

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 25, 2020

Special Meeting Minutes<sup>1</sup>

On September 25, 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* – Hospital and public health representatives provided data on current local case counts and hospitalizations and reported on the recent spike in both counts currently being seen. Current testing counts were also reported as being up, however longer turnaround times in test results were discussed and are presumed due to changes in CMS requirements for long-term care facility testing as defined at the federal level. The group discussed recent public perception in case counts and participation in contact tracing. Some negative social response is being noted toward individuals who are positive, which is in some cases resulting in hesitancy to participate in contact tracing. Also discussed was current guidance on handling exposures and resulting quarantines in long-term care facilities.

Northeast Colorado Health Department Director Trish McClain gave an overview of the State of Colorado's new dial metrics including the source of initial data and the way data is reviewed and handled as counties move around within the metric thresholds. McClain provided examples of how various counties have approached increases in cases and how the State of Colorado has approached those changes. McClain noted that the dial metrics should be looked at more as a process than as a trigger point. Following that explanation, the group inquired as to local healthcare perspectives on current testing rates and potential impacts on the dial metrics in the coming weeks and discussed the local impact weight of hospitalizations versus positivity rates. The group discussed and established a tentative preparatory plan for how to approach a potential consultative discussion with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment should local case counts continue to climb and the State request a review of local restrictions.

The group discussed comments received from community members and public perceptions of the current public health situation and how to communicate with community members to effectively address public health concerns in light of current public perceptions. Conversation was had on how to approach an education campaign in a way that our community members need and want to receive the information. Healthcare officials discussed the perception of comparative basis between COVID and influenza and the challenges in approaching education related to those perceptions.

Jennifer Kramer of Wray Community District Hospital presented some requested changes to the school waiver plan as requested by Yuma County school districts. Among proposed changes were considerations for how to differentiate handling of positive students versus exposed students. The group discussed the challenges faced by schools in public perception of how COVID is being handled within schools and some additional language added to clarify the responsibility for making quarantine and closure decisions, especially in light of the challenges of getting youth to quarantine. Additional changes included language updates to allow consideration of restrictions as opposed to mandated restrictions based on circumstances. **City of Wray Manager James DePue moved to approve the Yuma County School Plan changes as presented. Wray Community District Hospital Administrator John Hart seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.**



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Yuma County Recorder, BEVERLY WENGER Page 1 of 2  
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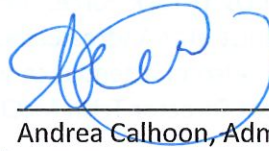
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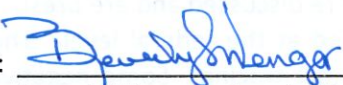
<sup>1</sup> Minutes prepared by Andrea Calhoon are a summary of discussions, not a verbatim account.



The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be set for the week of September 28, 2020 based on group availability.

  
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Dean Wingfield, Chairman

  
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Andrea Calhoun, Administrator

ATTEST:   
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Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

