



BACK-TO-BUSINESS TASKFORCE
Expediting Government Regulations Subcommittee

May 7, 2020 at 2:00pm
Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
130 W. Congress Street, 1st Floor

MINUTES

Members Present

Kent Blumenthal	Small Business Commission
Kate Calhoun	Tucson Convention Center
Brent DeRaad	Visit Tucson, Chair
Sean Humphrey	John Henry's Bar & Freight Train Coffee Company
Nancy Kluge	Reid Park Zoo
Curtis McCrary	Rialto Theatre
Dale McDaniel	Lowes Ventana Canyon
Tom Morgan	Gray Line Tours
Richard Oseran	Hotel Congress
Amanda Powers	FC Tucson
Andrew Stegen	Westward Look
Priscilla Storm	Old Tucson

Members on WebEx

Russ Bond	JW Marriott Starr Pass
Nicole Dahl	Hotel McCoy
Michelle Conklin	Tucson Botanical Gardens
Grant Dipman	Canyon Ranch
Adriana Gallego	Arts Foundation of Southern Az
Michele Hatch	Casino del Sol
Craig Ivanyi	Desert Museum
Theresa Mudd	Achieve Strength & Fitness
Trenna Parvello	Desert Diamond Casino
Laura True	White Stallion Ranch
Mark Van Buren	Tucson Marriott University
Janos Wilder	Downtown Tucson Kitchen

County Staff Present

Chuck Huckelberry	County Administrator
Jan Leshner	Chief Deputy County Administrator
Dr. Francisco Garcia	Deputy County Administrator
Stella Padilla	County Administration
Diane Frisch	Pima County Attractions & Tourism
Catherine Strickland	Pima County Attractions & Tourism
Matt Orto	Pima County IT
Steve Charlton	Pima County IT
Dusty Alexander	Pima County IT



Meeting called to order by Chief Deputy County Administrator, Jan Leshar at 2:04 PM.

Welcome and Introductions

Jan Leshar welcomed the Expediting Government Regulations subcommittee members and briefly reviewed the process by which the three taskforce subcommittees met to gather, discuss and provide feedback to develop best practices for the reopening of 1) bars and restaurants, 2) resorts, pools and spas, and 3) attractions and tourism/events to make to the Back to Business Steering Committee next week. The respective subcommittees met earlier in the week and the purpose of this gathering is to have another discussion looking at the three areas together.

Brent DeRaad, President & CEO of Visit Tucson (Subcommittee Chair) welcomed and thanked everyone on the taskforce subcommittees for their time and engagement and thanked Pima County for taking the lead to define reopening guidelines and best practices within the parameters of the State. Asked to hear a report from each taskforce as a summary of their discussion and review next steps.

Reports from Task Forces

Bar & Restaurants—Loni Anderson & Gary Frucci

Loni Anderson, Pima County Consumer Health and Food Safety Director introduced Gary Frucci, Pima County Environmental Health Supervisor, who reviewed a list of temporary measures related to the Pima County Food Code. All establishments that document adherence to the minimum best practices standards suggested will earn a Pima County Best Practice Pledge badge to display on premises and electronically showing that they are committed to the health and safety of public. These recommendations tailored for the reopening of dining establishments will be in effect for the length of the pandemic until all restrictions are lifted by the Governor.

This document has 17 items listed as best practices and can be accessed online following this path from pima.gov/backtobusiness linked directly here:

[Back to Business | Expediting Government Regulations | Bars and Restaurants Taskforce | Documents and Materials | County Administrator's May 5th Memo](#)

Jan Leshar expressed the importance of taking into account all possible safety concerns and appreciation for all who sent in feedback as well as participated on the taskforce.

Brent DeRaad opened the discussion to members both present in the room and over the phone.

Sean Humphrey, John Henry's Bar & Freight Train Coffee Company—referenced a handout showing safety steps for reopening including items not covered by CDC or government. Also addressed County Administrator's Memo from May 5th asking for clarification regarding



County's view for bars opening and operating like restaurants, thus opening on the same date. Wondering where bars stand compared to restaurants. Wants the option to reopen bars with restaurants and asked for County to advocate to State as much as possible to have same rights.

Mr. Huckelberry—put bars and restaurant in same taskforce understanding the fact that many bars also serve food (i.e. sports bars with grills, etc.) but it will be up to the Governor to provide clarification for bars and their reopening.

Dr. Garcia—the conversation at the state is not so much about bars being at higher risk but about actual bar space/counter being included as serving space. This will also ultimately affects restaurants where there are bar-top service areas because social distancing is too hard.

Sean Humphrey, John Henry's Bar & Freight Train Coffee Company—will share a document with combined recommendations from 12 establishments for how to proceed with intensive cleaning protocols to make bar tops safe.

Kent Blumenthal, Small Business Commission—one of the County's restaurant surveys defined limiting a table to a party of six people. How do we deal with a group of six? Are they all a group from a family unit or just group of six people?

Dr. Garcia—the Governor issued his guidance at the same time as the initial survey. He stipulates a maximum of 10. Thus, County is following to match State and it would be any 10 individuals.

Mr. Huckelberry—the first draft of the best practices has temporary regulations. County does not have authority to supersede the State's requirements. Pima County instead aims to help create best practices within parameters of the State since their guidelines are somewhat generic.

Priscilla Storm, Old Tucson—is there any distinction in terms of capacity for outdoor eating areas relative to indoor eating areas?

Mr. Huckelberry—the limitation is only on indoor seating—50% reduction of usual capacity.

Amanda Powers, FC Tucson—appreciates the point about jurisdictional clarification. Believes current medical data is collected on County level. If there is the ability to be agile and adjust that will help us recover and climb out of the pandemic. Thinks it is important to distinguish who governing authorities are and what they are saying for consistency. Should establish where medical opinions and facts are coming from. When looking at the criteria, does not understand why reopening on May 11th when these have not been met. Also, why even have the criteria if it does not affect reopening? COVID19 is spread when aerosolized, why would we reopen at 50% capacity for the risk, especially since you cannot wear a mask at a restaurant when eating? Does not see a shared set of data that we are endorsing so ethically, how do we endorse opening without having the data? Want to reopen but how do we stop the spread? Reopening



too soon with so many safety regulations creates experiences that are very different from what people are used to. This could lead to people choosing to stay home and the business or event will suffer or close again. Testing and contact tracing is paramount. If we cannot agree to a consistent set of guidelines how can we ensure we all follow them and help keep the community safe? County should be clear on who has jurisdiction and who has the medical expertise to follow, or is this just too bad, so sad? Best practice item suggesting that people with symptoms are prohibited from entering the establishment is problematic when there are those who are asymptomatic. That is why we need testing to make it ethical and safe. Needs to see economic impact to determine the risk—events take a long time to plan and if we continue to have outbreaks, that is going to make things so much worse. Difficult from business perspective to plan with different sets of facts, evidence, guidelines. Has list of questions. First one: what do we know about transmission?

Brent DeRaad, Visit Tucson—we can address. Excited that the County is willing to go beyond where State wants to go from in terms of regulation. At least we have guidelines about capacities which is helpful given State is so generic. We are trying to come up with best practices to help protect business owners and public. The May 11th reopening for restaurants was set by the state. We are beholden to the State.

Mr. Huckelberry—another subcommittee called Road to Recovery (physicians and physician managers) is looking at minimizing the spread and reoccurrence. Will provide outcomes to anyone in this region and the State to help them understand our opinions and guidelines. Statement was made by Governor that restaurants can reopen May 11. We look at the rules which are generic, so we look at how we can create best practices to help minimize the risk so public has some confidence in coming back.

Jan Leshar—the [criteria chart referenced](#) was the County's attempt to manage expectations with the community. Placed nine elements consistent with CDC and State. Things to look at, basic criteria. Does not necessarily give you the tools to get to each phase but lists criteria. Attempt was not to be contradictory but lead to next phase based on what doctors across the country adhere to.

Amanda Powers, FC Tucson—we are opening on May 11 based on the State. Where's the modeling that we are on a downward trend in terms of cases?

Dr. Garcia—there is good modeling that Pima County has reached the top of the curve. Some of the indicators are moving in the right directions (i.e. number of cases and deaths). Timeframe for when we would meet all of the 9 indicators is hard to predict. Some have said we have already weathered the worst, others say end of June. So we prepare for different scenarios and model different circumstances.

Nicole Dahl, Hotel McCoy—asked for explanation about these best practice—are they regulations or guidelines or both? Not sure about how safe the masks are.



Dr. Garcia—cloth face coverings are for protection of others, not self. What happens when others are not covered? How can we do this in a restaurant? This gets to the next agenda item. Do businesses have the ability to ask patrons to wear a mask?

Jan Leshner—we have been looking to our partners to consider best practices for guidelines. Some are regulations based on code, some are best practices. If website pages are not clear, we will make that distinction.

Janos Wilder, Downtown Kitchen—shares frustration of others. It is born of a premature decision made in Phoenix to allow restaurants to open on Monday. Like to know and have better guidance for how to follow their guidelines. Places that choose not to open find themselves out on a limb without guidance. We want to serve community and staff as safely as possible but want to see the curve go down first. Can we get clarification on what to look for to feel that we are in a safe position to open again?

Richard Oseran, Hotel Congress—Spanish Flu over 100 years ago followed similar social distancing and many of same prevention practices. Per UA and ASU modeling, what are their recommendations in terms of reopening?

Dr. Garcia—models are dynamic and they change often. UA/ASU recommended end of May reopening. But we don't know what will open on Monday and how many will be at 25-50% capacity. Reopening before end of May is premature according to their research.

Sean Humphrey, John Henry's Bar & Freight Train Coffee Company—close with ton of unknowns. Way bigger than all of us as individuals and even organizations. Trying to be a voice for other establishments. Wants to advocate for same rights between bars and restaurants. No pressure to reopen for those who are not comfortable doing so. Lots of wrong answers, not a lot of right ones. Cannot afford to risk the businesses being killed off. Want all safety measures to be implemented. Asks for a response from County to assure his group is heard and acknowledged.

Kent Blumenthal, Small Business Commission—Contract tracing—it speaks to identifying sources of infection or places where it may have occurred. Restaurants, bars, gyms, etc.—would be tragic to have a business identified as the source of the infection. What will be contact tracing source disclosure by the County? If it is significant, how will County proceed?

Dr. Garcia—when tested, that specimen is sent to a lab and results given to the practitioner. The lab will then generate a report to the State. Multiday process. You will know before State and County knows you are positive. Once receive it, County starts the contact tracing process—so big lag time. Pima County has gone from 10-11 to 24 people doing the contact tracing job. We believe we are geared up—so as soon as notified by State, we start the process. There's detective work to get rest of contact profile information first. No one wants to be entity associated with infection. Only clusters right now are nursing, long-term, congregate housing,



etc. Most positive cases are individuals at random. Referenced [COVID19 case map](#) to see spread in community.

Shared charts showing number of cases and number of deaths by week. See progression of cases in Pima County—cases and deaths are getting better. Saw tooth data pattern because there is a lag in data. Trend is generally in correct direction with current physical distancing, which we all agree is working. Increase in reported cases are actually spread out over lots of days so seems worse than it is.

Resorts, Pools & Spas—Loni Anderson & Gary Frucci

Loni Anderson—reviewed the pools, gyms and resorts best practices document based on discussion in the taskforce subcommittee meeting. This document has 11 items listed as best practices and can be accessed online following this path from pima.gov/backtobusiness linked directly here:

[Back to Business | Expediting Government Regulations | Resorts, Pools and Spas Task Force | Documents and materials | Pima County's suggested Best Practice for Pools, Gyms, Hotels and Resorts](#)

Brent DeRaad opened the discussion to members both present in the room and over the phone.

Kate Calhoun, TCC—where can we find the documents?

Diane Frisch—they are on the Back to Business website on pima.gov (www.pima.gov/backtobusiness)

Priscilla Storm, Old Tucson—what about Spanish speaking community? How to communicate with them as a private sector business, should make arrangements.

Jan Leshner—all related documents and graphics communicating these guidelines and safety pieces to prevent the spread of COVID19 produced by Pima County will be available in English and Spanish and will be downloadable for public use.

Kent Blumenthal, Small Business Commission—are there recommendations specific to sports with ball going back and forth (not contact play).

Brent DeRaad, Visit Tucson—not sure if there are but will look into it.

Attractions & Tourism—Diane Frisch & Catherine Strickland

Diane Frisch—we met with a large and diverse taskforce. Identified two categories—those establishments that are indoor and those that are outdoor. There are also outdoor places with indoor facilities. The last deals with all of the above and may have double the responsibility in terms of implementing safety measures. These will need to consider closures of conference rooms, meeting rooms, restaurants, theatres, and modifying restrooms, etc.



Financial implications of ticketed events requiring social distancing often prohibits the viability with reduced capacity. For those that are outdoor venues, they will need to deal with heat factor—temperatures will be elevated. Will these attractions just take the temperatures of staff or have waiting areas to allow patrons to cool down before a temperature check?

Other suggestions are to push presale of ticketed events online to avoid ticket lines, develop one-way traffic through the facility as much as possible, use timed tickets to help distance and meter people. Concerns about events and venues who have children attending—harder to keep surfaces clean and people distanced, so consider closing down that part of the event/attraction.

Volunteers and docents who are significant part of workforce are often in at-risk populations, will they feel comfortable and will they return? Can we find a younger volunteer pool to help fill in for vacancies?

Marketing and advertising are harder when the budget is eaten by PPE. How to use advertising to educate and manage expectations? Especially when changes are so fluid. Attractions are looking at their target demographic and volunteer workforce to determine when to time reopening.

Brent DeRaad opened the discussion to members both present in the room and over the phone.

Curtis McCrary, Rialto Theatre—big picture question: if cases spike will Pima County push back against the State? What's the communication been between Pima County and State regarding the executive order? When other communities have reopened prematurely and cases increased again, would the County really endorse reopening next week if not subject to the State?

Chuck Huckelberry—we have been fairly clear that we would not. But the County does not have authority to override the State.

Jan Leshar—there was a period of time when she, Mr. Huckelberry and Dr. Garcia met daily with Governor's staff and then three times a week. Also have written to congressional delegation, and senators, etc. to appeal for better testing equipment. Looking to get all communities on the same page so that the lines are not drawn between towns and communities within the County. Dr. Garcia has more than daily communication with Dr. Christ at Arizona Department of Health Services.

Dr. Garcia—been consistent that it's a statewide strategy informed by the best data. Given impact of Maricopa County on State by itself, not following their lead is impossible. Hoping and advocating for science-based decisions. Our communication with State department of health occur almost daily. We have made our position clear but understand limitations of the position we are in.



Nancy Kluge, Reid Park Zoo—taskforce discussion was helpful for us—the changes cannot be implemented overnight. Thanks to County for taking the lead and giving us preparation. Safety for our guests and employees is so important.

Craig Ivanyi, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum—heard overview and have seen guidelines for these groups. Are there actual best practices? Also wondering what to do regarding water fountains? They are more sustainable/conservative way to provide water to guests.

Chuck Huckelberry—all of our guidelines will be redone to be consistent across the different industries. Need to discontinue use of fountains given the lack of ability to keep properly clean.

Kate Calhoun, TCC—looking at White House and Governor’s documents with regards to large venues that Dr. Garcia referred to. Would like to get past Phase 1 in time to execute some of their upcoming events. Will work with Pima County and take recommendations to City of Tucson for their blessing (i.e. Jim Click Car Show in June).

Adriana Gallego, Arts Foundation of Southern Arizona—are there guidelines or considerations for employees’ ability to return to work when their children are not in school for a while? What kind of protections do we have? What do we know about COVID19 transmission by pools?

Dr. Garcia—pools will not be a transmission source for COVID19. However certain water features that generate spray (i.e., splash pads, Jacuzzi) may transmit if virus is aerosolized as a part of the spray.

Jan Leshner—we have another committee that will vet and make guidelines for employees and looking at all of the medical leave options that exist in terms of state and federal regulations.

Brent DeRaad shared comments from Danette Bewley of the Tucson Airport Authority—commercial air traffic down 95%, projected to climb slowly, estimated to be 50-60% down over course of year. Implemented intensive cleaning, and will be marketing to reinstate consumer confidence. The airport is an essential service and will not be shut down.

Michelle Conklin, Tucson Botanical Gardens—will masks be required for staff and what other rules and regulations will they need to abide by?

Jan Leshner—we will be developing best practices to help standardize what is expected for each group (restaurants, pools/resorts, attractions) and will provide that online for all of our groups.



Recommendations for the Steering Committee

Brent DeRaad, Visit Tucson—thanked to taskforce members and asked Jan Leshar and Chuck Huckelberry for comments regarding their recommendations, especially in terms of operational procedures, educational collateral materials and recommendations for community education and communications going forward.

Chuck Huckelberry—we will make these documents clear and evident to answer these questions. On Monday we will have full iterations of all of these documents to make the recommendations clear and consistent, and help determine what materials will be required as a result. Need to have site specific messaging to be understood by everyone. Nothing will be finalized until everyone has had an opportunity to provide feedback. We are about three-fourths of the way through these taskforce meetings and have had to work quickly based on the May 11th reopening date.

Jan Leshar—please note that the Back to Business website has the functionality to provide comments and give feedback. Tomorrow the Communications Subcommittee will meet and then we will gather all feedback together to have ready for Monday. Want to take the message globally that Pima County is back open for business. Subcommittee members have a voice through the Steering Committee.

Brent DeRaad, Visit Tucson—thank you for your input and guidance for the best practices. Thank you for stepping up to make this happen. Without much coming from the State to help us move forward, it is important that County has taken action to provide guidance. Please share additional input via Visit Tucson or County if you have additional thoughts or concerns.

Next Steps

Back to Business Steering Committee meets on Monday, May 11th at 2:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 PM