

TO: Summit County Board of Health
Scott Vargo
Jeff Huntley
FROM: Sara R Lopez
RE: BOCC and BOH Joint Work Session of January 28, 2021
DATE: January 28, 2021

Attendees:

Elected Officials (via Zoom): Elisabeth Lawrence, Tamara Pogue and Joshua Blanchard – Commissioners
Jaime FitzSimons - Sheriff

Staff (via phone or Zoom): Scott Vargo, County Manager; Jeff Huntley, County Attorney; Cameron Turpin, Assistant County Attorney; Sarah Vaine, Assistant County Manager; Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager; Marty Ferris, Finance Director; Molly Boyd, Human Resources Director; Amy Wineland, Public Health Director; Brian Bovaird, Emergency Services Director; Nicole Valentine, Public Health PIO; April Kroner, Planning Director, Jim Curnutte, Community Development Director; April Paige, Executive Administrative Manager and Sara R Lopez, Administrative Assistant.

Guests (via phone or Zoom): Jen McAtamney, Alys Macias, Ashley Kubiszyn, Blair McGary, Don Parsons, Hannah Wynd, Katie Knoll, Libby Stanford, Lisa May, Peter Siegel, Tara Olson and others who did not sign in.

I. Standing Agenda Items/Updates

a) Public Health Director Updates

i. Local and Regional/State COVID Case and Hospitalization Statistics and Trends

Amy Wineland gave an update on the different strains of the virus that have been identified in Colorado. The UK has shared some data regarding the strain and have found that symptoms seem to be more severe. The vaccine is still effective against the different strains.

Ms. Wineland shared the data for the county and the state and noted that the county may become a surveillance site for the state on the new variants of the virus. Summit County has seen an increase in cases within the past 7 days, which is concerning as the state's cases have been decreasing. The case incidence is higher for 20-29 year olds.

The transmission control has dropped once again; it was at 82% two weeks ago and it is now at 78%. The goal is to stay at 80% or above. The number of projected deaths increases as transmission control levels decrease.

She also gave an overview of the potential impact of the B.1.1.7 variant on transmission control depending on transmission control. She noted that the new variants have a higher contagion rate. Social distancing, masks, and vaccines decrease the impact of the B.1.1.7 variant.

Summit County is at the top in number of outbreaks amongst counties, with the highest percentage of cases in the restaurant and retail industry. The hospitality industry represents the largest number of cases by profession, from December 2020 through January 27, 2021.

Ms. Wineland gave an update on the Mobility Comparison for ski counties vs statewide averages. This data is collected from mobile phones and does not include any identifying information. The Mobility in ski counties was higher than average during the past six weeks, with three notable metrics where ski counties stand out: restaurant visits, outdoor activities and new contacts per device.

The State Governor will give an update on Friday, January 29, 2021 regarding changes to the vaccine prioritizing process.

ii. Local Testing Statistics and Program Update

The request for testing has increased and Ms. Wineland said this is a good thing. It is easy to get an appointment and results are received quickly.

iii. Vaccine Distribution Update

The vaccination POD was conducted today, Thursday, January 28, 2021, and 364 people were vaccinated, 11 of them were first doses and the rest were second doses. The first mobile pop-up clinic at Safeway was conducted on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 and 45 vaccines received a vaccine.

Sarah Vaine participated at Thursday's POD and shared the comments from several individuals who expressed their gratitude to the County for organizing the vaccine distribution. Many of them shared stories of family members who passed away due to the virus. She also said that second vaccine doses are sent automatically, after the person receives the first dose.

Ms. Wineland and Ms. Vaine addressed rumors of vaccines being provided to people who are not eligible. Ms. Vaine said that at today's POD, a few people showed up thinking they could hang around and get a leftover dose of the vaccine. They were informed that PH has a waiting list of people who are eligible and if there are vaccines left, they reach out to those people.

iv. Transmission Trends

Amy Wineland said that the first case of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) was identified in Summit County. She explained this syndrome only affects those in the pediatric age and the symptoms are quite severe.

From the CDC website, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children/mis-c.html>, MIS-C symptoms include fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, bloodshot eyes and feeling extra tired.

Parents should seek emergency care right away if the child shows any of the emergency warning signs of MIS-C, which are trouble breathing, pain or pressure in the chest that does not go away, new confusion, and an inability to wake or stay awake; bluish lips or face, and severe abdominal pain.

Scott Vargo reminded everyone that family gatherings, children parties, including birthday celebrations, continue to be the main cause of contagion. Ms. Wineland noted how difficult it is for her team when they contact someone who has become infected, but are not given the information to follow up with others who may have also been exposed to the virus. Holding out information is detrimental to their work and puts others at risk.

b) Public Health Order Update – Discussion of Any Changes

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned that Routt County plans to change their Public Health Order and impose more severe restrictions. For now, Summit County's Public Health Order will stay the same.

c) 5 Star Program Update

Commissioner Lawrence has received messages letting her know that restaurants in the program are not keeping to the two-household rule. Public Health will conduct additional surveillance and Scott Vargo will ask towns to assist with this process.

d) Communications Update and Discussion

Nicole Valentine said that Public Health mailing postcards with COVID-19 information, and reminded everyone that new *Straight From The Moose's Mouth* videos are posted on Facebook every Friday.

Commissioner Pogue expressed concern regarding rumors of Super Bowl parties. She asked Ms. Valentine to send out reminders to the community with suggestions and alternatives to indoor gatherings.

The next BOCC Town Hall will be held on Friday, January 29, 2021 at 2:00pm; the focus will be on Economic Recovery.

e) Emergency Management Update

Brian Bovaird said his team is working on a plan that will allow them to vaccinate a large number of the population, once enough vaccines are available. Their goal is to vaccinate up to 3,000 people in one day.

He also said FEMA has announced they will cover all expenses related to vaccine administration, which will be extremely helpful to the county.

Mr. Bovaird and Dan Hendershot are working on a notification process to inform fine dining restaurants patrons in case of an outbreak. This applies to restaurants that are part of the 5-Star Certification Program.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed the Board's gratitude for all the work Emergency Management has done during the pandemic.

f) Economic Recovery and Support Program Updates

Bentley Henderson gave an update on the Small Business Relief Program from the state. He said participation has been lower than expected and they will ramp up their communication campaign.

April Kroner gave an update from the *Summit County Economic Recovery Dashboard* meeting. This project is a partnership between the County, Summit Chamber and Summit Prosperity Initiative (SPI). SPI will lead and manage the project but will need staff support from the Summit Chamber and County to assist with information gathering and web infographic creation.

The Dashboard should include all the same data covered in Gunnison County's, with some additions. The top 5 points of interest to the BOCC include Mental Health Data, Housing Assistance, Revenues and Taxes, Unemployment and Business Status. Commissioners suggested updating the data monthly so it remains current.

The cost for the project is unknown as of yet. Ms. Kroner will put together an estimate and will submit the information to Commissioners at the BOH/BOCC Joint Meeting on Thursday, February 4, 2021.

g) Community Indicators and Programs

Sarah Vaine introduced Jen McAtamney from Building Hope (BH), who shared the increase in people looking for support for mental health. Anxiety and depression are on the rise and is more acute now than at the beginning of the pandemic. Within the county, they have seen an increase in cases within the teen population. She noted that many people are feeling burned out and suggested listening to the *Burnout and How to Complete the Stress Cycle Podcast* with Brené, Emily and Amelia Nagoski.

Ms. McAtamney said Building Hope is actively working to remove the mental health stigma so those who need assistance ask for it. They are also reaching out to the LGBTQ+ community to assist with any self-identification issues they may be facing.

Commissioner Pogue reminded everyone that the BOCC Town Hall scheduled for February 5, 2021 will focus on Mental Health, and Ms. McAtamney will be one of the presenters.

Please visit buildinghope.org for resources and information.

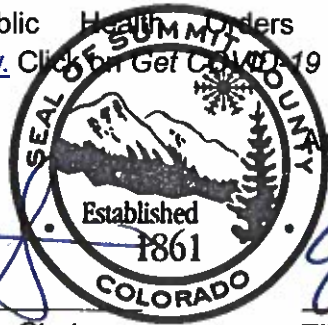
II. Critical Topics Not Covered Above

Commissioner Lawrence has heard suggestions to wear double masks in order to protect against the different virus strains. Ms. Wineland said that from the beginning Public Health has insisted that facemasks must be double-layered in order to offer protection.


III. Open BOH/BOCC Discussion, As Needed


Summit County's Public Health Orders and latest information is available at www.summitcountyco.gov. Click on Get COVID-19 Info and Updates.

Respectfully submitted,



Approved by:


Sara R. Lopez, Deputy Clerk


Elisabeth Lawrence, Chair