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The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces – Health Policy Review Committee/COVID 19 Vaccine Task Force** for April 7, 2021 at 3:00 p.m., via Zoom.

Members Present:

- Yvonne Flores, City Councillor, District 6
- Kasandra Gandara, City Councillor, District 1
- Tessa Abeyta-Stuve, City Councillor, District 2

Others Present:

- Eric Enriquez, Administration
- Phil Catanach, Parks & Recreation
- Sonya L. Delgado, Parks and Recreation
- Dr. Bernie Mccann, Human Resources
- Dawn Sanchez, Department of Health
- Lynn Gallagher, Quality of Life
- Manny Sanchez, Dona Ana County
- Audrey Barela, Parks & Recreation
- Caryn Iverson, Memorial Medical Center
- Jason Smith, Las Cruces Fire
- Joe Richards, City of Las Cruces
- Judy Cota
- Lauren Goldstein, NMSU
- Lenny Martinez, NMSU
- Louise Tracey Hosa
- Mandy Leatherwood Guss, City of Las Cruces
- Scott Rodgers, City of Las Cruces
- Stephen Lopez, Dona Ana County
- Teresa Tenorio, LCPS
- Melanie Goodman
- Thomas Massaro, Department of Health
- Alexandra Fraley
- Laura Parajon, Department of Health
- Amanda Ritter
- Jamey Rickman
- Michael Amaral
- Zach Massey

1
2 **I. Call to order: Councilor Abeyta-Stuve**

3
4 This meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Councilor Abeyta-Stuve.
5

6 **II. Conflict of Interest**

7
8 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked Councilors who are voting members to indicate if
9 there is any conflict of interest. Councilor Flores stated none. Councilor Abeyta-
10 Stuve stated her husband works with Memorial Medical Center and works directly
11 with vaccines/vaccinations.
12

13 **III. Acceptance of Agenda**

14 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.
15 Moved by Councilor Flores. Seconded by Councilor Abeyta-Stuve.
16

17 None opposed. All in favor. Motion carried.
18

19 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

20 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked for a motion to approve the minutes from meeting
21 held on March 17, 2021. Moved by Councilor Flores. Seconded by Councilor
22 Abeyta-Stuve.

23 None opposed. All in Favor. Motion Carried.
24

25 **V. Discussion Items**

26
27 A. COVID 19 Vaccination Task Force

28
29 Department of Health-Dawn Sanchez

30
31 Ms. Sanchez updated everyone on the current numbers for Dona Ana County.
32 Dona Ana County is still in the yellow. The case count is what is keeping us
33 there. As of Monday, all phases for the vaccine are open. Pfizer is the only
34 approved for 16 and over. Continuing to prioritize 75 and older and those with
35 chronic conditions. Total doses are over 100000 doses administered.
36

37 Mr. Burke stated 41.9 percent first dose coverage, 42.7 for the state. 17th
38 highest coverage. Next step is how to reach the other half of individuals who
39 are just thinking of getting the vaccination. Some things going forward will also

1 be adding in the kids. Total allocated through the county is 20,650 doses for
2 the week of April 5. Throughput for the County for 3 weeks is 12,479 doses. A
3 Mega Event is scheduled to be hosted here in Dona Ana county. A partnership
4 between Walgreens and the DOH. The tentative plan is to have an event with
5 upward of 5000 doses on April 17. The site would be the Pan Am Center. If
6 there are staff that can support that event that would be great.

7
8 Mr. Amaral stated the website for veterans to register under the Save Lives Act
9 it expands the VA's availability to register individuals' spouses, care givers and
10 categories like that. There is a robust program going on and will be expanded.

11
12 Councilor Gandara asked Mr. Amaral asked if guidelines are being used? Mr.
13 Amaral stated that they are open to all individuals as of Thursday.

14 15 16 Office of Emergency Management-Stephen Lopez

17
18 Mr. Lopez stated there is a plan to do a back-to-school vaccination. He fully
19 expects there will be one vaccine that will be for 12 and up. FEMA has been
20 contacted about another possible grant for a back-to-school event for possibly
21 this summer. Those discussion are going well. 56 percent of eligible population
22 is registered, the goal is to get to 75 percent, and it is very easy of us to get
23 there. If we want to get to that number by May, we need to push the registration
24 events.

25 Area Hospitals Update

26
27 Ms. Iverson stated that their last first dose will be given tomorrow. Over 20,000
28 doses have been given. The rest of April will be for the final second doses.
29 Have notified DOH that Memorial Medica will no longer offer vaccinations as of
30 April 29th. There has been a lower number of positive cases. The only
31 individuals being tested now are those with signs and symptoms.

32
33 Ms. Ritter stated that speaking with DOH they have been talking about getting
34 infographic material regarding vaccine hesitancy and registration confusion to
35 get that distributed. If anyone is interested in those materials that would like to
36 be in the loop it can also be customized.

37
38 Mr. Martinez stated that they have received 500 vaccinations for the POD at
39 NMSU and have registered 400 to receive those vaccinations.

1 City of Las Cruces Staff Update

2 Mr. Rodgers gave an update on registration events. To date have served over
3 1000 residents and registered more than 300. Additional sites have been
4 proposed along with a Spanish speaking only site. All sites will be assessed,
5 and a determination will be made on how to move forward.

6 Mr. Smith stated that the fire department is still working on homebound
7 referrals. Working through referrals with department of health, biggest obstacle
8 is making contact.

9 Mr. Enriquez stated that La Clinica de Familia has started vaccinating at the
10 Convention center and vaccination will now be given 5 days a week. A possible
11 mega event in the future is planned.

12
13 Councilor Gandara asked Mr. Smith asked about numbers of homebound they
14 have vaccinated. Mr. Smith stated the goal for homebound vaccinations is 10-
15 15 per day.

16
17 Councilor Gandara asked as they are going into the homes is there any
18 additional areas that are being assessed. Mr. Smith stated it is only about the
19 vaccinations for now. Councilor Gandara asked if most of the firefighters are
20 bilingual. Mr. Smith stated yes there are several who are part of the program
21 that are bilingual. Councilor Gandara was aware there was a need for ASL and
22 if that had been addressed or if there has been any coordination with area
23 service providers that may be able to partner with us. Mr. Smith stated there is
24 someone in the community that may be able to help with resources.

25
26 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked Mr. Rodgers if there are issues that are noticed
27 with registration at current areas and how are they handled. Mr. Rodgers stated
28 the there have been a decrease in registering individuals. Seeing that data
29 efforts have been shifted to other areas.

30
31 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked if any one has checked with the participants
32 about vaccine registration at the drive thru meal distribution. Ms. Gallagher
33 stated senior programs works with the grab and go meal recipients and not only
34 working to get them registered but calling all participants to make sure they
35 have all the information in English and Spanish and if they need any assistance
36 getting on the website. There are 14 staff members that have been certified by
37 the DOH to assist more.

38
39 Resource Survey Listing Results

40 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve stated that there has not been any new information.

1 Community Messaging

2 Ms. Leatherwood Guss stated recently the City took over as the lead on the
3 joint information center. They will be trading off with the County every quarter.
4 One of the first tasks is working with the FEMA grant that was received.
5 Strategies are being worked on. Other items related to messaging have been
6 done in both English and Spanish along with billboards around town. Utility
7 customers will be getting flyers in their bills with information on how to register.
8 There was a vaccine clinic for City of Las Cruces employees. Lastly we continue
9 to promote the Get Tested message and are doing regular interviews with all
10 the radio stations.

11 Discussion

12 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve stated that there has been one issue from constituents
13 that it almost an inconvenience due to work schedules, transportation etc.
14 Having a mass vaccination on a weekend would be very beneficial. Is there
15 anyway that individuals would be able to do walk ins the future rather than
16 preregistering? Ms. Parajon stated she has also gathered that information from
17 community surveys. That is something that will be worked on and possible
18 alternative hours. Mr. Burke stated in some situations it does make sense and
19 possibly in small venues.

20 Commissioner Sanchez stated there is some involvement with the Hatch
21 farming community to set up vaccination clinics. With the growing season
22 coming up that would be a great opportunity to get some individuals
23 registered/vaccinated. Ms. Sanchez asked if anyone had reached out to Ben
24 Archer. Commissioner Sanchez stated he would get with them and they would
25 be perfect.

26 Ms. Goodman wanted to add that the diocese is still looking for partners and
27 are willing to provide their space. They have already partnered with La Clinica
28 de Familia. Engaging faith-based partners is important.

29 Councilor Gandara asked how it's coordinated with schools for student health
30 clinics to get students vaccinated and is a conversation that needs to be had.

31 Mr. Lopez stated that they are not engaging currently in that discussion as only
32 Pfizer is the only one that is approved for 16- and 17-year old's. That is not what
33 La Clinica and Ben Archer are using. For the most part they are using Moderna.
34 The challenges of storing the Pfizer product is a little more challenging than the
35 Moderna or J&J.

36 B. Mental Health Day Presentation-Zach Massey

37 Mr. Massey presented a PowerPoint Occupational Health Questionnaire.

1 Councilor Flores asked who conducted the questionnaire and when? Mr.
2 Massey stated it hasn't been conducted the presentation is to identify current
3 job stressors. It is currently in the process of word changes etc. so it can be
4 conducted in the future.

5 Councilor Gandara stated this presentation is stemming from promoting mental
6 health days. Research is being done to be able to conduct this survey.

7 Councilor Flores asked if this survey would be taken by employees at City Hall.
8 Councilor Gandara stated yes, it would be disseminated to all employees for
9 base line data to developing policies and strategies.

10 Ms. Richards stated that she is working with the benefits consultant for some
11 ADHOC reports to see what impact any mental health issues might have on our
12 claim's utilization and premium increase. Care will need to be taken on how this
13 is presented and how it is collected.

14 Councilor Gandara asked if there is a timeline on when those reports might be
15 received. Ms. Richards stated she has a meeting with the consultant, and she
16 should have a better timeline soon.

17
18 **VI. Next Meeting Dates**

19 April 21, 2021 @ 3:30 pm (COVID 19 Vaccine Task Force)

20
21 May 5, 2021 3:00 p.m. (Health PRC/COVID 19 Vaccine Task Force)

22
23 **VII. Adjournment: 6:00 p.m.**

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26 
27 Chair

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29 Approved: April 30, 2021