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

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7 **Members Present:**

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

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12  
13 **Others Present:**

14 Eric Enriquez, Administration  
15 Phil Catanach, Parks & Recreation  
16 Sonya L. Delgado, Parks and Recreation  
17 Zechariah Massey  
18 Dr. Bernie Mccann, Human Resources  
19 Meg Haines, Human Resources  
20 Nina Nunez, Burrell College  
21 Jeff Harris, Burrell College  
22 Dawn Sanchez, Department of Health  
23 Melanie Goodman, Senator Ben Rey Lujan Office  
24 Amanda Lopez Askin, Dona Ana County  
25 Lynn Gallagher, Quality of Life  
26 Manny Sanchez, Dona Ana County  
27 Shannon Duffy, Mountainview Regional  
28 Angela Green, Quality of Life

29  
30 **Members Absent:**

31 Adrian Larson, Mountainview Regional

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

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35 This meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Councilor Abeyta-Stuve.

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37 **II. Conflict of Interest**

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39 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked Councilors who are voting members to indicate if  
40 there is any conflict of interest. Councilor Gandara stated none. Councilor Flores  
41 stated none. Councilor Abeyta-Stuve stated none.

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2 **III. Acceptance of Agenda**

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

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6 None opposed. All in favor. Motion carried.  
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8 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

9 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from meeting held  
10 on December 2, 2021. Moved by Councilor Gandara. Seconded by Councilor Flores.

11 None opposed. All in Favor. Motion Carried.  
12

13 **V. Discussion Items**

14 COVID 19 Vaccine Task Force

15 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked that everyone present introduce themselves. Councilor  
16 Abeyta-Stuve then introduced Mr. Eric Enriquez, Assistant City Manager, who then  
17 spoke on the Mission and Vision of the COVID 19 Vaccine Task Force.

- 18 • **Mission:** “The mission of the Covid-19 Vaccination Task Force is to implement  
19 appropriate support mechanisms to deliver and promote vaccinations in our area, by  
20 engaging community leaders, organizations and trusted messengers to support outreach  
21 and engagement to our community.”
- 22 • **Vision:** Dona Ana County will have 80% of the population vaccinated by the end of the  
23 year.

24 Mr. Enriquez stated that numbers to date of vaccination was 17,000, which are first  
25 responders. If vaccinations are around 16-17,000 a month for the next 11 months it  
26 will be over 185,000 which will be around 80-85 percent of our county vaccinated. The  
27 purpose for this task force will be to collaborate, to implement appropriate resources  
28 to fund, to educate and communicate, and to coordinate an effective distribution of the  
29 vaccine program. As it continues to expand and grow, as more members and  
30 resources get involved, we want to stay with a foundation of what the mission and  
31 purpose is of the task force. It is not to replace the Office of Emergency Management  
32 or of other things going on with hospitals and NMSU, so that we can meet our vision  
33 of getting 80 percent of population vaccinated by the end of the year.

34 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve thanked Mr. Enriquez and asked Ms. Dawn Sanchez from the  
35 Department of Health (DOH) for an update.

1 Ms. Sanchez stated that there are still very high numbers of positives within our  
2 county. Still second highest in the state and would like to reiterate to practice COVID  
3 safe practices. There is a registration app for the vaccine, not all COVID vaccine  
4 providers use the app about 50 percent actually do. The data she has is only as  
5 accurate as who is using the app. The numbers are not the same as what Mr. Enriquez  
6 has just mentioned, but we can follow up later and see where we really are on numbers  
7 in the system. As far as vaccine there is still a limited supply coming into the state. In  
8 order to be a provider you need to have an agreement with the Department of Health  
9 and with the Center of Disease control. We are currently not bringing in additional  
10 providers since supply is limited due to more demand than supply. Work is still being  
11 done on Phase 1 that includes health care workers and first responders and slightly  
12 moving into phase 1B which is individuals 75 years and over and 16 and over with  
13 Chronic conditions. Secretary Collins was on a call this morning and it was mentioned  
14 that teachers will be next in line as part of the essential workers Phase 1B but we need  
15 to get through the current group to get to that point. Pfizer and Moderna are the  
16 vaccines currently in the state, Johnson vaccine will come online at end of February  
17 to increase supply in the state as well as AstraZeneca. Currently, the focus is on  
18 booster shots and additional PODS come the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> at East Mesa  
19 Community College off Sonoma Ranch. Currently the POD is at the Convention center  
20 Wednesday and Thursday and NMSU on Friday. Those have been very successful.  
21 Currently trying to find ways to support those who do not have access to internet,  
22 phone or email and how to get them registered. We are able to do paper copy.  
23 Individuals can call the office if they need help registering, they can call 1-855-  
24 600.3453 which is the call center to register. The DOH is also working with Aging and  
25 long-term services through UNM to build the capacity within the call center to get  
26 people the assistance in helping to register.

27 Councilor Gandara stated that since we are limited and we have providers within the  
28 area that are willing to help with vaccinations she would like to see what can really be  
29 done and start the advocacy crusade on getting vaccinations to those providers.

30 Ms. Sanchez stated there is a focus to equalize distribution throughout the state even  
31 by population of County in that respect then there will be a lot more vaccine coming  
32 to our area. The piece of that is also the capacity of providers that we have and how  
33 we can build that up to have that capacity locally. Between NMSU and convention  
34 center is 2000 vaccines a week, one goal with Stephen Lopez, Office of Emergency  
35 Management (OEM) is about 1000 a day. There are goals that need to be set and a  
36 lot of that is the capacity of staffing. There should be more vaccine available the week  
37 of the 15<sup>th</sup> to start having larger events.

38 Councilor Gandara asked Ms. Sanchez if the numbers from Vaccinations being  
39 administered by Walmart were being fed into the dashboard as well. Ms. Sanchez  
40 stated yes.

1 Councilor Flores asked Ms. Sanchez if ordering vaccinations centrally is the issue with  
2 Dona Ana County in only receiving 17 percent of vaccinations. Ms. Sanchez stated no  
3 it does not impact what is received. It depends on the number of providers and what  
4 they order. Working with providers, ramping up our events and the availability of more  
5 vaccines available will help pull more vaccines into our area.

6 Ms. Melanie Goodman asked anyone present from the hospitals on what their ability  
7 is on pushing out events and ability to request more vaccines or are they limited? What  
8 are the plans on opening up more events? Mr. Matthew Conrad, Mountainview  
9 Medical, responded that they are ordering what they can use. When first starting out,  
10 not being a hub hospital, they were delivered vaccines that had been thawed and  
11 needed to give everything out that had been received and had 4 days or it would go  
12 to waste. They have since been able to store vaccines with the addition of a sub  
13 negative 80 freezer so a possibility of helping on larger events is possible. They try to  
14 use everything they have and their max is about 1000 with using staff without  
15 additional staff. They do have resources and if they can partner with anyone else,  
16 whether it be other physician's, security, outside of the hospital just so that they are  
17 not liable for those patients coming in from the exterior. They can hold more vaccine  
18 if available and if it's being pushed out and he will get back to everyone on the exact  
19 number.

20 Mr. Manny Sanchez stated they have reached out to the state in terms of trying to find  
21 out what is being done on the distribution on vaccines. If it's a resource issue, the  
22 County is more than happy to support. Mr. Lopez with OEM has been trying to  
23 communicate with County Manager Macias. They are trying to make sure they are  
24 raising the awareness as much as they can.

25 Ms. Tessa Stuve asked Mr. Jeff Harris, Burrell College, on his perspective and ways  
26 they would like to partner. Mr. Harris stated they have been working with NMSU with  
27 their distribution PODS and have seventy students that are ready, willing, and able to  
28 be labor on the ground. If there are entities and as opportunities come up, they are  
29 trained vaccinators and they can provide that medical support so additional clinics can  
30 be done. There are other components of clinics such as pharmacy and traffic control.  
31 In his opinion NMSU runs a very well-organized event and suggest they be a model.  
32 Taking that level of logistics and moving it to the parking lot of Mesilla Valley Mall you  
33 would have a substantial impact. There has been an issue on where you go for  
34 vaccines. When there are people with low mobility, sending them to Walmart is not an  
35 ideal location. It does sound like there is an opportunity for coordination between  
36 human resources and there are a whole bunch of groups to bolster these community  
37 events. They are finding there are logistic things that need to be addressed such as  
38 lack of WIFI access, carts that do not run-on pavement well, etc. Burrell College is  
39 interested in supporting this effort as broadly as they can.

40 Councilor Gandara stated we need to focus our attention on our elderly and if there is  
41 a way that the City can have that focus on making sure seniors get registered and

1 they are able to navigate this process. Our focus should be those who are disabled,  
2 seniors and those having issues navigating because of technology and lack of WIFI.  
3 Councilor Gandara asked Ms. Sanchez how to coordinate efforts with Department of  
4 Health to provide Hot Spots and tablets for our PODS. Ms. Sanchez stated that is a  
5 concern for our seniors that need help. They are working with the county resource  
6 centers to be a place where they can get help to register. Regarding the mobility issue,  
7 NMSU is a very good drive-up event. They set up the Convention Center mainly during  
8 inclement weather. Working with National Guard to have almost a drive thru and  
9 working on that process.

10 Ms. Lynn Gallagher stated that in the early start of December the senior program site  
11 began working through our connection with aging and long term services as well and  
12 the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to provide pamphlets and surveying  
13 those coming through on the grab and go meals and also those receiving homebound  
14 meals to determine what services they need on getting vaccinated. Daily telephone  
15 calls are made to those who are those eligible to receive the services from the city  
16 and are signed up to participate. They have started do assist seniors to get registered  
17 whether that be technologically or if they do not have technical capabilities our care  
18 givers also provide that for them. The ADRC statewide system for helping anyone  
19 over the age of 60 under the Older Americans act. They also have two telephone lines  
20 that are available to help seniors with connectivity issues or mobility issues and they  
21 are 1.855.600.3453/1.800.342.2080. They have had meetings through the Unified  
22 Area Command in connection with Mr. Eric Enriquez to talk about what additional  
23 opportunities we can help provide with the services through convention center. One  
24 is to work with the DOH to provide a drive thru registration event that we are working  
25 towards. The Quality of Life department as a whole are working on updated bus wraps  
26 and with the Department of Health links and info that will help inform them if you are  
27 in certain categories to receive the vaccine where they can go get that information.  
28 Additional marketing is being done to put out simplified pamphlets to those over the  
29 age of 60.

30 Interim Chief Jason Smith stated that he has been briefed by Deputy chief Justin Allen  
31 over at Unified Area Command on capacity at POD sites it is around 3000 a week with  
32 250 doses a day. To speak on member in the community who are home bound, about  
33 15 have received the vaccination in home through sort of a pilot program. Planning on  
34 doing a second dose for those here in the city. We do have additional resources if we  
35 do receive more vaccines and we need more POD sites. For LCFD this is a priority,  
36 and all staff know training, or any other outreaches are on hold and they are available  
37 to do more.

38 Dr. Amanda Lopez Askin asked Ms. Sanchez about the categorization of those who  
39 are more vulnerable and the availability of vaccines for a member of the community  
40 who is in a top priority group. Ms. Sanchez stated the DOH is following the guidelines  
41 and staff from children's medical services that do some case management for difficult

1 situations help those who need it. How people register on the app, since there is an  
2 area where to list chronic conditions, will allow them to get into those slots available.

3 Councilor Flores asked Ms. Sanchez once someone receives the appointment to  
4 receive the vaccination is there any way for them to contact someone to get the  
5 location changed if there is an issue with difficulty in standing or sitting for long periods  
6 of time? Ms. Lynn Gallagher asked permission to respond and stated that this is  
7 something that has been discussed with the DOH specific to the Convention center  
8 and other coordinated sites was the use of wheelchairs for those events and having  
9 several wheelchairs at each of those events that can be placed at those venues and  
10 working through the medical reserve core in coordination with the Quality of Life  
11 volunteer network program to help wheel that individual to their vaccination site. Ms.  
12 Sanchez stated there is a supply at wheelchairs at the Convention center. As far as  
13 changing their location, that is something that they can do. The DOH does not do the  
14 scheduling for the Walmart's or the Walgreens so individuals would need to call  
15 1.855.600.3453. If someone does need assistance, they can always also call the office  
16 number 528.5001.

17 Commissioner Manny Sanchez asked Ms. Sanchez if the reason for the disparity  
18 between Bernalillo County, Santa Fe county, and Dona Ana county on distribution was  
19 happening based on the vulnerable population because DOH is looking at  
20 demographics or just those registered in the system? Is Dona Ana County not  
21 receiving vaccines mainly because we do not have enough people registered who are  
22 identified as 1A/1B or is it related to other data? Ms. Sanchez stated the discrepancy  
23 is the capacity of providers in each location to request doses of vaccine and it is a  
24 centralized system to request doses and some of the larger city have more providers  
25 and can have larger events. Mr. Sanchez asked how to set up events outside in other  
26 communities outside of the City of Las Cruces. Ms. Sanchez stated DOH has worked  
27 with OEM and with Gadsden Independent School District for events, two so far, and  
28 are set up for boosters. It does take a lot of support to get these events done and  
29 working through OEM is a great way to cover the County. Coordination with other  
30 providers in the County is something that needs to be worked on so when there are a  
31 lot of vaccine to push out those mechanisms are set up and we are ready to go.

32 Councilor Abeyta Stuve suggested that a master list of resources and what capacity  
33 limitations might be should be compiled.

34 Ms. Dawn Sanchez mentioned that if anyone would like to go through the Medical  
35 Reserve Corp as a volunteer which is run through the OEM they can do that also.

36 Ms. Melanie Goodman would like to mention that when calling the hotline at  
37 1.855.600.3453, they need to press option 0 and then option 4 for tech support.  
38 Veterans in Las Cruces who go to the clinic here in Las Cruces they will be required  
39 to go to El Paso for their vaccine which may be an issue and would like everyone to  
40 consider possibly partnering with Veterans Affairs. She also stated that she was

1 concerned that Ben Archer is not on the list for vaccination providers and since the  
2 FQHC's have trust in those communities and are key partners and wanted to know if  
3 there has been an effort to partner with our clinics especially in northern Dona Ana  
4 County. Ms. Sanchez responded to Ms. Goodman that both La Clinica and Ben Archer  
5 are providers and their vaccine is limited and have been focusing on phase 1, not all  
6 Ben Archers are signed up but the one for T or C, Hatch, and Las Cruces are signed  
7 up but community events are limited.

8 Mr. Eric Enriquez notified everyone that Ms. Montoya will send out his contact  
9 information to include his cell number for any thoughts, ideas, resources they can  
10 provide. He will be in constant communication with Unified Command and with Ms.  
11 Dawn Sanchez.

12 Ms. Jamey Rickman suggested that for the next agenda for this meeting might include  
13 FAQ's on mixtures of vaccines or if they miss their 21 day booster.

14 Councilor Abeyta Stuve would like to make sure that we all are able to distribute a  
15 cohesive message for daily questions.

16 Ms. Sanchez wanted to reiterate that when you are vaccinated to still use COVID safe  
17 practices as we are still in a pandemic.

18 Human Resources Presentation (Available Leave Types)

19 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked for a motion to table the presentation to the March 3,  
20 2021 meeting.

21 Moved by Councilor Gandara. Seconded by Councilor Flores.

22  
23 None opposed. All in favor. Motion carried.  
24

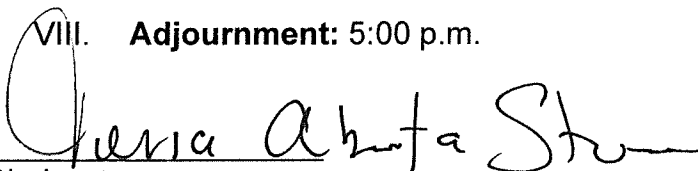
25 **VI. Future topics for Discussion**

26 Human Resources (Available Leave Types)

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29 **VII. Next Meeting Date**

30 **Next Meeting:** March 3, 2021 3:00 p.m.

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32 **VIII. Adjournment:** 5:00 p.m.

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36 Chair

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38 Approved: March 18, 2021