The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the City of Las Cruces –COVID 19 Vaccine Task Force for March 17, 2021 at 3:30 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 Catanzac, Parks & Recreation
Sonya L. Delgado, Parks and Recreation
Nina Nunez, Burrell College
Jeff Harris, Burrell College
Dawn Sanchez, Department of Health
Amanda Lopez Askim, Dona Ana County
Lynn Gallagher, Quality of Life
Manny Sanchez, Dona Ana County
Anabela Esteves
Audrey Barela, Parks & Recreation
Caryn Iverson, Memorial Medical Center
Judy Cota
Karla Watson, City of Las Cruces
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
Zar Kotlassic
Debra Temple, Three Crosses Hospital
Virgil Medina
Alexandra Fraley
Joanne Ferrary
Yvonne Flores
Amanda Ritter
Jamey Rickman
Justin Allen, Las Cruces Fire Department
Teresa Tenorio, LCPS
Melanie Goodman
Daniel Burke
Thomas Massaro

I. Call to order: Councilor Abeyta-Stuve

This meeting was called to order at 3:01 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 Abeyta-Stuve.

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 March 3, 2021. Moved by Councilor Gandara. Seconded by Councilor Abeyta-Stuve.

None opposed. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

V. Discussion Items

Department of Health-Dawn Sanchez

Ms. Dawn Sanchez introduced a colleague by the name of Mr. Dan Burke, Infectious disease Bureau chief of Santa Fe. Mr. Burke is also part of the allocation team for the State for the vaccine. She also introduced Mr. Tom Massaro, Chief Medical Officer for Department of Health out of the Office of the Secretary. Both are available to answer questions.
Ms. Sanchez updated the group with slides to review. Currently, the county has
gone back into yellow. Cases per 100,000 at 19. Our positivity rate is at 4.72%.
Covid safe practices need to be followed along with testing. This week we are
18.14 cases which is positive. Testing still available.

Mr. Dan Burke presented on allocations. Mr. Burke stated that it was noticed
that Dona Ana County was behind on allocations so started to move in doses.
Normally doses given to a County based on population would be around 10,000
a week and it is currently around 12, 000 a week between Phizer and Moderna.
There has been a 106% increase in 5 weeks. In February it was around 6,000
doses to the County, it has now more than doubled that. This amount is just the
state doses. There are Federal doses coming into the state by the Federal
pharmacy partnership. The state does not control those doses but is able to
influence them. Some of those doses have been moved to down this way.
Bernalillo has currently fallen in doses while Dona Ana has risen. In relation to
the rest of the State Dona Ana County is not at the top but has risen to 8 from
the bottom. Mr. Burke stated that there has been an 82% increase of doses
administered in Dona Ana County.

Ms. Sanchez reiterated that there are now three vaccines in the state. All
vaccines available in the U.S. prevented 100% of COVID-19 hospitalizations
and deaths in clinical trials. All vaccines are authorized by the FDA as safe and
effective and are effective against sever COVID-19.

Commissioner Sanchez asked about one of the slides shown regarding the
total number of doses and if they include both doses. Mr. Burke stated yes it is
accumulative.

Ms. Sanchez presented on DOH/Public Health PODs. NMSU, Dona Ana
Branch are done on Mondays. A mobile National Guard team is helping out in
Hatch. The partnerships with aging had a big senior event on Saturday, March
6th with 1000 doses done. Another is scheduled for March 27th. Vado Speedway
is set to be used as supply is available. Currently working on logistics for LCPS
PODs. Current changes to the phases is educators and early Child care
workers are being added to have their first dose by the end of March.

Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked if there was any update on the application for
request to become a registered provider. Interim Deputy Chief Justin Allen
stated that he has been monitoring the application and it is currently being
reviewed by NMDOH. A follow-up email was received that requested some
training to become an provider and administrator. Those documents have been
submitted and now we are waiting to hear on where we stand.
Councilor Gandara stated she was interested in the numbers related to registrations and some information that has been received every two-week related to what Memorial Medical center is putting out and a concern that they don't have the ability to use the platform and that may be skewing the numbers. Councilor Abeyta-Stuive stated that Ms. Caryn Iverson left some messaging on the chat and will be included in minutes. Mr. Burke stated that there are two ways to count the vaccinations that people do. If you use the app and administer the dose, that information goes into the Nimsis, which is the statewide immunization database which reports to CDC. Others who do not use the app can enter information into the database either manually or if they have data exchange that will be updated every night. Information platforms should not be a blocking concern.

Councilor Flores stated that the issue of equity did come up and there is a high vulnerability index as far as distribution goes and those disproportionately effected were indigenous people and those living in poverty, but it was not addressed on how it would be addressed.

Ms. Tenorio asked Ms. Sanchez which vaccine will be offered to LCPS. Ms. Sanchez stated it depends on which provider they receive the vaccine from. DOH provides Phiser with some Johnson & Johnson for outreach events. The hospitals also have Phiser. Pharmacies are administering Moderna. With Phiser the booster is 3 weeks later, Moderna is 4 weeks later. Full immunity comes two weeks after the booster is administered. Ms Tenorio asked Mr. Lopez if there is a timeline for the high school events that are pending. Mr. Lopez stated they have been talking with school nurses as to how to manage with staff. There is now funding that may be used.

Representative Jo Ann Ferrari stated she is concerned about the low numbers of participants in Sunland Park, Chaparral, and Anthony. Some barriers are people unable to sign up and not having access to going online to the portal. Promotoras have been talked about with other means with them being signed up. Are those options still being contemplated to help increase Southern NM vaccinations? Ms. Sanchez stated a few things are going on, with UTEP through the Paso del Norte health foundation has released a grant for promotoras that have been working at local grocery stores helping to get people registered. They will also be going door to door and handing out flyers with information and helping with registration.

Councilor Abeyta-Stuive suggested that if possible it would be a benefit to request the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for these areas where we would only
need to go into these communities once for them to get this protection as we know if is difficult to reach them.

Mr. Medina stated that Health Resource Service Administration is giving access to vaccines to community health centers. LCDF is in the process of getting all paperwork completed and have committed to an additional 2000 vaccines per week in addition to the allocations from the state on a weekly basis. Some areas such as Anthony, Sunland Park, Chaparral, San Miguel will be doing about 500 vaccines a day if not a little more. The eligibility specialists have been helping get register patients to get the vaccine. They will be reaching out for assistance in finding venues large enough to efficiently do 500 to 1000 vaccines a day and hopefully get this started within the next few weeks.

Office of Emergency Management-Stephen Lopez

Mr. Stephen Lopez gave a presentation on current phases. Phase 1A there are 18,049 people left as registered but have not had the vaccine. He believes a lot of those have already been vaccinated and simply have not reported that vaccine. We will need to find a way to get those numbers resolved. Childcare category has 2,374. Education at all levels is 536. 75+ category is less than 2,000.

Mr. Lopez stated the $1 Million FEMA Grant has been awarded. At least 90% will be used for personnel costs related to vaccinating. That cannot be spent until the Board of County Commissioners meets and votes on it. OEM will be the fiscal agent for it and will be contracting that out. One condition is if we are paying a facility to vaccinate people, they cannot turn around and bill insurance companies.

Las Cruces Fire Department-Justin Allen

Mr. Allan has received an email that the application had been reviewed and received access to the Nimsis portal and will complete all documentation on storage capabilities to send back to the state and should have that completed by early next week and start ordering vaccines ourselves if the state approves. There was an opportunity to work with KRWG on a story to put out information to the public. KFOX and KDBC will be doing interviews also this week.

Councilor Gandara asked if testing has been provided to City staff and how many are being given weekly. Mr. Allan stated that it averages about 10 per week and it does depend on exposure. Councilor Gandara asked if staff is coming to work, they should be getting tested regularly. What would it take to report those numbers? Mr. Enriquez stated that would need to be looked in to get those also reported.
Ms. Tenorio stated that the Public Education Department sent out a guideline for the testing of employees, that it would only be those that had not been vaccinated. She asked if someone could confirm why that it is only the non-vaccinated employees being tested. Dr. Massaro stated that the epidemiologists have encouraged us to continue to do surveillance testing for those that have been vaccinated and have asked PED to change their tool kit.

Mr. Enriquez stated that the registration campaign is still very active and going throughout the week to several stores. There is also a document that is a publication that was sent out to the group and Ms. Gallagher can elaborate more on that.

Ms. Gallagher stated that the City has embarked on a program to help those individuals get registered that do not have access to computers or some who just need additional assistance. We will continue to do them for the next 6 weeks. The data will be looked at and then decide if those sites need to be changed. The library will launch a program on April 7th called dispelling vaccine myths. A possible video segment may be launched.

**Quality of Life-Scott Rodgers**

Mr. Rodgers stated numbers as of this morning, 538 people have visited the tables and 170 have been registered. Parks and Recreation staff has been incredible in spite of the winds. It hasn’t just been registering folks but also walking them through to check to confirm they are registered and making sure they are set up correctly.

**Area Hospital Updates**

Councilor Abeyta-Stuve stated that Burrell has left a message that they have been able to plug in their students with the OEM and NMSU to be utilized during POD sessions.

**VI. Resource Listing Survey Results**

Councilor Abeyta-Stuve stated that the survey results will be shared with everyone. If anyone has not filled out the survey, please fill it out as it is very helpful and just adds a little more information that can be used.

**VII. Community Messaging**
Ms. Sanchez stated there can be some specific information to provide regarding the phases in writing. Dr. Massaro stated he can get that together and get it out tomorrow.

Ms. Leatherwood Guss stated they have partnered with NMSU on the Get Tested messaging that was being put on social media. Very excited on the homebound media coverage that was done with LCFD. Continued promotion of the sleeve up events, Telemundo wants to do a story on this also. Bus wraps, newspaper print ads, billboards, radio sets have been done and there is a COVID weekly update at each City Council meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting Date

April 7, 2021 3:00 p.m. (Health PRC/COVID 19 Vaccine Task Force)

April 21, 2021 3:30 p.m. (COVID 19 Vaccine Task Force)

IX. Adjournment: 5:46 p.m.

Chair

Approved: [April 23, 2021]