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Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting held on March 16, 2020 at 3:20 PM in the Commissioners Board Room, 6683 County Rd 13, Conejos, CO. 81129

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Vice Chair- Carlos Garcia called the Special Meeting to order at 3:25 PM.

Members present were: Vice-Chair-Carlos Garcia  
Vice-Chair-Steve McCarroll  
Chrmn-Mitchell Jarvies- Phone  
Tressesa Martinez- County Admn.

Also present were Nick Sarmiento-County Attorney, Connie Ricci- HR Director and AnnaBelle Gomez, Deputy Clerk; all Conejos County elected officials and Department heads, etc.

Pledge of Allegiance

Comm. Garcia led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiace.

Prayer: Comm. McCarroll gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda with the deletion of Sheriff Crowther- Jail Issue, he will be on the agenda on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March: Comm. McCarroll/Second Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

2-0 Motion carried.

Adminstrator's Correspondence- None

County Attorney - None

COVID-19- Discussion-Elected Officials/Department Heads

Comm. Garcia turned the time over to Rodney King-Emergency Manager.

Rodney started out by saying that we have all heard a lot of things about the COVID 19. We try to get the correct information out. We were on a conference call with Public Health and Emergency Managers and they stated that we should practice social distancing which means staying away from each other 6 feet, no big groups, and staying home.

They have closed a lot of events in Colorado and across the country. The president said he didn't want groups larger than 10 which makes it real tough- some families are bigger than 10. When we get an infection it starts off and pretty soon the curve goes way high before it starts to peak out. The idea is to take that curve and flatten it so it doesn't go as high but it might last a little longer and there is a reason for that. The reason for social distancing is because our health care system cannot take that overload, it is just not built to handle it. They have some capacity to increase but they are like just the rest of us. They don't have all the staff they want, all the rooms and all the medicines so if we can slow down the spread of this virus like the flu; if we can slow it down then we can handle it as a country and as a county. If we suspect that then just stay home don't go to work don't spread it all over. The schools are looking at some direction, they are on spring break now but they may extend that out. There are pros and cons to a lot of things. It is not something that is real easy; but the underlying factor is we want to save lives. Social distancing is going to cost money, all things are being cancelled and it is costing people money but if we save lives it is well worth it.

Rodney stated that they work together as a region as much as they can, Emergency Managers and Public Health. This is a Public Health incident so public health has the lead on it, they have the expertise. We work with Public Health in making decisions that we need to make. They started last week with an incident command system. Rodney had the ICS Systems on the board and explained the following: First of all part of this group is a policy group. For the county the policy group is the County Board of Commissioners, the manager, Sheriff and elected officials, municipal elected officials, State and Federal Agency, hospital CEO's, School District Superintendents, Water and Sanitation, Fire and EMS district chiefs, and legal staff. They pull that together with the emergency management. Emergency managers assist; we don't take control of anything. The only authority that he has is what authority is given to him by the commissioners, department heads and the sheriff department. He can guide and assist. What the policy group does is come together and make policies, if we are going to make social distancing that's a decision this group makes, if Denise decides she doesn't want to do this then we may not get it done. One of the things that we are looking at is making a declaration in the county; this is a complex incident it is not simple.

Rodney stated that they will have an incident command team that should involve all of Public Health. We are putting this together. We have a departmental health center set up for the region but this is too much

for one department person to handle. We are learning as we go through and organizing the best way we know how. They tie in so they try to speak to a unified voice especially on our public information on what they put out. It is confusing because Conejos is saying something and Costilla and Alamosa something different; so they try to have a unified message out. Since this is county specific we will have our own ICS structure set up for the county. This can grow or shrink depending on what the situation is. Denise and he will be the incident commanders for the county. They will have a joint information center and will have a policy group. The policy group will advise them but if things change they may say we need to do this we haven't done enough, their job is to try and implement those things. Public information is one of the biggest challenges that we have-rumors spread and it is not even close to the truth. He just got off the phone with Gunnison-they are trying to keep up so that people don't panic so people don't buy two shopping carts of toilet paper and paper towels. They will try to get a unified message of information that is true, they set up a joint center and they search all the net and find out what is being said on the newspapers, radios, face book, twitter, and try to make corrections. They will have that pretty soon. They have operational, a planning section- they organize the meetings they generally have a meeting or call and talk about what their objectives are for that day, what things they need to accomplish. Then they have one in the evening and that tells them what they have gotten done. They have a logistical and managing section- one section that does the ordering if we need to have things. The last one is finance/administration- the president declared a national emergency that could free up 80 billion dollars. This is going to cost everybody in the country money; there will be an economic cost. Hopefully we can recover some of those things with that money which we all pay into anyway. We must keep very accurate records it is reimbursement, they are very particular about their records. You have to detail every penny and how it was spent, have receipts, invoices, everything and why it was needed. We will get the finance set up so they can do that. All the hours that we spend on Covid 19 should be reimbursable.

Denise- Public Health Director stated that as they receive those handouts, names on there are not necessarily the positions, they were suggested; they have not been approved by our board. That is in another session; people might see their name and they might say they weren't aware of this.

Rodney stated that is true, they are trying to fill positions. One of the recommendations he will make to the board is we will have to approve some overtime for some departments. They are trying to use

technology but if everybody tries to use it, it will be really slow. One of the problems is that there are not too many people that are actually trained in the county to fulfill one of these positions; they have not had the ICS training you need to have that training to understand what you are supposed to do. They will do some on the job training with them and try to get them up to date where they need to be. The other counties in their meeting are going to try to accomplish 2 things this week, what they have been told by their regional field manager from the Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management is we need to get ahead of this thing is not try to catch up that is why we are meeting and trying to pass some resolutions and declarations. He is going to be asking the commissioners to pass an emergency declaration resolution so we can get that taken care of. That will allow us to do certain things and get reimbursements if possible. The other thing that he and Denise have talked about is recommending that we declare a public health disaster leaning to groups not bigger than 30 some went to 50, some are changing it to 20 some are going to do 10. Our feeling is to try to keep groups of 30 or less. Schools could be exempt from that. I think they are waiting to get word from Colorado Department of Education, Governor so forth to give them direction. Closing schools also creates a problem what all those kids going to be doing. There are a lot of things to consider when we make decisions. The top thing is can we save lives.

Denise stated that when they are talking about groups of 30 or less we are talking about halls, baby showers, birthday parties, Parish Halls, and church gathering space. That affects places like their Senior Centers. This is a long thought out process and we are taking direction from one of the counties that has been impacted the hardest which is Gunnison County and as Rodney stated we are encouraged to jump on that now to limit the affect because they are in crisis mode. They are encouraging them to try and prevent that from happening in the valley. As a reminder we do not have any cases yet in the SLV. We do not have any in Conejos County but we are trying to curve that potential. It's a matter of when.

Rodney stated that it could be that we have not been tested, or people might not be reporting it there are a lot of factors there. Right now there is no case in the valley. We are not going to be escaped.

Rodney stated that one recommendation is to pass a 30 person limiting on gatherings and pass it through the 1<sup>st</sup> of April through the middle of April and renewing it if they need to, the other thing is the county declare an emergency disaster. We don't need to have it going on right now but we have the potential for it. Early declaration is

also important it helps us out. One of the things he was told last week by Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management that takes care of these things for the county is don't ask us to send you any personnel. For the Spring Fire they had people from all over the state, they should not ask because they are not available. They can offer whatever support they can maybe such things as supplies. We are not going to be able to call to send a logistic person or PIO; it won't happen.

Kelly- Conejos County Hospital Admn.- We have tested 9 patients in the SLV. We have a limited number of tests in the valley that we can administer. One of the confusing things is the information that you are getting on the news about the drive by testing clinics and that there is going to be an abundance testing in the communities. That is just not the case. As of this morning we were down to 100 tests in the SLV health system and we were the only ones testing in the SLV. We have a nurse triage line and we have not identified a lot of people that have met criteria for testing but I think we are quickly going to hear that we are moving to mitigation and not testing. We are going to have to turn to other ways of surveillance meaning symptoms in persons and looking for a surge for the hospital. We will reserve for people who are sick enough to be hospitalized or very high risk patients in our community. We have received 2 tests back. The turnaround time is longer than what you are hearing in the news. The state in over ran and can only run about 200 tests a day. They are trying to work with private labs to get more testing material and speed up those turnaround times. She was informed this morning that the private labs are not answering their phones. This a federal crisis and we just have to move into mitigation as Rodney is saying. She was serving as incident commander for the first week but has stepped down to operations but preparation is absolutely the right thing to do.

Samantha stated that communicating with the State Health Department can reiterate that they are prioritizing testing to those that they are considering high risk. They are working on protocols now moving to not testing and just going on case symptoms and that type of thing and working towards community mitigation verses individual isolation measures.

Aaron Abeyta- Antonito Town Mayor asked if he can get some clarifications from the health care professionals as to a symptomatic transmission and whether or not that is a fact or a fiction.

Kelly-stated that one of the things that changed at the state from her understanding in the last couple of weeks is that they didn't have any

community spread Covid19 at one point- meaning our original cases came from visitors that came out of state that had close contact with them and other citizens developed symptoms. We have had community spread cases and now they are saying the incubation period can be as short as 2 days and up to 14 days so there are identifying places where they know that people have had Covid19 and if they had positive contact they are waiting until they actually have symptoms which is typically fever, congestion, cough, upper or lower respiratory infection and you are assuming they are positive, they are being directed to isolate for 14 days until they are fever free and not having to use ibuprofen and Tylenol or any type of cough suppressants. The information changes about 2 or 3 times a day. We are doing our best to update our web page to the kind of source of truth. She has been sending information to their staff but it changes as quick to them as it does for you. For example yesterday they were told to start testing even if they had flu like symptoms, they don't need to have a positive risk travel, now they are saying test those that have symptoms of influenza and 2 hours later they said they don't have enough tests. Be patient with us, we have a very good nurse triage in place. If you call any of our main numbers first option is 9 to speak to a nurse. We are trying to direct people to the right location. We have a Covid clinic that we can treat patients or if they need emergency care we can send them to the emergency department; our emergency here in Conejos and Alamosa are prepared to take care of patients and also our clinic. We don't know how long it can live in someone's system. Most people will get mild symptoms but most at risk patients will get more severe symptoms.

Aaron asked what if somebody doesn't show any signs are they capable of transmitting.

Kelly stated that she would say yes.

Noami Keys asked who is more susceptible to it.

Kelly stated that the elderly, those with diabetes and COPD, those with chronic illnesses, children are not getting it we don't know why but they are not getting it as rapidly as adults are. A lot of people that are going to get tested are in their 30's and 40's, it might be because the ski areas were hit the hardest but the patients that are hospitalized are those that have chronic health conditions.

Kelly stated that corona virus is the cause of SARS but there are multiple strains so when you go to the doctor and they run a respiratory panel on you before it used to be positive for corona virus that is not this one this one is covid19. They have taken it off

their panel that they release to patients because it was causing confusion so this is novel strain and we are trying to learn about it like the rest of the world.

Comm. Garcia asked Rodney to please inform those present what Conejos County is going to do as far as the media we are going to use to let people know what we have done. We have our website [www.conejoscounty.org](http://www.conejoscounty.org) what other media are you planning to use.

Rodney stated that he has EMS face book they will try to update the information, suggest that they use Ever Bridge on numbers they can call; they will try to set up a line here where people can call and just ask questions about it. Gunnison has really been successful they are getting around 200 calls a day and they are very happy getting their questions answered and getting the correct information. Denise and he will sit down and figure out what else they can do. He doesn't twitter or those other things. Maybe they can get posters out, an ad in the paper; we need to coordinate with the regional one. They have a regional PIO that try to get some information out today that they can share. He stated that the EMS face book he did put numbers for CDPHE and CDC that you can call. There are also some websites, if you go to ready.gov they tell you what to be prepared for. There are some scam sites that are not government.

Nick Barela-DSS stated that they have to look at specific pages at the website because there will be services that they will be able to provide.

Denise- Public Health stated that there is the SLV Emergency on the Unified Messaging on all 6 counties; Connie is also updating the website and it is also on their marquis.

Rodney stated that we have a lot of citizens that don't have phones and don't get the messages and not signed on our messaging system it makes it tough to know that they are not getting the messages. He sent over 3000 and only 180 responded that they said they did. We rely on you to spread the word. They have a great family system here in the valley.

Denise-Public Health stated that they will be putting up posters and anyone who needs to call please call 274-4307 and they can send something in the mail as well.

Rodney stated that they know they are going to be short on supplies, we can't fill all of the demands; most of our stuff comes from China and India, if you have gloves use them.

Kelly stated that it is a droplet disease but they are recommending that people that are doing evasive procedures wear a ninety five. If they are responding to a patient and they are symptomatic they are putting a mask on then. One other recommendation is that they put them on the reverse isolation room; we have 2 in Conejos County Hospital we are prepared for that. A lot of what we are doing with social distancing is very similar to what we have done with other air borne diseases like TB and other things. One thing is to clean your work spaces because it can live on surfaces for multiple hours, wash your hands for 20 seconds several times a day.

Nick Sarmiento-County Attorney asked: what are the plans of the school districts right now?

Curt Wilson-North Conejos School District- stated that they met this morning to decide to come to our public entities health department to seek and gather the information on what we have.

Aaron Abeyta-Antonito Town Mayor stated that the Town of Antonito is waiting for a threshold of the first confirmed case in the SLV, then move to essential employees, closing the town hall, trash service and any sort of first responders like our police crew. We will try and mitigate as best we can to isolate the Town Hall as a place of transmission.

Larry Zaragoza- La Jara Town Mayor stated that they met on Friday of last week and they put a response plan. Right now the concern is about services. They had a few people from the Valley Wide Dental Office. Services will continue we will make sure that employees stay safe so we can continue services for the community and residents.

Brian Crowther from the Town of Sanford stated that they are looking for any direction from the county asked if there are any resolutions that the towns pass. We have the head start in Sanford but has not visited with them yet.

Judge Cortez stated that the chief judge spoke that anything that can be continued or moved out a couple of months. We are going to utilize phone appearances as much as possible, no jury trials for at least two months. District Attorney will be working on an agreement to get as



many people as appropriate to bond out of jail so we don't have an increase jail population. They will still have some court.

Annette Sanchez- Probation stated that effective immediately starting on Friday they will not meet face to face with clients until May 1<sup>st</sup>. They are sending the clients letters, they will meet with them by telephone.

Connie HR- stated that we have to rely on the incident commands to keep us in line. She suggested to the leaders to be pro-active and re-active.

Andrea-Forest Service stated that their office is closed to the public right now; people need to call in.

Samantha Escobedo stated that people should stay home if you are sick, self-isolate, use creativity stay 6 feet apart; but we want to make sure services remain but not do more harm.

Denise- Public Health stated that they need to be careful with Mental Health. There is a high rate of anxiety. Need to check on those seniors that are being cut off their recreation, church, etc.

Aaron asked if there is a plan for meal delivery.

Denise stated that meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. We have a high population that rely on that meal; home delivery right now will not stop it will be left at the door. We are concerned about the meals that are delivered to the senior centers.

Comm. Garcia mentioned that they would like to add something to the 30 group thing if it is similar to the one Saguache adopted there was something about the memberships such as those that are more susceptible such as those 55 plus, you probably don't want to have that meeting or excuse them from attending. From the counties' perspective how many of our services can be done remotely.

Annette Sanchez from probation stated that it is important to have good information or we will get in panic mode.

Rodney-EMS stated that people should sit down and talk to your children.

Nick Sarmiento stated that people want a unified voice.

Aaron Abeyta stated that he believes they are looking for guidance right now.

Brian stated that the valley is a community. We share citizens back and forth from church to business to schools. We should have some consistency in our county.

Comm. McCarroll stated that we are trying to have that consistency between our counties and the other counties. We want to see what Alamosa is going to do to protect our people.

Rodney stated that one thing Samantha brought up this morning was that some citizens don't take orders very well. We want them to get the help they need.

Officer Maruffo asked what are they doing with the citizens that don't speak English.

Rodney stated that in the past they have tried to get English and Spanish messages out, the state does both.

Marietta Clark from Public Health stated that their messages are both in English and Spanish.

Nick Sarmiento as the municipalities what type of quarantine are they imposing if it's 15 days we want to help your efforts; they have their own jurisdiction.

Chrmn. Jarvies-via telephone stated that we need to figure out a plan so we can move forward.

Comm. McCarroll felt they should ask Samantha what her recommendations are.

Samantha stated that she and Denise have talked a little bit about it. The recommendations are constantly changing. The last recommendation was 50 people. We heard that the president recommended 10 people; some of our immediate families are bigger than 10. Carlos brought up a very valid point he sees a recommendation of 10, we need to look at the 20-30 range. We need to write the order to leave us room to revise that as recommendations come out.

Nick Sarmiento asked who is and isn't essential in the departments.

Denise stated that they are looking at that. They will send one person to staff the regional in Alamosa. They are looking at who they can keep but they are such a small staff; that could mean letting 1 or 2 not come to work.

Nathan-County Clerk stated that other counties that have been involved as per today's correspondence many are closing and not doing any business whatsoever; some are closing to the public and some are remaining in the office doing work. I would like to see that we adopt something quickly and possibly make an adjustment to our regular business hours or close completely to the public, we can do stuff over the phone or via-email. There is no way to work remotely from home as far as my office is concerned.

Mack Crowther-Treasurer/Public Trustee stated that they really can't work from home they are only two employees but a lot of things can be done on line. The counties up north have closed, 2 more closed today. We will support whatever you want to do.

Nick Barela-DSS stated that they don't have the ability to close down services at DSS. What he would recommend is stop any interaction with clients which is any face to face contact. There are some programs that will require that which is the Child Welfare Department Adult Protection but for public assistance department it is impossible for us to do. The state has ordered them 22 lap tops for our workers to potentially work at home. His employees will be able to do that but about 75% of the participants don't have the access to apply on line, submit documents, etc. Right now he recommends limiting the amount of face to face exposure that they have with any of their clients.

Naomi Keys stated that they are in a difficult position. She has herself and another employee that have autoimmune diseases and the field worker is out there shaking hands with everybody. They could stay in the office and work because it is not realistic to try and work from home. She has access to some things but most of what they need is in here in the vault. She has not heard of anybody else closing because they have audit and mandates coming up in April.

Linda-Land Use stated that in their office they could accommodate people with electronic applications. She also has an inspector who is out and about every day needing to inspect septic systems or doing an inspection for non-compliance and those types of things. We would just work by phone.

Donnie- Road and Bridge- We are limited on crew in different departments. I believe we can keep working.

Nick Sarmiento asked about PCP's and asked Denise to explain the PCP program.

Denise stated that they have received directive last week from HCPF that the Case Mangers for OLTC are to not conduct any face to face services so all that is being done by telephone. The PCP's they are trying to figure that out. They have a screening tool because we cannot stop those services. We call to the client ahead of time and screen out those questions. If they are sick we will not enter the home. Some our services we can do electronically but the other departments we can't. We are taking precautions. We are looking at contingency plans if they have a backup with a family member or if they can get by without a home provider. The PCP's are the provider that go into the home of their clients and provide tasks such as cleaning, cooking, assistance with bathing, getting dressed, etc. things that are not skilled that only a nurse can do. They have about 78-80 in the Conejos County.

Nick Sarmiento asked if there is a way that they can get services even if they are sick?

Connie stated that from the Human Services respective the CDC has guidelines right now. She proceeded to read those which include things such as staff need to stay home when they are sick, allow to work from home when possible and identify critical job functions. There are some guidelines with the State of Colorado. Those non-exempt employees will get paid. The PCP employees do not have benefits. They will have to get paid if they come down with Covid. We will have to decide if we are going to set aside a separate sick leave, etc. also talked about Workman's Comp.

Tressesa- County Admn. stated that as far as the commissioners and administration office they can remotely work from home. If something was to happen the accountant could do payroll from home.

Sheriff Crowther stated that they instated several things last Friday. They will not accept prisoners if they can summons and release which goes for municipalities also. They are going to try to PR Bond and meet with the Public Defenders and DA's. There will be no out of valley transports. They went to no visitation. Probation, mental health, etc. will be permitted into the office and be able to talk to their client through the visitation window; will try to cover as many

calls by phone. All prisoners that they have to take will be medically cleared, and limiting the people in and out. If you close the courthouse and people can't renew their plates we are in agreement that we will not enforce it; believes the state patrol is going to do the same thing. He did send out an MOU with all the county agencies in the valley, we have had a very good response if we are running short we can get law enforcement; but it is an understanding if they run short we might be sending some of our people there.

Ernest- Ambulance stated that they cannot do anything remotely from home. They are frontline no matter what the situation is whether it's an outbreak, huge emergency, fire, anything. They will try to respond to everything they can as they can. We are very limited on resources. They will take precautions to keep themselves safe, work along with Conejos County Hospital, SLV Health, and follow the guidelines from CDPHE and CDC.

Kelly-stated that she feels that there is a need from EMS to get more supplies right away. As a RETAC share she has heard that they are strained on things such as surgical masks, gowns, the 95's in particular. If EMS can release some of those supplies a little sooner.

Ernest stated that dispatch is doing their own protocols; they will be asking if anyone has been in contact with anyone that has been tested or showing any symptoms. They are going off 3 bullet points.

Robert Lockwood-Veterans Officer the best way is not to have office visits until whatever parameters you set. Most things he can handle by phone. He will not be doing any outreach services right now. He is also at risk and most of the veterans are of elderly age and are having a lot of health problems. He will have to reschedule some things. He will probably be working out of the office via phone or computer.

Richard Martin-Coroner- This is a lot more serious than we think; we need to stop this before it gets going even 1% is too many. We will inspect every death. They haven't shut down the doors but they are limited to investigations. I encourage anyone that thinks they are at risk to stay away from people.

Chrmn. Jarvies-via-telephone stated this is new to everybody. He recommends that they adopt limiting people of 30 or less, county operations they can look at and leave it to each department head and

they can make an adjustment if necessary. He felt that we adopt something similar to Saguache. We are prepared to declare emergency.

Mary Jane Valdez -has experience with crisis care she handled the Houston flooding and El Paso shootings; she was there almost close to a month in each place. She stated that one thing they want to do is as you are shutting things down is put it in a proactive way it terms of not causing panic states in individuals. What happened in El Paso did not have to happen it caused trauma because of the way the information was coming out. Right now everybody is at edge; do it in a way that it is still comforting to the community.

Nick Sarmiento stated that there are two things that they should consider one is a public order and a limitation of social distancing and limitation of no more than 30 people unless there is a different number that the commissioners want to consider and also a resolution for Disaster in and for Conejos County.

Nick proceeded to read the resolution for disaster-The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act as per Revised Statute § 24-33.5-701, et. Seq. provide procedures for state wide and local prevention for, response to, and recovery from disasters; etc. Beginning on March 16, 2020 and ending on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Rodney-EMS asked if that covers the incorporated areas or do they have to do the same.

Nick Sarmiento stated that we are the political subdivision and the other municipalities don't have their own public health.

Comm. Garcia stated that he does want to talk about social distancing also are we going to let the department heads decide whether they are going to let their employees work remotely. Social distancing is a big thing. For the safety of our employees I would like to see that happen. As long as we can get it out to the public to let them know that we will be closing the courthouse or are they going to open up for maybe one day out of the week.

Comm. McCarroll stated that first they need to adopt the declaration and then we as a county can meet to see what we do for our people. He felt they should go with the 30 people gathering and also the distancing.

Nick stated the first is the declaration itself and the other is a public health order.

Motion to Declare a Disaster In and For Conejos County, Colorado:  
Comm. McCarroll/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

2-0 motion carried.

The board recessed for 10 minutes.

The board reconvened the meeting; Comm. Garcia stated that this meeting will be turned over into a Public Health Meeting; after that they will re-convene their Commissioner's Meeting.

Denise stated that at this point they want to talk about what they want to implement as far as their social gathering limitation number. They are recommending Conejos County Public Health and her as Director are recommending that the cap is at 30 and put in the clause until further notice.

Nick-County Attorney stated that they are referencing a document that was created by Saguache County and in that document they have a definition of events and what an event does not constitute, Nick proceeded to read that for purposes of this order an event is a gathering for business, social or recreational activities or a location that engages in or allows activities which takes place indoors or outdoors, included but limited to community, civic, public, leisure, sporting events, parades, concerts, festivals, assemblies, places of worship, conventions, fundraisers, restaurants that have a capacity of 30 or more persons or have more than 30 persons present, community recreational centers, libraries, child care centers, and similar locations and activities.

Denise stated that child care fall under school recommendation.

Nick will exclude that from the event.

Samantha wasn't sure if all child care is under schools so maybe go ahead and include it.

Nick stated that excluded schools and is proposing that the same language be used. At this point they are not closing schools; they are watching the outbreak closely and may determine that school closures are necessary. Schools, parents and employers should take steps now to the possibility of prolonged mandatory closures. Schools should plan on how to continue to provide educational support for their students such as providing food, developmental disability support, and school based health care; asked Denise if she agrees with that language.

Denise said yes.

Mary Jane Valdez asked if it national or state that goes first before the county.

Nick-attorney asked if the schools are okay with that.

Curt Wilson said yes.

Nick-attorney stated that one thing that Saguache excluded from an event were places of employment for federal, state, local and special district employees, employees of public utilities and restaurants as long as restaurants adhere to the requirements for social distancing; asked Denise if she agrees with that language.

Denise said yes.

Nick stated that this will be for and unincorporated areas in the county and incorporated.

Samantha asked Nick if they make this order and there are new recommendations can we revise the order to reflect those.

Nick said yes the order should be for 2 weeks at a time; things are moving quickly.

Comm. Garcia asked Denise if it should be until further notice.

Denise stated that it would be until further notice by weekly review as recommended by their attorney.

Nick-Attorney asked if there is any other social distancing that she is recommending.

Denise stated that specific to restaurants is in regards to table placements and recommended footage between tables, and no more than 6 at a table.

Kevin Edgar stated that he is now reading that restaurants are ordered to cease dine in and they can do takeout orders for 30 days.

Motion to approve **STANDING PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER RELATED TO COVID-19 EVENTS** pursuant to C.R.S. § 25-1-506 and other applicable authority,



this Order sets for the guidance and requirements for, as well as limitations on, group gatherings to slow the spread of Covid-19 Virus.

On March 10, 2020 the Governor of Colorado declared a state of emergency related to the presence of Covid-19 in the State. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has confirmed that the Covid-19 continues to spread throughout the State of Colorado.

On March 13, 2020 the President of the United States declared a National Emergency due to Covid-19, and gave further guidance on March 16, 2020.

The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population in Conejos County places it at risk of serious health complications, including death from Covid-19, etc.

This order is adopted pursuant to the legal authority set forth in sections 25-1-506 and 25-1-508, C.R.S. under these laws, The Conejos County Public Health Director has the duty to investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health and to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine, and in pursuance thereof, and for this purpose only, to exercise physical control over property and over the persons of the people within the jurisdiction of the agency as the agency may find necessary for the protection of the public health.

This order shall apply to all unincorporated areas of Conejos County, Colorado and all incorporated (municipal) areas that do not have their own public health agency.

All the events must follow the requirements stated herein.

**DEFINITIONS-Event**

**SCHOOLS-** At this point we are not recommending closing schools, etc.

**ORDER-**All events of more than 10 people or more are prohibited. Social distancing recommendations must be met, These include limiting contact of people within 6 feet from each other for 10 minutes or longer, and any other guidance.

Employees must be screened for Covid-19 each day and excluded if symptomatic.

**FUTHER GUIDANCE**

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL PERSONS AFFECTED BY THIS ORDER call 719 274-4307.

Comm. Garcia asked if participants have to be screened.

Nick-attorney stated: Events with fewer than 30 attendees are prohibited unless event organizers take the following steps to mitigate risks, older adults, social distancing must be met, if there are employees at the event they must be screened for Corona virus if they have symptoms; people older than 60 cannot attend the event.

Denise said they can give them a check list; mentioned that they can eliminate that piece of older adults.

This order is in effect until midnight time April 15, 2020, and is subject to continue review by the Public Health Director.

Motion to approve as amended: Comm. McCarroll/Second. Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

2-0 Motion carried.

Connie- HR asked about the Republic and Democratic Assembly.

Nathan-Clerk and Recorder stated that they are going to approve proxy; one person can carry 5 proxy, they can also do it my mail ballot or calling is also available.

That concluded the Public Health Meeting.

The board resumed their Commissioner's Meeting.


Comm. Garcia stated that they will have a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>, are they going to discuss this so that elected officials can determine if they are going to close any part of the office and how are they going to let the public know.


Comm. McCarroll stated that they should have all the departments come in with their ideas.

Comm. Garcia stated that these 2 will be on the website, they will get it to the Valley Courier, public announcements, EMS-Rodney will post it, the Sheriff's Department and Public Health have their page that they will be updating.

There being no further business to come before the board, Vice-Chair Garcia adjourned the meeting at 5:45 PM.

ATTEST:

  
NATHAN RUYBAL  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

  
CARLOS GARCIA- VICE CHAIR  
BD. OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS