The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the City of Las Cruces COVID19 Vaccine Task Force for February 17, 2021 at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Members Present:
Yvonne Flores, City Councillor, District 6
Kassandra 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
Zechariah Massey
Nina Nunez, Burrell College
Jeff Harris, Burrell College
Dawn Sanchez, Department of Health
Amanda Lopez Askin, Dona Ana County
IkanTaumoepeau
Kasandra Gandara
Karla Walton
Marina Montoya
Matthew Conrad
Audrey Barela
Mandy Leatherwood Guss
Lauren Goldstein
Zar Kotlarsic
Roy Rivas
Louise Tracey Hosa
Jamey Rickman
Debra Temple
Jason Smith
Manny Sanchez
Sonia Saldana
Tessa Stuve
Caryn Iverson
Stephen Lopez
David Daniels
Michael Amaral
Yvonne Flores
Lenny Martinez
Anabela Esteves
Judy Cota
Fernando Macias

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

This meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Councilor Abeyta-Stuve.

II. **Conflict of Interest**

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

III. **Acceptance of Agenda**

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

None opposed. All in favor. Motion carried.

IV. **Approval of Minutes**

Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from meeting held on February 3, 2021. Moved by Councilor Gandara. Seconded by Councilor Flores.

None opposed. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

V. **Discussion Items**

Department of Health-Dawn Sanchez

Ms. Dawn Sanchez updated the group with slides to review for the group. Currently, there are several counties changing into the yellow calendar to include Dona Ana County from January 26-February 8, 2021. Case rate is 20.9 per 100,000. So still over quite a ways from green. Test positive is 4.33%. Dona Ana county is moving in the right direction, but cases are still high. Las Cruces still has about 33.9 new cases during the week of February 5th. There are still have higher cases than what we want to see. Due to the new variants that are easily transmissible that is something to continue to make sure to get tested if you have symptoms or are exposed to contain
the virus as best as we can. There are new guidelines from the CDC such as double masking and making sure the sides of the mask are sealed.

The state receives weekly allocations from the Federal Government based on population. Currently only able to plan week to week with the way allocations come to the state. There are Federal partners that get their allotments directly from the Feds: Indian Health Services, Veterans Administration, Pharmacies. There are two ways that the vaccinations get into the state. Through state allocations and Federal partners listed. Allocations in the state have gone up 22% and have increased to 72,510 which is an increase of 4,680. Vaccinations are limited. Orders are put in each Wednesday, for example for the week of February 5, 2021, 100,700 Moderna doses were requested by the providers and the state was only able to provide 27,300 doses. Boosters are prioritized with limited vaccine. If it is needed primary doses are cancelled as it is important to get those 2\textsuperscript{nd} boosters administered. New Mexico has the 3\textsuperscript{rd} highest rate of vaccine administration in the country. 450,299 doses administered statewide in a population of two million people in the state with roughly 10,000 vaccines given out daily. When the Allocation Committee reviews requests, they make sure within the county it is disbursed around the county not just certain areas. They are also looking at social vulnerability index. That will help to know where in the state or county the vaccines are needing to be pushed. There will additional Johnson & Johnson vaccine come March that will increase the state supply. Vaccination is lowering the daily instance of positive rates more than 20%.

For the week of February 14, 2021 in Dona Ana County, nine thousand, one hundred (9,100) Moderna doses were requested and two thousand, seven hundred (2,700) doses were allocated. Five thousand, five hundred eighty (5,580) Pfizer doses were requested and four thousand, eight hundred seventy five (4,875) were allocated. There are sixty-seven (67) providers enrolled in Dona Ana County and not all of them are ordering vaccine. About thirty-eight (38) of them are ordering but not all are able to get allotments due to limited vaccine.

As of February 15, 2021, there are forty thousand, two hundred ninety-nine (40,299) registered and waiting for an appointment in Dona Ana County. Six hundred fifty thousand (650,000) New Mexico residents are registered statewide with eight hundred thousand (800,000) currently eligible. Everyone can register through the NMDOH website.

Support needed from the City for the ability to have more events would be additional staff, scribes, inoculators, traffic, EMT's etc. Purchase of durable and medical supplies to support the event along with amenities to support staff at these events.

Councilor Flores asked Ms. Sanchez why insurance information is requested when registering on the DOH website. Ms. Sanchez stated if there is the ability to bill for the vaccine, they will but if someone does not have insurance there is no impediment in them from getting the vaccine.
Ms. Caryn Iverson with Memorial Medical stated that individuals are not being charged for the vaccinations but are being charged an administrative fee. It is only being billed to the insurance and not to the individual.

Office of Emergency Management-Stephen Lopez

Mr. Stephen Lopez showed all current P.O.D operations to include DACC, NMDOH and NMSU. Monday the DACC hosted a P.O.D at the East Mesa Campus with a hybrid P.O.D which is the option to go inside or to do a drive thru. Tuesday no large P.O.D operations it is mostly handled at the public health office level. Wednesday and Thursday the Las Cruces Convention Center is open for a walk in P.O.D. Each of those has a capacity, with a single shift, of doing 800 vaccinations sometimes more. As we have more vaccine availability, we can simply add a second shift with fresh staff to double P.O.D output. Friday NMSU has a drive thru P.O.D. Gadsden independent school district has been serving the southern portion on the County rotating between Gadsden High School, Chaparral High School, and Santa Teresa High School. Heavy vaccinations at MMC. Mountainview is vaccinating. Three Crosses hospital has done some and willing to partner. Ben Archer and La Clinica is vaccinating patients. The Pharmacies have also been helpful. Other plans that have been developed is to offer vaccine through senior centers long term care and possibility for those that are homebound.

If anyone is interested in helping, they can volunteer with the Medical Reserve Corp. by contacting himself to be signed up. The Medical Reserve Corp is a DOH asset statewide with its own chapter in Dona Ana County. If you are helping as a scribe or with traffic control the medical Reserve Corp. covers all liability insurance. Entities who would like to partner such as businesses, it is a great way to advertise. We do realize financially, not everyone can make that commitment, so we are currently working on a FEMA grant application with areas to include durable items such as trailers, lights, tables, chairs, carts, tablets, vests, wheelchairs, ice chests, etc. Consumables such as bandages, cotton balls, alcohol prep wipes, sharps containers, hand sanitizers, etc. and P.O.D personnel pay. Those opportunities might exist if the application in and approved by FEMA looking at asking for around half a million dollars. Key is that FEMA requires all money be spent within 90 days from the day they sign. Everyone should get a COVID 19 test in the next few days as we are at dire risk of moving back to red. The number of people getting tested has dropped considerably, hampering accuracy of positivity rates. The easiest testing out there is with Curative at DACC and Sunland Park and it is a cheek swab, very quick.

Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked if there is a cost associated with that type of testing. Mr. Lopez responded that Curative is under contract with the DOH for that type of testing, they will ask for insurance information but if you do not have it, you can still get tested.
Las Cruces Fire Department-Jason Smith

Mr. Smith stated they have finished their initial evaluation of the Las Cruces Public Schools within the City of Las Cruces. There were two schools that needed some items that needed to be addressed but most schools did pass. Efforts started for their pharmacy, as the fire department carries a pharmacy license, and being approved to carry vaccines in the future.

Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked how long it might take to get approval to become a provider? Mr. Smith did not have a time frame. Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked Ms. Dawn Sanchez if she had any information that process. Ms. Sanchez stated that she does know that the Fire Departments application is in, but the concern again is limited vaccine. When there is additional vaccine available, they can push for the Fire Department to become a provider. The limitation is the vaccine, so adding providers with the limited amount of vaccine it will just spread it small.

Councilor Gandara asked what media campaigning is being done to let the public know that getting tested is important. How can that message be put out there quickly. Mr. Lopez stated that the Unified Area Command have been talking with the Las Cruces Reopens and the Chamber of Commerce asking them to push out that message.

Mandy Leatherwood-Guss asked if there is a graphic or message coming from the OEM or DOH, to please include the City's Public Information Office to make sure it will be shared.

Mr. Enriquez stated he also has spoken with Lauren Goldstein with NMSU who has a communications group with a lot of resources, and she can also get with Ms. Guss and Mr. Lopez to get that message out as well.

Quality of Life-Sonia Saldana

Ms. Saldana stated that senior programs currently have twelve staff that have received access to the DOH portal to assist with vaccination. There is limited time on registration as these are in addition to normal everyday tasks. From January 18 to present, 456 seniors to provide registration information.

The Quality-of-Life marketing program is working on ten new bus wraps to message the vaccination registration and keeping several buses with the existing social distancing and mask use messaging. Transit has implemented the Presidential mask mandate which means that everyone on federal property airports, buses, planes, trains.

The volunteer network is also working with other City partners to create messaging opportunities and registration events and are in the planning stages.
VI. Resource Listing

Councilor Abeyta-Stuve stated that there were a few thoughts on how we can work together and assist with community partners. With that in mind, a survey monkey will go out to the task force on questions of what different items your organization may be able to provide.

VII. Future topics for Discussion/Task Listing

Survey Monkey Survey

VIII. Next Meeting Date

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

IX. Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.

Chair

Approved: March 5, 2021