

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, January 29, 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; Tom Crosby, Supervisor, telephonic

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Associate County Administrator
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Kim Lemons, 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
Melissa Wirthlin, Constable
Cathy Traywick, County Treasurer
Maria Pitzlin, Chief Deputy Treasurer
Niltza Flores, Associate Court Administrator
Tracey Romero, Courts HR Director
Lisa Marra, Elections Director
Elda Orduno, HR Director
Jennifer Graeme, Associate HR Director
Joe Casey, IT Chief Information Officer
Xochitl Orozco, Attorney III, Legal Advocate Office
Sara Dent, Legal Defender
Patricia Leon-Enriquez, Interim Public Defender
Julie Morales, Risk Management Director
Shar Porier, Herald/Review

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 the County has requested \$2 million from the state's recent grant opportunity for vaccination efforts; funding will help vaccination partners and allow additional temporary staff to be brought on. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) asked how many employees the County could use if federal employees are made available; after talking with partners, the County requested 34 vaccinators and 30 support staff. She discussed a recent Governor's Executive Order (EO); the EO requires additional duplicative administrative work. Due to the EO, some partners are at the point of saying it is too much.

The Board and Ms. Thompson discussed the EO in detail, including the reasoning behind it, requirements, and impacts to the County and partners.

Ms. Thompson reported on the number of vaccines allocated to the County and how the County plans for second doses. Next week's allotment is 1,100 vaccines, of which only 100 will be available for first doses. The County currently plans for a two-week cushion for second doses; the EO asks Counties to reduce the cushion. New reports state that individuals may wait up to six weeks to receive their second dose.

The Board and staff discussed various aspects of the federal Retail Pharmacy Program, including reporting requirements and lack of communication to the County and ADHS about the Program and its statistics. The Board and staff also discussed the impact of not receiving enough doses for all those needing the second dose; the ADHS vaccination registration portal; and, the impact to the County of the state allocating more doses to its large vaccination centers in Phoenix. In response to the Board, Ms. Thompson detailed the steps taken by the County to ensure that doses are never thrown away; if people do not show up for their appointment, staff uses wait lists and other methods to find individuals to receive the vaccine.

Mr. Janiszewski reported that staff and partners are planning for opening a large drive through vaccination event for in the future when the County receives enough vaccines. He discussed changes to the website, including adding links to all known retail pharmacies in the County, and noted that the County has partnered with the Air National Guard (Guard) to help administer vaccines; the first run with the Guard was yesterday and 100 people were vaccinated.

The Board and staff discussed the event with the Guard and changes to communications to ensure that everyone is able to access updated information via the website, and communications in other outlets such as newspapers and radio.

Ms. Wilkins reported that the County received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) materials but were unable to distribute them this week due to the weather. In response to the Board, Ms. Wilkins stated that hospital capacity saw a decline in the past week.

Ms. Lynn reported that Emergency Services is not seeing stress on the Emergency Medical Services System and noted that law enforcement officers are also on standby to be pulled in quickly, if necessary, to ensure that no vaccine dose is wasted.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board