

**YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**January 8, 2021**

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

On January 8, 2021 at 3:00 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 Winfield, Commissioner Robin Wiley, Commissioner Trent Bushner, 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. Also joining the meeting as a guest was Mike Donahue of Value Up Presentations to provide information on his mental health support programs for youth.

*COVID Task Force* – Northeast Colorado Health Department Director Trish McClain provided updates on local statistics and case counts as well as information from State sources and meetings attended since the last Task Force meeting. McClain provided information regarding the recent decision by the State to move all Level Red counties to Level Orange and the potential impact on counties like Yuma County who have remained in Level Orange. The group discussed the metrics required to move to Level Yellow and the requirement to maintain those metrics for two full weeks before being moved. Yuma County's seven-day metrics are within Level Yellow guidelines, so the group noted the goal of maintaining those metrics in the coming weeks.

Beth Saxton of Yuma Community District Hospital and Jennifer Kramer and John Hart of Wray Community District Hospital provided reports on statistics, trends, and current metrics being seen at their facilities currently. Among updates were trends in testing, hospitalizations, and vaccine distribution. Kramer reviewed for the Task Force the waitlist and scheduling process for community members requesting vaccination and provided education on how vaccination coordination is being completed. McClain provided an update on an upcoming vaccination clinic hosted by Northeast Colorado Health Department and discussed how those vaccination efforts will be coordinated with local hospitals to ensure that community members are not duplicated on the vaccination lists between the hospitals and health department and also discussed how the second dose of vaccine will be coordinated by the health department for those who receive their first dose via that location.

Hart discussed a State-planned public testing site in Wray and inquired of the group as to any coordination efforts that had been made with other Task Force members. Hart expressed concern over care coordination and potential disruption to local hospitals' follow-up methods for controlling community spread when testing is done through the State and test results are not available to local healthcare providers. The group discussed potential concern that testing resources could be better used in other areas of the state where continuity of care structure is already very strong in Yuma County. McClain provided some potential options for how the care coordination gap might be bridged with community testing sites and will communicate the concerns with CDPHE and return with follow-up information. The group discussed the particular challenges with community testing sites including the local hospitals' inability to provide documentation to employers and schools when testing is not coordinated with their facilities. McClain will take this feedback to CDPHE and obtain potential solution options to be discussed by the group.

Mike Donahue of Value Up joined the meeting to discuss his program which is designed to support mental health and mental resiliency in middle and high school students. Members of the Task Force recently observed one of his presentations at the high school in Brush and provided their feedback on the content of the program. The Task Force requested that the four school districts review the content of the program and meet amongst themselves and their decision-making bodies and return to the Task Force with an opinion on whether the program would be of value within Yuma County at which time the Task Force will review funding options and opportunities for the program.

The administrators of the school districts provided updates from the school districts including discussion on plans for spring sports. The superintendents discussed their agreed-upon plans for how to adhere to CHSAA requirements for spectators. Myles Johnson provided an update on discussions regarding the provision of rapid testing kits to schools this

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



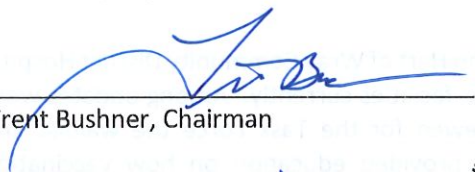
spring with the intent of rapid testing staff via telemedicine connection within their own homes. The plan is designed to improve access to rapid testing within schools while reducing the administrative testing burden on schools.

Hart discussed an upcoming auction at Buchannan Middle School and the requirements necessary to host such an event. The group acknowledged the auctioneer's continued efforts over the course of the year to conduct his activities in a compliant manner and expressed no concerns over the protocols in place for this particular event.

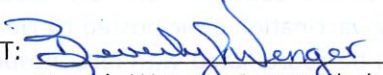
James DePue of the City of Wray requested clarification on recreational sports allowances under Level Orange as opposed to Level Yellow. McClain provided the requested clarification.

Commissioner Wiley provided updates on Commissioner-level meetings and conversations having occurred since the last Task Force meeting including potential legislation prohibiting County Commissioners from serving on Boards of Public Health and an upcoming meeting with the State and CDPHE regarding the future of the COVID Dial. Hart affirmed the Colorado Hospital Association's awareness of the potential legislation and the impact on hospital operations.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be set for the week of January 11, 2021 based on group availability.

  
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Trent Bushner, Chairman

  
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Andrea Calhoon, Administrator

ATTEST:   
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Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

