

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 4, 2021

Special Meeting Minutes¹

On March 4, 2021 at 2:30 p.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met for a special meeting as members of the local Yuma County COVID Task Force. Commissioner Robin Wiley, Commissioner Scott Weaver, and Administrator Andrea Calhoon were present throughout the meeting with meeting members joining via teleconference. Also in attendance was Northeast Colorado Health Department Director Trish McClain as well as various municipal and hospital officials. The administrators of the four Yuma County school districts were invited as guests.

COVID Task Force – Northeast Colorado Health Department staff Reina Doyle and Tammy Hort provided updates on the Northeast Colorado Health Department’s current data and trends within Yuma County and throughout the region. The NCHD team also presented information from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s COVID Dial 2.0 for Yuma County.

Jennifer Kramer of Wray Community District Hospital reported on statistics and trends in treatments being administered through their facility. Kramer noted no current hospitalizations as well as new guidance from the state regarding capacity thresholds for conducting surgical procedures and requiring the cancellation of procedures based on inpatient capacity, whether COVID related or not. Recently WCDH received direction from the State regarding the cancelation of colonoscopies based on the number of inpatient beds occupied, most of which are currently occupied for obstetrics and none are currently COVID-related. Kramer expressed concern over patient care with this requirement in place and is hopeful that CDPHE will review the efficacy of this requirement in the near future. Kramer also discussed the current status of vaccine distribution and efforts to distribute vaccine to the next available group of agricultural producers, but current lack of vaccine inventory to accomplish those goals. Kramer reported the continued pattern of seeing very few patients present for COVID testing due to symptoms and reported that most testing is occurring to external factors such as surgical procedure preparation.

Beth Saxton of Yuma District Hospital provided updates on COVID topics and trends seen within Yuma healthcare facilities including testing, positivity, hospitalization, and vaccination statistics and protocols. Saxton reported no COVID admissions since February 21 and a drastic decrease in presentation of patients with COVID symptoms. Saxton expressed that vaccine distribution is delayed primarily due to lack of distribution from the State.

The administrators of the school districts provided updates regarding case trends and mitigation and response efforts being undertaken in their districts. Among topics discussed were follow-up feedback from the Value Up presentations recently held at each school district to assist students with mental and emotional resiliency. Yuma School District Administrator Dianna Chrisman provided updates on a recent COVID outbreak in the Yuma School District which has negatively impacted student athletes and playoff competition. The group also discussed the administration of the in-house Binex testing kits that were automatically distributed to schools for testing within the school facilities and the various concerns held by the school districts in utilizing and administering such tests.

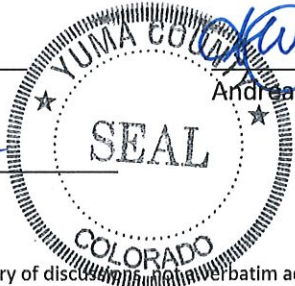
James DePue of the City of Wray provided some input on his inquiry of the Governor’s Office on a recent regional call regarding the process of moving forward and how local control can be increased in an effort to move forward from the current status. Commissioner Robin Wiley discussed legislation being drafted by State Representative Rod Pelton to support this effort and Saxton discussed similar efforts underway within the Eastern Plains Healthcare Consortium.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be March 11, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.


Trent Bushner, Chairman


Andrea Calhoon, Administrator

ATTEST: 
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk



¹ Minutes prepared by Andrea Calhoon are a summary of discussion from a verbatim account.