

City of Las Cruces®

MOUNTAINS OF OPPORTUNITY

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3 The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces –COVID**
4 **19 Vaccine Task Force** for April 21, 2021 at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom.

5
6 **Members Present:**

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

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11
12 **Others Present:**

13
14 Eric Enriquez, Administration
15 Phil Catanach, Parks & Recreation
16 Sonya L. Delgado, Parks and Recreation
17 Dawn Sanchez, Department of Health
18 Lynn Gallagher, Quality of Life
19 Manny Sanchez, Dona Ana County
20 Audrey Barela, Parks & Recreation
21 Jason Smith, Las Cruces Fire
22 Judy Cota
23 Lauren Goldstein, NMSU
24 Lenny Martinez, NMSU
25 Louise Tracey Hosa
26 Mandy Leatherwood Guss, City of Las Cruces
27 Stephen Lopez, Dona Ana County
28 Teresa Tenorio, LCPS
29 Melanie Goodman
30 Alexandra Fraley
31 Laura Parajon, Department of Health
32 Amanda Ritter
33 Jamey Rickman
34 Michael Amaral
35 Nina Nunez, Burrell
36 Debra Temple
37 Todd Stuve

38
39 **I. Call to order: Councilor Abeyta-Stuve**

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41 This meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Councilor Abeyta-Stuve.

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2 **II. Conflict of Interest**
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4 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked Councilors who are voting members to indicate if
5 there is any conflict of interest. Councilor Flores stated none. Councilor Abeyta-
6 Stuve stated her husband works with Memorial Medical Center and works directly
7 with vaccines/vaccinations.
8

9 **III. Acceptance of Agenda**

10 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.
11 Moved by Councilor Flores. Seconded by Councilor Gandara.
12

13 None opposed. All in favor. Motion carried.
14

15 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

16 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked for a motion to approve the minutes from meeting
17 held on April 7, 2021. Moved by Councilor Flores. Seconded by Councilor
18 Gandara.

19 None opposed. All in Favor. Motion Carried.
20

21 **V. Discussion Items**
22

23 A. COVID 19 Vaccination Task Force
24

25 Department of Health-Dawn Sanchez
26

27 Ms. Sanchez updated everyone on the current numbers for Dona Ana County.
28 Dona Ana County is still in the yellow. Cases have gone up slightly along with
29 positivity rate. There has been a New York Times article that we have the
30 highest vaccination rate. 57 percent of individuals with at least with one vaccine
31 and 38 percent who are fully vaccinated in the state. As of next week everyone
32 16 and older will have access to sign themselves up for vaccination. Pfizer is
33 the only vaccine approved for that age group. We are trying to assist the
34 schools with getting that population vaccinated. One thing we are helping with
35 is the parent consent we will have it at the vaccination site and also have it on
36 the site to download to take it with them to the event. Next step once Moderna
37 or Pfizer is approved for 12-15 so that is currently on hold. We have 15 counties
38 in the state that have over half of the population vaccinated. Allocations for
39 Dona Ana county for Pfizer has been 7,050 less than last time of 11,750; 3800

1 for Moderna less than last time of 4,100. Federal pharmacy programs are still
2 giving vaccinations also. The areas to target are going to be the front line
3 essential workers. Mass vaccination events will taper down for adults but will
4 continue for 18 and older. More outreach for school located clinics and office
5 visits for kids. Pfizer for 12-15 in May, others may come for younger kids in late
6 2021 early 2022. Boosters/third shots are very likely and vaccine hesitancy
7 means we are not done with COVID.

8
9 Ms. Goodman asked if the slides could be sent to everyone and Ms.

10
11 Mr. Martinez asked since the indigenous communities are having better
12 success, is there anything we can learn from them.

13
14 Ms. Goodman stated some of the barriers to vaccination is the hesitancy
15 around the vaccine, signing up, uncertainty that insurance is required and
16 possible transportation issues. Possibly directly covering these questions in the
17 messaging would be helpful.

18
19 Mr. Sanchez stated we need to make sure people have access to
20 transportation. If there a possibility that we could work with the Regional transit
21 district that can run to the speedway for individuals to get vaccinated.

22
23 Mr. Lopez stated that can certainly be looked into and they have done public
24 transportation as part of PODs and the uptake from the community is extremely
25 poor.

26
27 Ms. Sanchez stated La Clinica de Familia has a mobile unit that they are not
28 only using for COVID testing but are now using it for vaccinations. They are
29 willing to use it for school sites and are looking for other ideas on how to use
30 that mobile unit. They have their own COVID vaccine unit and their own
31 allocation of vaccine.

32
33
34 Office of Emergency Management-Stephen Lopez

35
36 Mr. Lopez showed a slide on current COVID 19 variants. There have been 147
37 laboratory confirmed cases of the UK variant, two out of California that account
38 for 327 cases.

39 There is a plan to do a back-to-school vaccination. Working with the districts
40 to get vaccines rolled out. Gadsden Independent school district has a Hight

1 School center event today. Las Cruces has theirs next Wednesday and Hatch
2 Valley school district will have theirs the following week.

3 There is not a lack of vaccines there is now a lack of individuals registering and
4 showing up. As individuals talk with their providers people will continue to
5 trickle in. Memorial medical center is planning on getting out vaccines to their
6 affiliated physicians and clinics at the end of this month. By May 8th we expect
7 that we will be well past 60 percent of our population would have had at least
8 one dose and over 50 percent of eligible population will be fully vaccinated.

9 Area Hospitals Update

10
11 Mr. Martinez stated that NMSU is preparing another POD with 500
12 vaccinations, they are also seeing issues with sign up with only 50 percent.

13
14 Ms. Goldstein stated she wanted to follow up that they are still running their
15 vaccination working teams and they are meeting on Mondays with a core team
16 with 15 individuals called implications for the NMSU system, but really is the
17 systems thinking part on how this will continue in the fall. If anyone would like
18 to be connected in she would be happy to facilitate that connection.

19
20 Councilor Stuve asked when talking with population at NMSU is it students or
21 staff that have hesitancy on vaccinations. Ms. Goldstein stated it is a little of
22 both.

23 City of Las Cruces Staff Update

24 Mr. Smith stated that the fire department is still working on homebound
25 referrals. Have received 352 and have contacted 349. 200 vaccinated, 39
26 vaccinated else ware, 57 unable to contact and 53 others refused. The need
27 for services is thinning out. Looking for ways to combine efforts with POD sites
28 or other methods of getting individuals interested in getting vaccinated.

29
30 Ms. Gallagher stated that the registration events have continued and focused
31 their efforts around City Hall and the intermodal center. They are looking at
32 those zip codes and working with department of health to better address where
33 the need for registration is and making sure if we are homing in on the right
34 locations.

35
36 Mr. Enriquez stated bus wraps have been done, flyers in utility bills will be going
37 out and we are doing everything to be visible and getting people to register.
38 With everyone being able to schedule their own appointment should help. We
39 are working on the City end for final signatures for a MOU with Dona Ana

1 County and OEM and possibly hiring additional staff as temps and on boarding
2 some of the fire personnel on overtime to extend hours on the POD sites.
3

4 Community Messaging

5 Ms. Leatherwood Guss stated the challenge is consistency on getting the word
6 out and everyone has done really good on that. NMSU and other partners are
7 continuing to use the sleeve up campaign. Continuing outdoor billboards, radio,
8 print and social media. Have targeted some Spanish speaking items at
9 registration events.

10 Councilor Flores asked if a message from all councilors in Spanish could be
11 put together like in the past. Especially to address the potential reasons why
12 people are hesitant. Ms. Leatherwood Guss stated that would be in line with
13 the trusted voices that the DOH is trying to put together and will get a script
14 together and work on it together.

15 Discussion

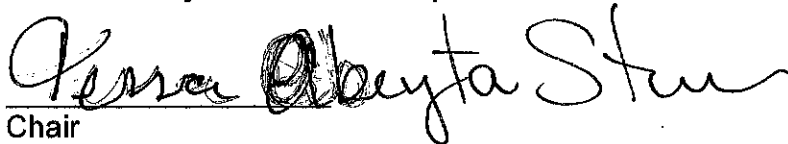
16 Mr. Enriquez stated that round 2 for CLC employees vaccinations was done
17 and was a successful event.

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19 **VI. Next Meeting Dates**

20 May 5, 2021 @ 3:00 pm (Health PRC/COVID 19 Vaccine Task Force)

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22 May 19, 2021 3:30 p.m. (COVID 19 Vaccine Task Force)

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24 **VII. Adjournment: 5:13 p.m.**

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28 Chair

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30 Approved: 5/14/2021