

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, January 15, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Peggy Judd, Vice-Chairman, telephonic

Absent: Tom Crosby, Supervisor

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Associate County Administrator
Brian McIntyre, County Attorney
Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board
Tim Mattix, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Alicia Thompson, Health & Social Services Director
Craig Janiszewski, Emerg Preparedness Specialist
Tammi-Jo Wilkins, Emerg Preparedness Specialist
Judy Lynn, Emergency Services Director
Lisa Marra, Elections Director
Xochitl Orozco, Attorney III, Legal Advocate Office
Robin Rossbach, Courts Finance Division Manager
Tracey Romero, Courts HR Director
Sara Dent, Legal Defender
Anita Baca, Housing Authority Director
Rita Shipley, Superior Court Budget/Finance Director
Niltza Flores, Associate Court Administrator
Julie Morales, Risk Management Director
Joe Casey, IT Chief Information Officer
Amadee Ricketts, Library Director
Jackie Watkins, Eng & Natural Resources Director
Henry Meraz, Facilities Director
Elda Orduno, HR Director

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and Possible Direction on the current status of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Ms. Thompson, Mr. Janiszewski, Ms. Wilkins, and Ms. Lynn presented this item. Ms. Thompson stated that vaccinations are currently open through January 22, 2021, to any remaining Phase 1A individuals and Phase 1B individuals aged 75 and older only. Beginning January 23, vaccinations will open to all of the prioritized Phase 1B category. The State decided to expand the age category to include individuals aged 65 and over and will show this on the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) website on Monday. In the County it will be opened to individuals aged 65 and over beginning on January 23, when it opens to the remainder of Phase 1B. Ms. Thompson noted that as of this week, staff is ordering the second dose for individuals who received the first dose between December 22, 2020 and January 8, 2021.

The Board and staff discussed the manner in which the County receives vaccines and how they are allocated out and the functionality of the ADHS vaccine management system and registration portal; Ms. Thompson noted that staff reports problems with the system to ADHS. In response to the Board, Ms. Thompson provided the number of the statewide call center, which is (844) 542-8201. She discussed complaints from individuals who have been on hold for thirty minutes and the potential for a County call center. Ms. Thompson and Ms. Wilkins responded to various questions from the Board about the potential County call center.

Ms. Thompson discussed the broadness of the Protective Service Worker classification in Phase 1B and stated that the ADHS registration portal asks various questions to identify what category an individual falls in. ADHS makes the determination and decision as to whether an individual fits into a category such as a Protective Service Worker. The Board and Ms. Thompson discussed this further, and Mr. Karwaczka stressed that no one at the County is able to make the determination.

Mr. Janiszewski discussed current trends and noted that the test results are holding steady at an increased level of positive results; the County is still in the substantial transmission category. He provided information on the number of cases, deaths and the hospitalization rate. The Board recently approved grant funding and contracts to increase testing availability.

Ms. Wilkins provided information on logistics and noted that the County is still doing same-day deliveries of various types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at this time. She stated that County hospitals are not in a cautionary status and discussed what happens if an individual needs to be transferred to either Pima or Maricopa County.

Ms. Lynn stated that Emergency Services is continuing to monitor the system status. She discussed efforts to ensure Border Patrol staff receives the vaccine and the current status of the County's efforts on this.

Mr. Karwaczka stressed that the County is advocating for more vaccines for residents, and congratulated Ms. Lynn on becoming the County's Emergency Services Director.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board