

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 13, 2020

Special Meeting Minutes¹

On November 13, 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 Robin Wiley, Commissioner Trent Bushner, 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. The administrators of the four Yuma County school districts joined the meeting as guests.

COVID Task Force – McClain provided updates on local case counts, positivity rates, and various data trends. The group discussed the potential impact of data trends on State COVID level assignments and how the data might impact a scheduled call between the Yuma County Commissioners and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment next week. Representatives from the local hospitals provided updates regarding testing and treatment trends and statistics in their respective facilities. Hospital staff also answered questions regarding their ease and ability in transferring patients requiring higher levels of care.

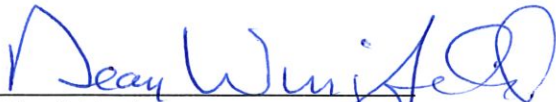
McClain also discussed the option of having a travelling testing site provided by CDPHE in Yuma County and inquired as to where the mobile unit might be useful to support County testing efforts. The group discussed placement of the mobile unit where it would be most beneficial to community members across the County. The group discussed testing capacity and trends within the county and the interplay between the mobile unit and local testing resources. The group also discussed a recent testing event hosted by the Rural Communities Resource Center in the City of Yuma in collaboration with CDPHE. The group discussed the necessity of CDPHE to coordinate with local public health and local government in the planning of mass testing events so that the County public health resources can appropriately coordinate resources and communicate regarding results and impacts.

Commissioner Wiley provided updates regarding local government efforts in COVID response across the state. Commissioner Wiley discussed the different perspectives regarding varying perspectives on restrictions and the source of restriction implementation as expressed by local governments in recent calls with the state. City of Wray Manager James DePue reported similar patterns in local government perspectives through his professional networks. The group expressed their continued support for local control and local decision-making based on local data and targeted restrictions founded on that data.

The group discussed how to provide guidance to groups and individuals reaching out to Task Force members with questions regarding how to safely host events during times of fluctuating restrictions. The group determined that individuals and businesses would need to follow the changing protocols and determine their own comfort level for hosting events based on the applicable guidance.

The Cities and County discussed the second round of grant applications and response rates to the second round. It was determined that the second round of small business grants would be extended through November 20, 2020 with plans to have checks issued by the end of November.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be set for the week of November 16, 2020 based on group availability.

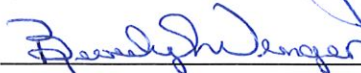


Dean Wingfield, Chairman



Andrea Calhoon, Administrator

ATTEST:



Beverly Wenger, County Clerk



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

