



Meeting Minutes

COVID-19 Mitigation and Mangement Task Force

Attendance	DATE	April 15, 2021
	TIME	1:00 P.M.
	METHOD	Video-Teleconference
	RECORDER	Tanya Benitez/Meagan Werth Ranson
Task Force Voting Member Attendance		
Member Name		Present
Caleb Cage		X
Richard Whitley		X
Terry Reynolds		ABS
Jaime Black		X
David Fogerson		X
Felicia Gonzales		X
Brett Compston		ABS
Meagan Werth Ranson		X
Chris Lake		X
Dagny Stapleton		X
Wesley Harper		X
Mark Pandori		X
Task Force Non-Voting Member Attendance		
Kyra Morgan		X
Lisa Sherych		X
Julia Peek		X
Melissa Peek-Bullock		X
Malinda Southard		X
Lesley Mohlenkamp		ABS
Samantha Ladich		X

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Caleb Cage, Governor’s Office (GO), called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Meagan Werth Ranson, GO. Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Chair Cage opened the discussion for public comment in all venues. No public comment was provided.

3. Update on Nevada’s Roadmap to Recovery Transition Plan

Chair Cage provided an update on Nevada’s Roadmap to Recovery Transition plan.

a. Washoe

Washoe County will present on April 22, 2021.

b. Lander

No representative was present to provide an update from Lander County.

Chair Cage noted Lander County had strong disagreements throughout the plan. The plan was submitted to include the removal of an emergency declaration, removing all restrictions, and moving to reopen at 100%. Chief David Fogerson, Division of Emergency Management (DEM), noted DEM went to Lander County to meet the Emergency Manager. Lander County has vaccinated approximately 2,000 out of 5,000 people. Chief Fogerson noted one of the resolutions speaks about the vaccine. It was refreshing to see the population was still taking the vaccine. The Emergency Manager understood the depth of the emergency at hand and is taking this seriously. Dr. Christopher Lake, Nevada Hospital Association (NHA), echoed Chief Fogerson and noted Battle Mountain Hospital has been a supportive partner throughout this process. The people are trying to do the right thing despite the politics.

c. Lincoln

Eric Holt, Emergency Manager, provided an overview for Lincoln County. Mr. Holt noted Lincoln County is in favor of working toward opening 100% while monitoring the situation carefully. Lincoln County has a small population spread out over 10,000 square miles. This allows for a safe reopening. The Grover C Dils hospital will continue to monitor the test case rate and vaccination efforts with the support of the County Health Officer. They will report and relay the information to the Emergency Manager and the County Commissioners. The hospital will continue to follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines and reporting guidelines to the State. For the vulnerable population, the County Health Officer will coordinate with Grover C Dils to educate and monitor the at-risk population. Lincoln County has identified a vaccine priority that will be given. Lincoln County will continue to perform testing, vaccination, education, and monitoring efforts. Lincoln County has no immediate needs for personal protective equipment. The Lincoln County schools are working on plans that will be approved by the Lincoln County School District Board. The mitigation efforts and public gatherings will be approved on a case-by-case bases with no current limits on social distancing or mask mandates. Chief Fogerson, appreciated tying the plan back to the hospital capacity. This is a good indicator of what is trying to be accomplished. Chief Fogerson inquired how receptive the County is to vaccination and how do you see that moving forward. Mr. Holt noted hesitancy with the levels of the vaccination. Mr. Holt noted there has been a good response from the Mobile Vaccine Unit (MVU) announcement and expects a good turnout for this. Chair Cage inquired if the plan was approved by the Board. Mr. Holt noted the plan was approved on April 5, 2021, with all endorsements received. Chair Cage noted there is concern with the Board of County Commissioners not in favor of the blanket mask mandate. Chair Cage noted the State mask mandate does remain in place and acknowledges the Board of County Commissioners disagreement with the mandate. Mr. Holt confirmed. Chair Cage noted the State is available for technical assistance and support as needed. Mr. Holt concluded by thanking the Task force for all they have done.

d. Mineral

Patrick Hughes, Emergency Manager, provided an overview for Mineral County. Mr. Hughes noted the Board of County Commissioners approved the plan on April 7, 2021. The goal is to have final approval on April 21, 2021. The plan at that point will have the signed endorsements at that time. Mr. Hughes requested clarification on Directive 021. Chair Cage noted that Directive 021 authorized Counties to go to 100% capacity on May 1, 2021. Directive 021 limited that capacity and had limitations on social distancing and gatherings that did not allow for the Counties to go to 100%. At the request of the Task Force, the State sought to clarify their position. On May 1, 2021, the counties can go to 100% or not, depending on what the county prefers. A new Directive will be released to roll back the social distancing requirements from Directive 021. This keeps in place the statewide observation of the CDC guidelines. June 1, 2021, all statewide mitigations to be void EXCEPT the mask

mandate. Mr. Hughes inquired who to send the plan to for hospital approval. Dr. Lake noted it can be sent to Joan Hall or himself and either can approve. Mr. Hughes noted Mineral County will continue to follow state mandates as proposed. The three health entities continue to work closely together, working on testing, vaccinations, and monitoring. Mr. Hughes inquired if the adult entertainment that has remained closed will stay at State level mitigation. Chair Cage noted that will transition to the local County authority as well on May 1, 2021. Mr. Hughes noted that may change the County plan. Chair Cage noted if there are changes to the final approved plan, please send the updated versions along with the endorsements and the State will follow up. Mr. Hughes concluded by thanking the Task Force for all that is being done to reopen Nevada and keep everyone safe at the same time.

e. Pershing

Carol Shank, County Commissioner, provided an overview of the Pershing County Plan. Ms. Shank noted Pershing County is continuing to follow State guidelines. Pershing County will open to 100% on June 1, 2021. Pershing County will continue to wear masks. In the last week Pershing County has had a small rise in cases, in correlation to the Easter holiday. Dr. Kamin Van Guilder, County Health Officer, noted that Pershing County had almost a month of no new cases. In the last week, Pershing County has had six new cases. Cases appear to be associated to each other and are hoping this is a small cluster. Sean Burke, Emergency Manager, noted that Pershing County is going to continue to look for additional guidance from the CDC and other sources. Pershing County will continue to exercise caution. The MVU is scheduled to be in Pershing County on April 16, 2021. Vaccines will be administered starting at 9:00 A.M. on April 16, 2021. Pershing County did shift from Johnson & Johnson to the Pfizer vaccine and are anxious to see the outcome from that. Ms. Shank noted Pershing County has done well throughout this and will continue to monitor all data and trends closely. Pershing County has plenty of personal protective equipment and supplies. Chair Cage noted Pershing County has all the necessary endorsements. Chief Fogerson noted the plan does not have any resource needs listed. Chief Fogerson inquired if there are any needs that Pershing County should be planning for. Mr. Burke noted Pershing County has a robust supply in two locations. Pershing County did recently request sharps containers. Mr. Burke noted Pershing County does not anticipate any shortfalls of resources. Chair Cage noted Business and Industry, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and state agencies are available for technical assistance and support as needed.

f. White Pine

Brett North, Emergency Manager, provided an overview of the plan from White Pine County. Mr. North noted the plan is to open to 100% capacity. White Pine understands the school district, state, and federal partners will still have to follow their own rules. The plan is if White Pine has a spike of 75% of hospital capacity in the COVID-19 ward, three of four beds, then White Pine will meet to determine mitigation measures. White Pine has not had any new cases in the last several weeks. Chair Cage noted White Pine has the endorsements from the appropriate agencies for the plan. Chair Cage inquired if there are any resource needs from the State perspective. Mr. North noted White Pine is in good shape with personal protective equipment, emergency medical providers, and hospital. Mr. North inquired if the plan passes, is White Pine okay to open. Chair Cage noted there is nothing in the plan that is non-compliant with State mandates. The Task Force will recommend transition to local authority on May 1, 2021.

4. Public Comment

Chair Cage opened the discussion for public comment in all venues. No public comment was provided.

5. Adjourn

APPROVED MINUTES - Approved at the April 22, 2021 Meeting

Chair Cage called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was presented by Chief David Fogerson and a second was provided by Deputy Superintendent Felicia Gonzales, Department of Education (DOE). The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.