

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 4, 2020

Special Meeting Minutes¹

On December 4, 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 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.

COVID Task Force – The group discussed local case counts, statistics, and data trends. Updates were provided by both hospitals on trends seen in recent positives as well as updates on public education and communication. Both hospitals also reported on their status with respect to the required surge capacity plans they have submitted to the State. The group discussed trends in testing locally and reviewed the pros and cons of the various testing strategies that have been employed this year.

The group discussed potential strategies for addressing future level changes should they occur including the value of adopting a local public health order versus following State restrictions. The group discussed some of the pros and cons of each option as well as the experiences of other counties that have followed each path. Implications for local businesses and public health protocols including eligibility for and participation in State programs including a proposed business licensure process being piloted in Mesa County. Members weighed the differences between being a resource to the community members by providing guidance and support versus the issuance of a local public health order. The discussion was tabled for a future meeting depending upon applicability and case counts.

Group members talked about the economic impacts of continued COVID restrictions and the potential local economic impact of extended economic restrictions and closures. Among topics discussed were the balance of public health, especially for vulnerable populations, against the importance and necessity of economic strength and how local groups, both political and non-political can engage in economic protection and support initiatives and conversations in the interest of supporting local businesses and local economies as well as the state and national economy.

McClain provided updates from the state level regarding vaccines and additional funding opportunities authorized through the recent special session of the Colorado State Legislature as they relate to Yuma County's status on the COVID dial.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be set for the week of December 7, 2020 based on group availability.


Dean Winfield, Chairman


Andrea Calhoon, Administrator

ATTEST: 
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk



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


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Yuma County Recorder, BEVERLY WENGER Page 1 of 1
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