

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, April 9, 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
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Tim Mattix, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Camila Rochin, Public Information Officer

Attendees: Alicia Thompson, Health & Social Services Director
Martha Montano, Epidemiologist

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.

Dr. Thompson, Ms. Montano and Ms. Rochin presented this item. Dr. Thompson reviewed the recent Community Health Forums (Forums) and noted that staff is actively implementing many of the suggestions received at the Forums, and working to implement others. There is a vaccine Point of Dispensing (POD) in Portal today; using suggestions from the Forums, the Fire Department, Post Office and school leaders were notified in advance of the POD. Northern Cochise Hospital is holding a POD in Bowie on April 12. Staff has deployed a survey on www.cochisecovid.com for homebound individuals. In response to the Board, Dr. Thompson clarified that staff received lists of homebound individuals from the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO), Arizona Complete Health, and Banner Health; the survey is another tool to assist in mapping out a schedule and mobile team to reach those who are homebound. Dr. Thompson reviewed the number of vaccine doses administered to date and the percent who are fully vaccinated; while 33.5% of the community is vaccinated, a much higher percentage is needed to achieve herd immunity. There has recently been a sharp decrease in vaccine demand; steps are being taken to address vaccine hesitancy.

Ms. Montano reviewed in detail the number of COVID-19 cases in the County, including by age group, and stated that Governor Ducey's order that government entities can no

longer mandate mask-wearing does not apply to schools; teachers and students are required to wear masks. Smaller outbreaks of 2-4 cases are occurring in schools; if a lot of cases are seen in a specific school, staff will take measures to recommend to the Arizona Department of Health Safety (ADHS) that the school move to remote learning for two weeks. The ADHS school dashboard shows that COVID-19 transmission has moved from substantial to moderate. In response to the Board, Dr. Thompson clarified that Governor's Executive Order 2020-04, with mitigation measures to be taken by schools, is still in effect.

Ms. Montano reviewed in detail the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) that staff is working on, including the number of respondents required to be statistically significant, and the methodologies being used to identify community clusters and to conduct the CASPER. The purpose is to identify barriers and the impact of the pandemic on communities.

Ms. Rochin gave an update on community outreach efforts. Through the Forums, additional community partners were identified. Staff has been distributing messaging to them to help share the information. At the end of April, a direct mailing will go out to all rural communities outside of Sierra Vista; Ms. Rochin reviewed the messaging in the direct mailing.

The Board and staff discussed the County being at a lower percentage of vaccination than necessary for herd immunity; states across the country that are seeing a surge in the number of cases; and, that there is a need to continue to wear masks and social distance when around others in public settings.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tim Mattix, Deputy Clerk of the Board