

**YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**October 2, 2020**

**Special Meeting Minutes<sup>1</sup>**

On October 2, 2020 at 2:00 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. Special guests Sammy Lee of the Yuma Chamber of Commerce and Sergeant Joe Wells of the Yuma County Jail were also in attendance.

*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. The local positivity rate is slightly above the state average however local testing rates are considerably higher than the state average and Yuma County reports the ability to test anyone who needs tested. A large number of the current active cases are set to complete their 14 day active status next week and a considerable impact on local case counts is expected.

The group discussed the results of a work group designed to review and update the local mitigation and containment plan in response to request from CDPHE to outline a response to the increase in local numbers. The group expressed concerns and challenges in the amount and reliability of information available to the public and the perception of lack of validity in the guidance being given. Feedback was given related to establishing metrics for hospitalizations as requested by CDPHE and McClain provided perspective on remaining work to be done to finalize the response.

Sammy Lee of the Yuma Chamber of Commerce presented plans for Halloween and associated activities. The group discussed compliance with requirements and provided feedback on considerations for hosting the event designed to encourage social distancing and other compliance measures. Also reviewed were a proposal by the Wray Chamber to host a series of Halloween activities. The group provided feedback for strengthening public health protocols and limiting exposure during public events.

Sergeant Joe Wells was heard to request guidance on surveillance testing protocols in light of recent testing results. The group discussed the benefits of surveillance testing and how to align protocols in a way that best employs the benefits of surveillance testing. Also discussed were essential worker protocols for positive tests occurring in essential workforces as well as workplace protocols following positive results.

The group discussed the public education campaign and the first article that was published in the local papers this week. The group of agency Public Information Officers will continue to work on weekly informational articles and work with local papers for publishing. Also discussed were updates on the local small business grant program and applications received.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be set for the week of October 5, 2020 based on group availability.

  
Dean Wingfield, Chairman

  
Andrea Calhoon, Administrator

ATTEST:   
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk



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

  
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