministerial Alliance concert at the Yuma County Fair. The plans were within the scope of the local variance so no formal action or approval was required. No concerns were expressed by the group concerning the event.

The group reviewed yesterday's executive order and associated information. Ms. McClain provided guidance on how the State is interpreting increased case loads and their impact on local variances. The group reviewed a foundational mitigation and containment plan, which is required under the updated order if Yuma County experiences a substantive increase in COVID cases. Under current state guidance, if local cases exceed State metrics, a three-week window to re-establish compliance would be initiated. The containment and mitigation plan outlines the strategy to re-attain compliance. If compliance is not re-attained, Northeast Colorado Health will assist in developing a plan. Also discussed were the individual economic challenges of positive COVID tests and ways that local entities can provide informational and financial resources for individuals who are out of work due to isolation following exposure or positive test results.

Protect Your Neighbor variance applications were reviewed by the group including draft language for the attestations required by local law enforcement. Group members expressed concern over law enforcement perspective of enforcement of the executive orders as well as lack of available resources for active enforcement. The perspectives of and statements by other counties were discussed and reviewed and compared to the group's historical perspective of compliance.

Also discussed were the challenges to local businesses in complying with the service refusal requirements in the most recent executive order. Ms. McClain provided guidance on State messaging and experiences reported to her regarding business owners requiring masks to provide services to patrons.


The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be set for the week of July 20, 2020 based on group availability.



Dean Wingfield, Chairman



Andrea Calhoon, Administrator

ATTEST: 

Beverly Wenger, County Clerk



¹ Minutes prepared by Andrea Calhoon are a summary of discussions, not a verbatim account.