



BACK-TO-BUSINESS TASKFORCE

Steering Committee

May 11, 2020 at 2:00pm

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room

130 W. Congress Street, 1st Floor

MINUTES

Members Present

Kent Blumenthal	Small Business Commission, D4
Terri Cullen	Pima County Health Department
Brent DeRaad	Visit Tucson, Chair
Laura Shaw	Sun Corridor, Inc.
Amber Smith	Tucson Metro Chamber
Joe Snell	Sun Corridor, Inc.
Bob Teso	City of South Tucson
Ramon Valadez	Pima County Board of Supervisors
Dustin Williams	Pima County Superintendent of Schools

Members on WebEx

David Adame	Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.
Raul Aguirre	Small Business Commission, D5
Mark Clark	Pima Council on Aging
Gabrielle David	Small Business Commission, D3
Kurtis Dawson	YMCA of Southern Arizona
Kathleen Eriksen	Downtown Tucson Partnership
Guillermo Gallegos	Small Business Commission, D2
David Godlewski	Southern Arizona Homebuilders Association
Ed Honea	Town of Marana
David Hutchens	UNS Energy
Nancy Johnson	El Rio
Lee Lambert	Pima Community College
Clint Mabie	Community Foundation of Southern Arizona
Fletcher McCusker	Rio Nuevo
Mark Miller	Small Business Commission, D1
Farhad Moghimi	Pima Association of Governments
Trish Muir	Pima Area Labor Federation
Tom Murphy	Town of Sahuarita
Judy Rich	Tucson Medical Center
Robert Robbins	University of Arizona
Regina Romero	City of Tucson
Chad Whelan	Banner HealthCare
Joe Winfield	Town of Oro Valley



Pima County Staff Present

Chuck Huckelberry	County Administrator
Jan Leshar	Chief Deputy County Administrator
Dr. Francisco Garcia	Deputy County Administrator
Monica Perez	County Administration
Stella Padilla	County Administration
Beth Borozan	Board of Supervisors Office, District 4
Catherine Strickland	County Attractions & Tourism
Steve Charlton	County IT
Dusty Alexander	County IT
Taylor Green	County IT

Meeting called to order by County Administrator, Chuck Huckelberry, and Co-Chair of Steering Committee at 2:02 PM.

Welcome and Introductions

University of Arizona President Robert Robbins & County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry (Co-Chairs)

Mr. Huckelberry—thank you to all members for attending today’s meeting either online or in-person with physical distancing.

Purpose of Pima County Back to Business

Mr. Huckelberry—First case of COVID19 in Pima County was March 9th, Governor issued Stay at Home Order on March 30th which is in place today and will be until the Governor lifts it, perhaps as early as middle of May.

Back to Business Taskforce brought together on April 22nd and began rapid meeting schedule involving 120 members from the community representing various sub-groups associated with different specialties. Between April 30th and May 8th, there have been nine separate meetings. On Saturday, we transmitted a series of recommendations for phased reopening. Guiding principles for these were public health recommendations vetted by the County Health Department, and included business community, regional jurisdictions, labor/workforce, and medical specialties. The process is intended to help the County reopen the business community while maintaining the best and most current public health measures.

We have a variety of handouts that were provided to members in hard copy and are available electronically online. Direct link and path for where to find them as follows:

pima.gov/backtobusiness | [Steering Committee](#) | [Documents & Materials](#) | [County Administrator’s May 9 Memo Temporary Measure, Guidelines or Best Practices for Phase Reopening](#)

Looked at map showing how cases have progressed wherein darker, larger dots show recent cases vs. those fading from a while back. Asked Dr. Garcia for his professional opinion on where we are now regarding infection.

Dr. Garcia—back in early February we were anxious about how this virus would affect the County, so we stood up our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and were extremely happy that the Gem Show



was successful without any cases. It was not until the beginning of March that we saw cases associated with recent travel to places with infection. Number of community cases jumped really quickly. Pima County currently has 1,602 cases (14% of State) and 134 deaths (25% of State). Long-term care facilities ended up being hit fairly hard. These settings are where the most mortalities occur, even across the nation. They represent more than half of all deaths. Testing has improved, especially in the last week, and Pima County is up to 18,860 tested (13% of State). Looks like the curve may be flattening out and seeing improvements, but still in the midst of the pandemic so we should not dismiss the need for caution, especially in reopening activities.

The University of Arizona's Role

Mr. Huckelberry—Our Co-Chair, UA President Robbins will be joining us at 2:30pm to give an update about the University of Arizona reopening. Moved directly to the first subcommittee chair report, the Road to Recovery Subcommittee, Co-Chaired by Dr. Terri Cullen and Nancy Johnson.

Subcommittee Reports

Road to Recovery

Pima County Health Department Director Dr. Terri Cullen & El Rio CEO Ms. Nancy Johnson (Co-Chairs)

Dr. Cullen - Referring to Tab 4 of the handout book, you can see the criteria for phase reopening that was discussed at the taskforce subcommittee meeting.

Nancy Johnson—This requires partnership between public health providers and science of public health. Reality is practicing health care and continuing to retool as science discoveries guide us to keep community safe when reopening. Met last week for the first time and reviewed criteria for beginning of phased reduction of physical distancing with all industries in mind. Talked through whether or not it is where it needs be. All felt it was good but recommended adding hospitalizations as an additional measurement. Also need to be sure guidance is coming from healthcare community (including CDC recommendations) and is communicated consistently to the community. In a few days, we will get feedback from the medical community but want to give this committee an opportunity for feedback.

Dr. Cullen—the subcommittee that was pulled together represents lots of industries. Need for multi-languages came up, and rural communities are important to take into account. Ongoing concerns for PPE shared with us. We are addressing all of these measures.

Mr. Huckelberry—this group is made up entirely of medical professionals. Important they stay in place and help us through this process. Next group is Business and Employee Health and Wellness.



Business and Employee Health & Wellness

Tucson Metro Chamber CEO Amber Smith & Pima Association of Governments CEO Mr. Farhad Moghimi (Co-Chairs)

Amber Smith—the County did a good job of bringing in a diverse group of business representatives to talk about this issue. Discussion resulted in four major areas:

1. Safety of workplace for employees
2. Educating patrons for what to expect
3. Barriers to businesses concerning workforce--consider access to childcare, understanding new regulatory environment
4. Community safety to help create community security—when is it safe to come out?

Farhad Moghimi—staff did a great job summarizing comments received. Just to touch on a couple more, federal requirements will be folded in, specifically the CARES Act so employers can update their personnel policy. OSHA requirements are a good resource for employers and employees (provide training opportunities). Consistent comment from subcommittee: need to have a united voice all working collectively to make sure all information is consistent and that regionally we have the same and correct information for employer/employees. Request: hopefully decide what to do with this information and ask the County to procure PPE and training information to distribute among businesses as appropriate.

Mr. Huckelberry—we have consistently heard PPE is needed for all employers, as well as training. In the last communication with Senator McSally, we again expressed the need and put in another order of PPE. Co-Chairs of the Expediting Government Regulations subcommittee are next. Tasked with looking at what businesses need to pay attention to in reopening. Three areas discussed: 1) bars and restaurants, 2) resorts, pools and spas, and 3) attractions and tourism. Came up with best practices regarding phased reopening.

Expediting Government Regulations

Visit Tucson CEO Brent DeRaad & Downtown Tucson Partnership CEO Kathleen Erickson (Co-Chairs)

Brent DeRaad—Thank you Pima County for its strong leadership with this process to help businesses open safely in coming weeks and for members who spent time helping. Bars and Restaurants met on April 30th, Resorts, Pools & Spas met on May 4th and Attractions & Tourism met on May 5th. Each went through suggested best practices and participants all weighed in. Feedback from the three subcommittees was reported to the Expediting Government Regulations subcommittee in a meeting on May 7th and community feedback was received as well. All subcommittee meeting related materials and handouts are available on Pima County's website at the following direct link and pathway:
pima.gov/backtobusiness | [Expediting Government Regulations](#)

Pima County cannot ask for more than what the State regulates. Thus, the subcommittee's 17 recommendations for bars and restaurants to use as best practices during reopening serves to help define the best way to reopen within parameters of Governor's Executive Order. The 17 recommendations were put to public survey with over 8,100 results in, which most people rated each



as extremely important. These will be in place for the length of the pandemic, and also applies to event spaces and catered functions.

Resorts are often part of global chains and will exceed these best practices. Those independent hotels will benefit from the 12 recommended guidelines put forth. Those that have restaurants will also refer to previous 17 practices. One of the biggest issues is having pools open at hotels and resorts which will help attract those pursuing a staycation later in the summer. Hotels and resorts who host large events for meetings will need clarification as to when it is safe to proceed with bookings for those. The Governor's Executive Order closed everything for pools on April 4th.

Attractions and Tourism has best practices for three areas (employee, vendor and delivery service measures). Many attractions are non-profit and need a great deal of assistance. Budgets are tight. Best practices generated by all three subcommittees are outstanding.

Kathleen Eriksen—Thank you for hosting. Just want to add overall concern for employee and consumer confidence. How will businesses gain the confidence when concerned with safety? Downtown Tucson Partnership (DTP) has helped get word out to downtown businesses. How can we retool spaces to expand seating area for restaurants? Perhaps into sidewalks or parking lots? The County has helped track down PPE and DTP assisted connecting businesses needing it. Really like the idea of putting window clings on businesses who are committed to these best practices to increase consumer confidence.

Mr. Huckelberry—County also formed a subcommittee to address faith-based groups. Since Linda Leatherman from Pima County Community Services (Chair) was not able to join, Jan Leshar provided update.

Faith-Based Organizations

Jan Leshar—last week 10 people met to look at how we can get people back into their places of worship. Biggest issue is that many are providing their buildings as community-wide facilities for addiction concerns. The same standards and practices to help increase safety confidence among the community will apply—i.e. PPE, distancing, sanitation measure, etc. Same concerns as others.

Mr. Huckelberry—Next is the Community Outreach subcommittee whose goal is to help get message out consistently, in multiple languages and as soon as possible.

Community Outreach

Sun Corridor, Inc. Vice President Laura Shaw & REA Communications/SBC Member Raul Aguirre

Laura Shaw—subcommittee made up of 19 members. County pulled together a great group representing major/traditional media, multi-lingual, and other mixed mediums, UA, Visit Tucson, Tucson International Airport, Sun Corridor, Inc., Tucson Electric Power, Cox Communications, etc. There will be resources to put into the media to get message across. We want the media to be supportive of us. First meeting was on Friday, May 8th— it is ready to go.



Three items of discussion:

1. How to get messaging out to both business owners and County public?
2. How to give clear direction to business owners? What nomenclature to use?
3. How to help businesses help customers feel safe?

Want customers to feel safe and keep positive so people know Pima County is open for business. Delivery will require depth and repetition and time to reach all segments with speed and adaptability. It will take resources to do effectively. Looking to use federal relief funds going to Pima County and how to expand the investment needed to get it out.

Raul—agree with Laura. A lot of the messaging will rely on what other committees are doing. Sitting on restaurant council with Amber Smith—how do we put message out that does not conflict between groups. Following the signs is important. Looking forward to crafting messages with others and the County Communications team is coming up with very creative messaging and graphics to reach diverse groups with different demographics.

Mr. Huckelberry—Co-Chair, UA President Robbins is available to give his update.

The University of Arizona's Role (Revisited)

UA President Robert Robbins—thank you for including me. Appreciate the opportunity to work with the County and try to get community back to being active again. Planning on students coming back but know that not all will be able to. High risk faculty and staff will not be able to come back so will use online alternatives to deliver classroom instruction. Many students are eager to come back. Data strongly suggests that if you are under 30 your risk of complications from infection is fairly low. There is a new pediatric inflammatory syndrome affecting young children so understands you cannot completely rule out risk to the community of getting the virus, especially considering student population comes from across the US. Believes that it will be difficult to bring back international students. Overall, been great cooperation between County and UA--appreciates the opportunity to work together.

Mr. Huckelberry—we value the University of Arizona as a big part of the educational industry, a significant part of the local economy as a large employer, and having expertise in college of medicine and innovative technologies. Appreciate having them in partnership. Would next like to hear from elected officials.

Chairman Ramon Valadez, County Board of Supervisors—we have been working through this since late January with Gem Show coming up, and speak for the Board when primary concern was and is maintaining safety throughout. Thank you to taskforce members for time in helping craft recommendations and sharing with the community. Will be discussing this afternoon how as a Board we will help.

Mayor Bob Teso, City of South Tucson—Thank you to everyone and Pima County for being instrumental. In our daily mayor meetings we share the information from the County which has been beneficial. We pass this along to restaurants and businesses to keep them in the loop. The residents in city that have been involved—it's been important to have communications open and let's keep it going.



Dustin Williams, County Superintendent of Schools—thank you for invitation to participate. Schools will be ending around end of May and beginning again faster than you know it. Three chief concerns to determine in the meantime:

1. Mitigation support—PPE, handwashing stations, cleaning equipment, etc.
2. Testing (viral and antibody) for employees and if a way to label the school as COVID19 safe or something that indicate such, that would be great
3. Contact tracing and support for schools—find out how individuals were infected and guidance for schools if in that situation.

There is a small window of opportunity in the summer to get these schools prepared. Let's work together.

Mr. Huckelberry—move next to comments from members who called in.

Mayor Ed Honea, Town of Marana—thank you so much, nice to see so many leaders working together to same end. Good things are happening here. Pro-business mayor, like idea of restaurants increasing to use sidewalks, cars, parking lots to keep physical distancing but keeping businesses open. Thankful for opportunity to contribute to discussion and thank you for being supportive.

Mayor Regina Romero, City of Tucson—Thank you for putting the B2B taskforce together. I believe in partnership especially in times of crisis. Really appreciate everyone's effort and hope we can be on the same page. Want to go back to first presentation—from Road to Recovery subcommittee. Want more feedback on the one-page graphic based on CDC criteria reopening. Can we think about where we are in Pima County based on this criteria? Even though Governor is reopening restaurants, salons, etc., how do we reconcile that we have not met this criteria. How do we deal with Governor to move forward when we have not met CDC and Pima County Health Department guidelines?

Mr. Huckelberry—I will be addressing this later in next steps. Want to get through comments first.

Mayor Joe Winfield, Town of Oro Valley—appreciate the opportunity. I want to share that the Town of Oro Valley is all in and working together to help community, employers/employees, and customers feel safe as that will make all the difference when we reopen. Taskforces helped with developing good guidance and the OV is on board to help make it happen.

Mayor Tom Murphy, Town of Sahuarita—think a collaborative effort is really important. Confidence will help get people back. Especially in the restaurant community.

Mr. Huckelberry—hear from members in the room next.

Kent Blumenthal, County Small Business Commission Chair—Thank you for opportunity to serve. Also serve as the chair of the current small business commission in Pima County. Initiatives from County Administration and the Board of Supervisors is exemplary. One anecdote that is applicable and sensitive too—touching on Mayor Romero's comments—one of the things that may help all business across spectrum is having an understanding of all brainpower. It does not mean every best idea has yet come forward. Community members will create guidelines they will implement. Thus it would be helpful, without prejudice, if the business is willing to provide these guidelines to the County, the County could then present by category as models for other businesses within category. Might find a gem or two to help keep employees and patrons safe and instill confidence. Just an idea—takes staffing from County.



Glad to know County is working around the clock—really appreciate that. Proud to be resident of Pima County.

Mr. Huckelberry—Thank you. Your idea for adding bar code on badge for those following best practices is something we will implement.

Trish Muir, Pima Area Labor Federation—Thank you for including labor. We are happy to be part of the conversation. Listening to everything, like to point out we are still in midst of pandemic and threat is real. Not sure which phase we are in but have real concerns about worker safety. Messaging we heard about Pima County being open business and is safe is great, but we are all sitting at distance in masks. We want strong economy and people to be back at work but concern is worker safety. The guidelines are great but it is important that they are actually implemented. Want to see employers are responsible and taking care of their employees. Will read through this material but main concern is safety for the worker, work environment, and community/customers.

Mr. Huckelberry—have consistently heard about employers who are concerned about the health of their employees. That's why County is going to extra length to get PPE for employees. Big emphasis on our part.

Trish Muir—people with health conditions, is there anything in place to protect them? If I'm at risk, do I give up my job to protect my life?

Mr. Huckelberry—some of those issues are addressed in federal legislation to make sure those concerns are known. We can discuss more in next steps but want to go back to Dr. Robbins before he has to leave the call.

President Robert Robbins, University of Arizona—listening to all comments. There are unresolved issues. We will be in this “new normal” until we get a vaccine which could take 3-4 years. Oxford Group which is working on vaccine for MERS, has taken this timeframe. Then have to manufacture, distribute, and administer 300 million in our country (600 million if booster is required) and 7 billion worldwide. We have to figure out how to open and manage in the meantime.

Will share white paper with the UA's plan to test, trace, and treat. How many students are coming back? Tried to preserve every job we can. Once know students are projected back, we might be able to revise the furlough. Getting good at remote working and physical distancing. Has to be a big part of going forward. We do not want to end up like New York City with dire circumstances and so many on ventilators. It is good that we are working together. Will stay on call.

Mr. Huckelberry—we would appreciate a copy of the white paper as a best practice for larger employers.

Fletcher McCusker, Rio Nuevo President—Rio Nuevo's life blood is restaurants which can be open but many have chosen not to. To Mayor Romero's point, they are confused. They need training, maybe Kathleen Eriksen or Brent DeRaad can talk about. We are not close to our own guidelines. Retails, barber shops, restaurants are open despite criteria. Are we collectively ignoring our own criteria? If so, we are not going to budge Governor. We need to be on same page. Testing is a big issue. Thinks all servers and restaurant workers should be tested to eliminate those who are positive. We need some guidance. What help can we give them? It is not clear as to how we reopen which is why many are not.



Mr. Huckelberry—when I get into next steps, I will go into that. More comments?

David Adame, Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.—business has difficulty getting PPP loans. Something we need to be aware of as not many issued and need help getting through. Dr. Robbins—you were great on the *Today Show*.

Chancellor Lee Lambert, Pima Community College—thank you so much. Thank you Dr. Robbins for working with us with testing, tracing, and treating. We have our own recovery plan—we are concerned about health and wellness of employees' especially vulnerable population. Incorporating technology into classroom. Also, working with students and large employers with lab programs is difficult but will figure something out to continue to allow these two groups to work together.

NEXT STEPS

Mr. Huckelberry—these guidelines will go to Board next Wednesday or Thursday during special meeting to put the 17 measures in place and update the Pima County Health Code, which will make it enforceable during pandemic. Goal to have in place by Thursday at latest. We will try to get proclamation finished by noon tomorrow to share ahead of Board adoption. These will be temporarily enforceable regulations. Some are not enforceable but strongly recommended. Things like social distancing are enforceable, etc. There is debate in the community as to where we are. Our view is best measures need to get out as quickly as possible to educate industry as quickly as possible. This taskforce and subcommittees will stay in place and will be subject to meet as called. So if conditions change, we can call this group back to business. If we work our way out with decreased cases and hospitalizations, we will then basically come back in 30 days and ask all participants for thoughts about measures and consider improvements. It is an organic process. We need to be flexible and change as quickly as possible. Appreciate input, it is very valuable. Important that we do things together.

Chairman Ramon Valadez—to address Fletcher's question, we have had this discussion. Provision under Title 26 states that we have to follow the Executive Order of the Governor as the County. So within the boundaries of that order, we have defined best practices to help provide better guidance.

Mr. Huckelberry—Governor's order is very generic. Our 17 points for restaurants are very specific—they are not in conflict but better define how to safely implement the order.

David Hutchens, UNS Energy—most important thing we can do is give clarity in messaging. There are a bunch of different websites and media saying different things. At end of the day, you can say we can all be safe, but there has to be one place that says how we can achieve that today. What is today's X, Y, and Z to do to be safe? That way it is all the same and consistent. Commitment from community will not come if they are confused.

David Adame, Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.—we operate schools that do not have resources to test and trace. Is there a plan to help other schools in the region?

President Robert Robbins, University of Arizona—it is challenging to get the testing for the community. Antibody tests will be available for all healthcare workers and first responders in the State. Couldn't have done that without the County's help. Not practical to do testing every day for antibodies. There will



be point-of-care testing that will be reliable. Two different tests are available: viral—are you infected when tested vs. antibody—have you had it? Was hopeful the latter would show New York numbers but

they are the epicenter of the virus in the world so much higher population. Ours is at about 5%. This will be important for random testing but low number for policy decisions. It will help for vaccine to know who will get it first but it is complicated—reliability and validity are important. Struggling to do own testing and so is State and the County. We will have test kits but it is the analysis of the kits that is harder to do, it is really complicated and do not have one entity service everybody. We are running results out of an FDA authorized lab and we cannot run enough tests for our own needs, which is why PPE, social distancing and handwashing continue to be important until there is a vaccine.

Mr. Huckelberry—Thank you for all of your time. We will meet again within 30 days maybe sooner if something else happens that requires it.

Meeting adjourned at 3:26pm