

# City of Las Cruces<sup>®</sup>

**MOUNTAINS OF OPPORTUNITY**

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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 May 5, 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
- Dawn Sanchez, Department of Health
- Lynn Gallagher, Quality of Life
- Audrey Barela, Parks & Recreation
- Caryn Iverson, Memorial Medical Center
- Jo 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
- Alexandra Fraley
- Michael Amaral
- John Harris
- Deacon Munson
- Karla Walton

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

This meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Councilor Abeyta-Stuve.

1       **II.     Acceptance of Agenda**

2       Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.  
3       Moved by Councilor Gandara. Seconded by Councilor Abeyta-Stuve.

4  
5       None opposed. All in favor. Motion carried.  
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7       **III.    Approval of Minutes**

8       Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked for a motion to approve the minutes from meeting  
9       held on April 21, 2021. Moved by Councilor Gandara. Seconded by Councilor  
10      Abeyta-Stuve.

11      None opposed. All in Favor. Motion Carried.  
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13      **IV.    Discussion Items**

14  
15            A.   COVID 19 Vaccination Task Force

16  
17                    Department of Health-Dawn Sanchez

18  
19       Ms. Sanchez updated everyone on the current numbers for Dona Ana County.  
20       Dona Ana County is now in turquoise. The reason for this is they increased the  
21       metric threshold. Instead of 8 per 100,000 it is now 10 per 100,000. The  
22       positivity rate is now 7.5%, it was 5%. The big change they have added is the  
23       vaccination rate per county for criteria. Dona Ana County is at 9.9% per  
24       100,000. 3.63% positivity rate and 43.6% fully vaccinated. There is a target of  
25       60 percent fully vaccinated through the state. The State is at 44.8 percent fully  
26       vaccinated. There has been an increase in our 12 and under population and  
27       teen population. While all others have had decreases. The 12–15-year-old  
28       approval for vaccination with Pfizer should be coming soon. Anyone 16 years  
29       and older can now register on the app and self-schedule.  
30

31       Request for vaccine clinics on site will be available to be scheduled through the  
32       App for businesses to take advantage of. You are now able to view vaccine  
33       event calendars by type of vaccine and location.  
34

35       Total doses administered in Dona Ana County are 56.7% have at least one  
36       vaccine. 43.4% are fully vaccinated and 62% are registered in the app.  
37

1 Mass vaccination events will taper down. There will be more outreach, school  
2 clinics and office visits for kids. Will now focus on bringing on more PCP's as  
3 COVID providers. Pfizer for 12–15-year-olds will be available soon, possibly for  
4 younger kids late 2021/2022. Boosters and third shots are very likely in the  
5 future.

6  
7 Our next steps would be continued partnerships are critical, messaging,  
8 following COVID safe practices and encourage others to receive the vaccine.  
9 Walk ins are available now at Sam's and Walmart's.

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11  
12 Office of Emergency Management-Stephen Lopez

13  
14 Mr. Lopez stated that while the state is measuring off the eligible population  
15 the OEM is starting to add a new metric that they will measure off of is total  
16 population in Dona Ana County. With that, the eligible population is going to  
17 shift, and we should be able to go to 12-15 year old's within the next 5 days.

18 The next framework review will be June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Memorial Day statistics will be  
19 measured, and we need to be at the 50% fully vaccinated. We should make  
20 that criteria.

21 Las Cruces Public schools vaccinated last Wednesday and today with quite a  
22 few walk ups. Signage seemed to help. The next clinic will be at Hatch Valley  
23 High school on Friday. LCPS is prepared to vaccinate 12-15 year olds on May  
24 19<sup>th</sup> at Las Cruces High school and will also be doing booster doses. LCPS  
25 and GISD are interested in summertime vaccination efforts for students.  
26 NMDOH may be able to support with funding for personnel costs, and OEM  
27 will support with equipment and logistics. The OEM will assist Hatch Valley  
28 Public schools if they are interested in participating.

29  
30 Area Hospitals Update

31  
32 Caryn Iverson stated they completed their last dose on April 28<sup>th</sup>. there have  
33 been very little positive COVID cases.

34  
35 City of Las Cruces Staff Update

36 Mr. Enriquez stated the fire department is continuing the homebound  
37 vaccinations with over 200 done. Those efforts will be transferred and double  
38 up with the OEM and DOH. The registration campaign is winding down.  
39

1 Mr. Rodgers stated efforts have spoken with over 1000 individuals and helped  
2 register more than 300. There is a decline in retail locations. There have been  
3 special events at La Michoacána. The business owner was fantastic, and they  
4 had a great turn out. There is an ongoing site at transit and Branigan Library.  
5

#### 6 Community Messaging

7 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve welcomed a new member, Deacon Munson.

8 Deacon Munson stated that having a walk-up vaccination site with no prior  
9 registration at the church proceedings might be an opportunity.

10 Ms. Leatherwood Guss stated part of staff is helping with the joint information  
11 center to get the Get Registered word out. Working with PO process with the  
12 county and messaging should hit this month through May. Continuing the  
13 emphasis on the get registered and getting the vaccine with the sleeve up  
14 campaign.

#### 15 Discussion

16 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked if anyone had anything extra to add or ideas.

17 There were no comments.  
18

#### 19 Next Steps

20 There will be another meeting in the next two weeks. As mentioned before as  
21 we change throughout this process this committee is designed to meet once a  
22 month. If things are rolling smooth, we may move back to once a month.  
23

#### 24 B. Behavioral Health District Update-Mayor Pro Tem Gandara

25 Councilor Gandara stated last week the mayor and county manager and Mr.  
26 Enriquez came together to discuss the Behavioral Health District. This had  
27 been worked on for a long time and had been working with local law  
28 enforcement on input on what they see in the field to then looking into what a  
29 crisis mobile unit would look like. All seemed to have interest and talked about  
30 structure, MOU, and Joint powers of agreement.

31 There has been some research related to behavioral health district and really  
32 could not find anything nationally with the exception of a health district in  
33 California. What is different from that particular health district to ours is there  
34 are districts, and they are elected into office and they make decisions on all  
35 sorts of health. The Health District we are looking into should not be that but  
36 there should be representation from our County.

1 At this time, we do not feel like we should wait. We will be looking into an MOU  
2 first with sights on a joint power of agreement that will need to be approved by  
3 DFA. The Behavioral Health Collaborative will be assisting us in this process  
4 moving forward.

5 Councilor Flores asked how many present and what Cities were in attendance.  
6 Everyone was present with the exception of Hatch.

7 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked what would be the investment would be for this  
8 type of program. Councilor Gandara stated at this time she does not know but  
9 believes if there is any funding and development programming that is not  
10 existent. It could be 50 to 100,000. We need to look at what priorities are and  
11 what areas to start with like the substance abuse 28-day treatment. That is  
12 something that really needs to happen.

13 Mr. Enriquez stated that pinpointing the exact amount is difficult. When you talk  
14 about splitting those up among us, you are talking about a building, software,  
15 furniture, etc. We need to get some good research and data.

16 **V. Future Meetings/Task Listing**

17  
18 Councilor Flores asked if there was any update on the Mental Health Day. If it  
19 would be possible to put this on as an agenda item soon. Councilor Abeyta-  
20 Stuve stated it will be placed on the agenda as soon as Councilor Gandara is  
21 ready to present.

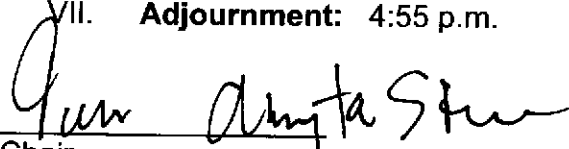
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23 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve stated that she has been looking at the health of our  
24 communities in different ways and making sure we are accessible to all. The  
25 American Heart Association has agreed if we would like to have a presentation,  
26 they can do that and answer any questions. With the Task Force and Mental  
27 Health Day these are our priorities first, but this would be an item for the future.  
28 Just to making sure to complete projects before taking on new ones.

29  
30 **VI. Next Meeting Dates**

31 May 19, 2021 @ 3:30 pm (COVID 19 Vaccine Task Force)

32  
33 June 2, 2021 3:00 p.m. (Health PRC/COVID 19 Vaccine Task Force)

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35 **VII. Adjournment:** 4:55 p.m.

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39 Chair

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41 Approved: July 20, 2021