

**YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**October 16, 2020**

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

On October 16, 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. 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* – County Administration, City Managers, and municipal staff reviewed the Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Business Grant program to date and discussed applications received and anticipated award amounts. The group discussed a potential second round of local business grants and timelines associated with that process as well as potential projects for any funds that might remain following that program.

The group discussed a meeting held between the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Northeast Colorado Health Department, and the Commissioner’s Office yesterday regarding the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s proposed plan to update Yuma County’s metric ranking due to local case count increases and the Task Force’s plans for response efforts and ongoing planning. Commissioner Wiley provided updates on the activities of other counties undergoing similar processes with CDPHE and Northeast Colorado Health Director Trish McClain provided guidance from a public health perspective on mitigation and containment efforts. Local health officials discussed a marketing campaign regarding encouraging local residents to participate actively with mitigation and containment efforts and how to approach such conversations with the public. The group discussed potential voluntary restrictions to proposed to CDPHE in an effort to meet CDPHE mitigation and containment requirements while addressing local public health and economic concerns and needs. Also discussed were various counter-proposals to issue to CDPHE that would allow Yuma County to continue to operate within the previously approved variance while implementing targeted educational campaigns and possible restrictions tailored to the needs and public health of Yuma County.

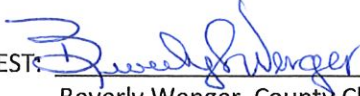
The group discussed challenges with quarantine given current test result timelines in conjunction with contact tracing timelines, which are currently collectively encompassing almost the entire quarantine period. The group requested that McClain issue a request to CDPHE to allow Yuma County to continue operating within the scope of our approved variance with limitations on group gatherings and an increase in targeted educational campaigns for sectors where case count increases are being seen. The group also requested McClain inquire as to what partnership the State can and will offer to improve test result turnaround times and contact tracing timelines. Also discussed were ways to develop and implement targeting marketing campaigns for specific sectors of the population that are most impacted or least educated on public health guidance. McClain will take the requests to CDPHE and will provide updates to the group following that meeting.

Health officials provided updates on current healthcare activity associated with COVID including both outpatient treatments and hospitalizations. Hospital representatives also discussed local rates of influenza and other environmental impacts on local health including allergies and reactions to wildfire smoke.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be set for the week of October 19, 2020 based on group availability.

  
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Dean Wingfield, Chairman

  
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Andrea Calhoon, Administrator

ATTEST:   
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Beverly Wenger, County Clerk



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