



COVID-19 Response + Recovery Cross- Functional Team Update

4.26.2021

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1. Overview

Tommy Gonzalez



a) Financial Focus

Robert Cortinas

COVID-19 City Response Costs

- CARES Act (Coronavirus Relief Funds) expended as of 12/30/2020
- Proactive planning for continuing response efforts with City funds
- December 2020 – Council approved the ongoing public and health response and operation expenses associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic, in an amount not to exceed \$16.8 million (\$2.5 million per month) during FY2021
- Reallocation of General Fund resources (savings) towards continuing public health and safety response
- Budget Stabilization Fund will only be used as a last resort
- Pending guidance from U.S. Treasury about American Rescue Plan eligible uses (ex. reimburse City costs since Jan. 2021)

COVID-19 Response: City Costs Since Jan.

Logistics	\$0.25	0.18	0.06	0.01
Isolation & Quarantine	0.28	0.02	0.27	0.00
Compliance	0.50	-	0.74	(0.24)
Education	0.49	-	0.45	0.03
EOC & Response	0.33	0.01	0.36	(0.04)
Lab Testing & Collection	3.63	0.17	3.10	0.36
Epidemiology & Contact Tracing	3.60	0.12	3.13	0.35
Preparedness & Immunizations	2.10	0.27	1.33	0.50
Re-open El Paso – City Facilities	0.8	0.07	0.51	0.23
Total	\$11.98M	\$0.85M	\$9.96M	\$1.18M



b) Quality of Life Portfolio

COVID-19 Response and Recovery:
Reopenings Update

Tracey Jerome

The Portfolio

- Libraries
- Museums & Cultural Affairs
- Parks & Recreation
- Zoo & Botanical Gardens
- Destination El Paso

Services:

- Virtual Programming and Outreach
- Walk-in Browsing and Checkout of Library Materials
- Research Services through the Border Heritage Center
- WorkPLACE Services for Entrepreneurs and Job Seekers
- Adult Education Services (Career Online High School)

New Services:

- Curbside Pickup of Library Materials
- Registration for COVID Vaccine

Visitation and Statistics Since April 5, 2021

(Reopening for Browsing)

El Paso Museum of Art

- Opened April 8, with 4 new exhibitions
- Since opening, 997 attendees have visited

El Paso Museum of History

- Opened April 8, with 4 new exhibitions
- Since opening, 1274 attendees have visited

Downtown Art & Farmers Market

- Opened April 10
- First two market days, total visitors:
1,684

PARKS & RECREATION

Recreation Centers

7 regional recreation centers opened on April 17, including 2 new facilities, drawing 2,386 patrons

All Spray Parks re-opened April 17, including a new facility



PARKS & RECREATION

Sports

- Youth Sports reactivated February 12
- Nations Tobin Sports Center re-opened and Adult League Sports reactivated April 17
- 3,019 permits issued and 2,085 athletes playing



EL PASO ZOO & BOTANICAL GARDENS

Reopened - February 10, 2021



- **New hours of operation**

- Wednesdays-Fridays, 9:30 AM—3 PM
- Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 AM—5 PM
- Closed on Monday and Tuesday

- Current Attendance Total: 105,660
- 2019 same period attendance: 72,191

- **Up over 33,469 guests in first 2 months!**

Record Breaking Spring Break Attendance

- 30-minute wait to get into the Zoo
- Increase of **2,156 guests** over Spring Break 2019
- Never exceeded 50% in-park capacity



EL PASO ZOO & BOTANICAL GARDENS

COVID-19 vaccine registration started 4/9



- Outside gate, admission not required
- Staffed during busy midday period
- Security staff also available to assist guests anytime Zoo is open

Animal Update



- 6 Mexican Wolf puppies born 4/20
- Cross fostering program with wolf coalition
- First time in over 50 years for the Zoo

- New 3 year old female Giraffe on display



DESTINATION EL PASO



- **Visitor Information Center (Airport)**
Reopened March 24
 - Five days a week, closed Tuesday and Saturday
 - 9 AM – 6 PM
 - Plexiglass guard to protect employees and visitors
 - Digital Visitors Guide Available
- **Virtual Visitor Services** (since March 2020)
 - VisitElPaso.com
 - Visit El Paso App
 - Visitor Support via Phone Monday through Friday

DESTINATION EL PASO



Vaccination Site

- The Convention Center transformed into a mass vaccination site: February 17-first doses administered
- Second dose administration began on March 19
- Monday-Saturday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Currently accepting walk-ins, aged 80 years and over
 - Register onsite and receive the vaccine



DESTINATION EL PASO

- **McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre**
Reopening Summer Season!



- **Cool Canyon Nights**
 - Free Music Series
 - Thursday nights, 12 weeks, June 17 – Sept 2
- **Viva El Paso!**
 - Preview performance June 30
 - Friday/Saturday weekly performances July 2 – Aug 7



DESTINATION EL PASO

- **Plaza Classic Film Festival**

Returns to the Plaza Theatre!

- Movies will be shown in the Plaza Theatre and Abraham Chavez Theatre
- July 29 – August 8

DESTINATION EL PASO



THE EL PASO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

PLAZA CLASSIC
FILM FESTIVAL®

DESTINATION EL PASO

- **Water Parks**

- City Council added Water Park operations, marketing and management to existing responsibilities in December 2020
- Currently recruiting, hiring and training up to 400 staff for operations this summer
- Phased openings beginning Memorial Day Weekend



DESTINATION EL PASO



- **Camp Cohen, District 4**
 - Opening Memorial Day Weekend

June through July additional parks will be opened as staff are recruited and trained

- **Oasis, District 5**
- **Chapoteo, District 7**
- **Lost Kingdom, District 2**



2. CAO Overview

- a) National Emergency Declaration
- b) State Disaster Declarations
- c) Emergency Ordinances
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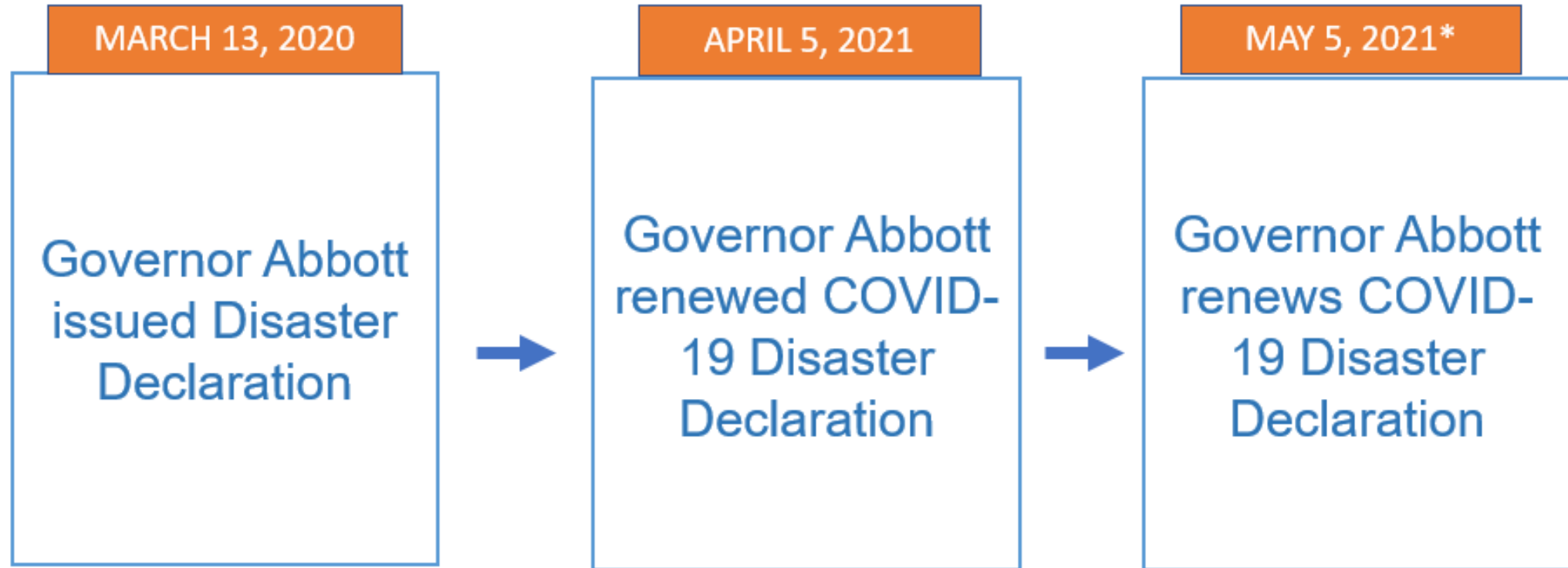
Karla Nieman

National Emergency Declaration

- The White House Declaration
 - March 13, 2020 – U.S. President declared National Emergency regarding COVID-19 pandemic
 - February 24, 2021—President Biden continued the National Emergency Concerning the COVID-19 Pandemic for another year
- U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services Public Health Emergency
 - January 27, 2020 Public Health Emergency declared
 - April 15, 2021 Secretary renewed Public Health Emergency effective April 21, 2021.



State Disaster Declarations



*Anticipate Governor Abbott will renew his Disaster Declaration between May 4th – 5th.

Emergency Ordinances

Ordinance	Adoption Date	Most Recent Re-enactment	Expires	
Disaster Declaration Ord. No. 019035	3/17/2020	3/29/2021	4/28/2021	17 th Re-enactment
Emergency Measures Ord. No. 019036	3/17/2020	3/29/2021	4/28/2021	19 th Re-enactment
Public Right of Way Ord. No. 019091	8/31/2020	3/29/2021	4/28/2021	11 th Re-enactment

City Attorney's Office COVID-19 Support

- ❖ LHA Orders
 - ❖ Guidance for Reopening Schools for In-person Instruction
 - ❖ Effective date April 7, 2021
- ❖ Virtual Meetings & TOMA Suspension Due to COVID-19 Pandemic
 - ❖ Virtual meeting coordination with:
 - ❖ City Clerk (protocol)
 - ❖ IT (software)
 - ❖ PIO
 - ❖ TOMA posting compliance
 - ❖ 84.80 hours

Legal Monitoring

- ❖ State of Texas vs. City of Austin & Travis County – Litigation – mask mandate
 - ❖ On March 26, 2021 – Judge Livingston issued a ruling in favor of the Defendant's
 - ❖ On March 30, 2021 – Defendant's filed a Notice of Appeal with the Texas 3rd Court of Appeals
 - ❖ Cause No. 03-21-00144-CV
 - ❖ On April 15, 2021- The court reporter's record and exhibits were filed in the Texas 3rd Court of Appeals Court.

Travel Restrictions – Land Ports of Entry

MARCH 24, 2020

DHS published notice to temporarily limit the travel of individuals from Mexico at land ports along the U.S.-Mexico Border to only “essential travel” due to the COVID-19 pandemic



April 19, 2021

Extended through May 21, 2021

Restricted Non-essential travel—individuals traveling for tourism purposes (e.g. sightseeing, recreation, gambling, or attending cultural events)

Legal Support During COVID-19

- ❖ Protocol for the Issuance and Enforcement of Individual Health Orders
- ❖ Bridge Renovation
- ❖ Movies on the Fly





3. CFT Operations

Chief Mario D'Agostino

4. Team Lead Reports



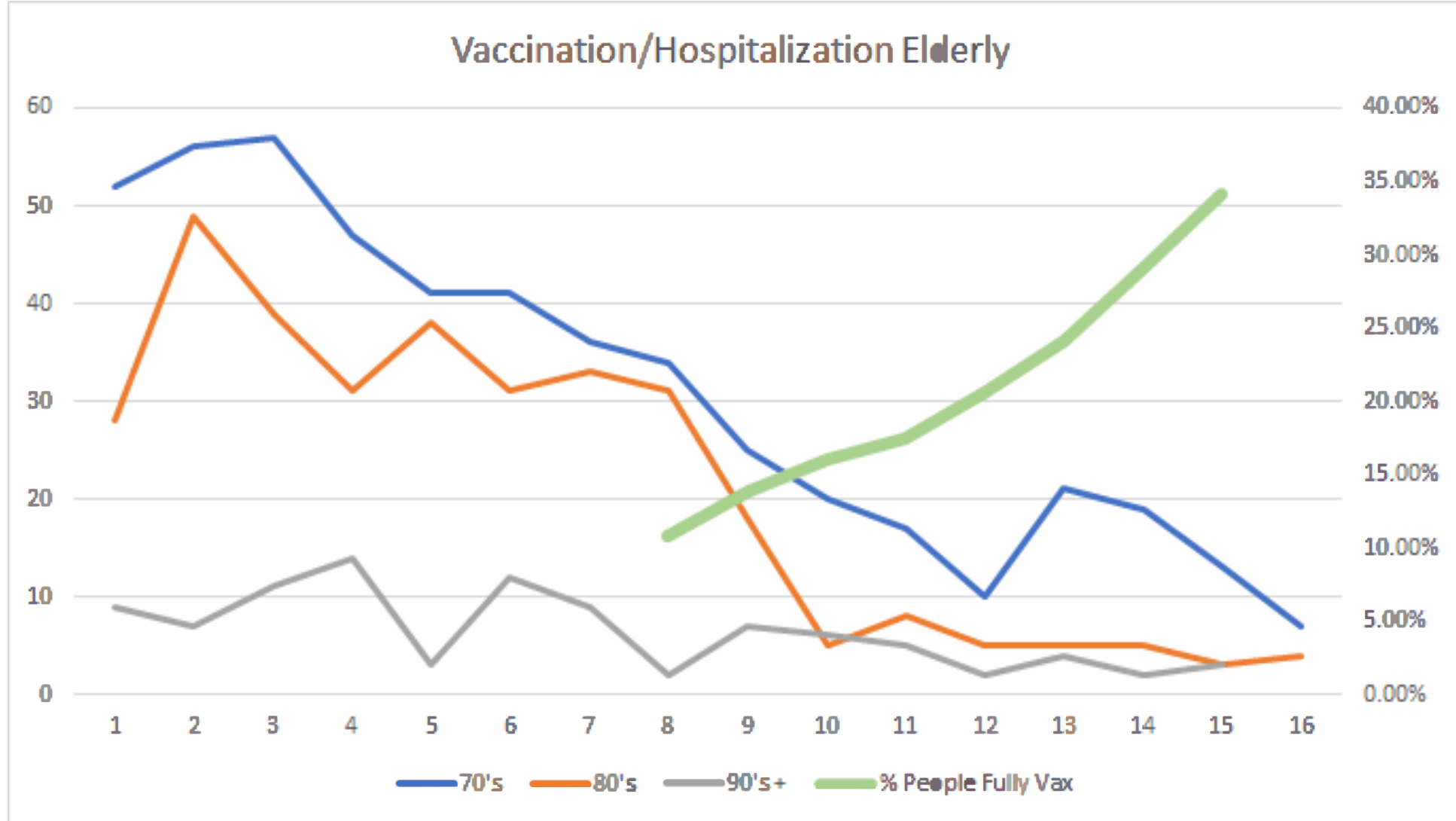
1. Health Focus

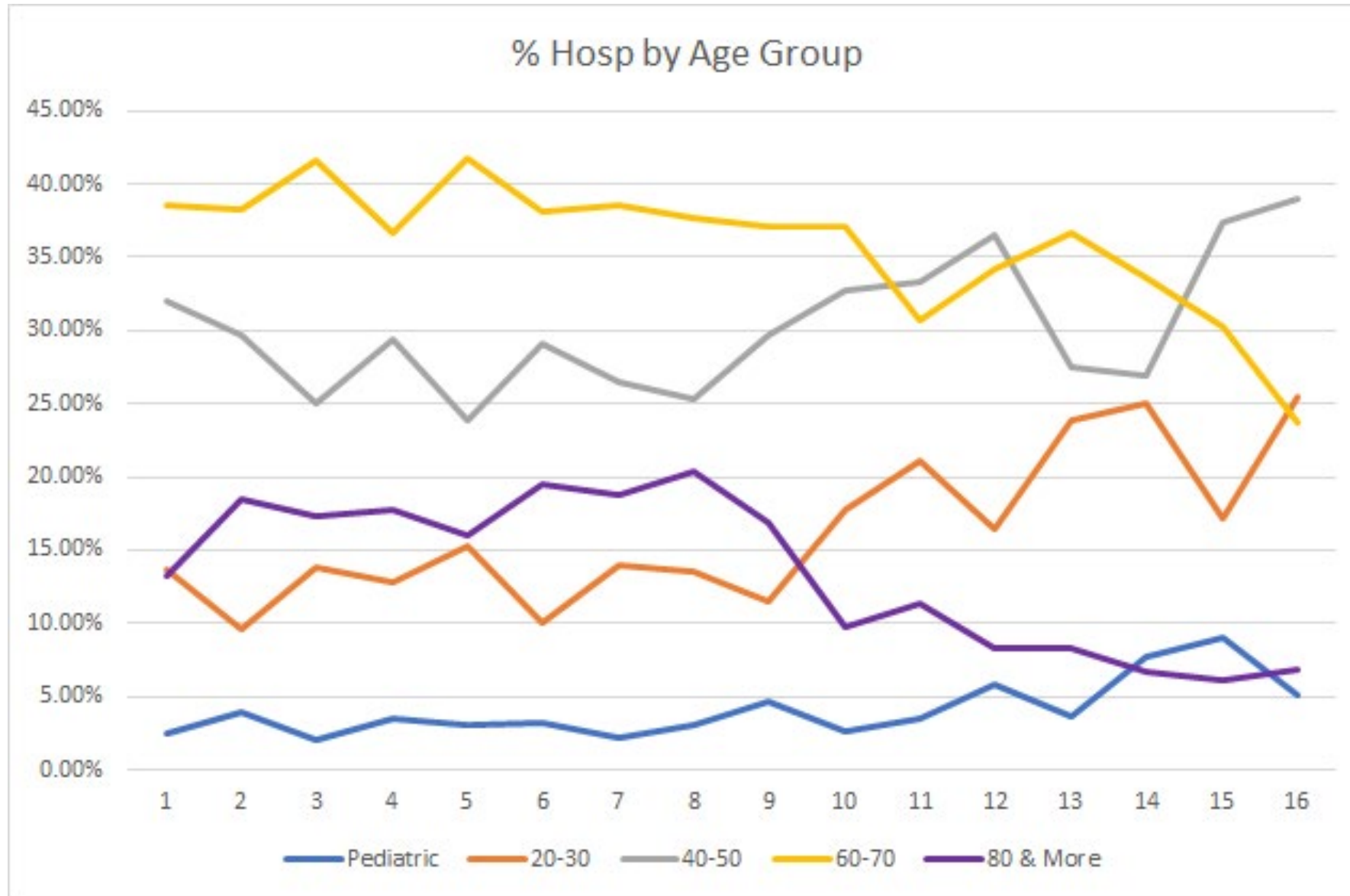
Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D.

COVID-19 Summary

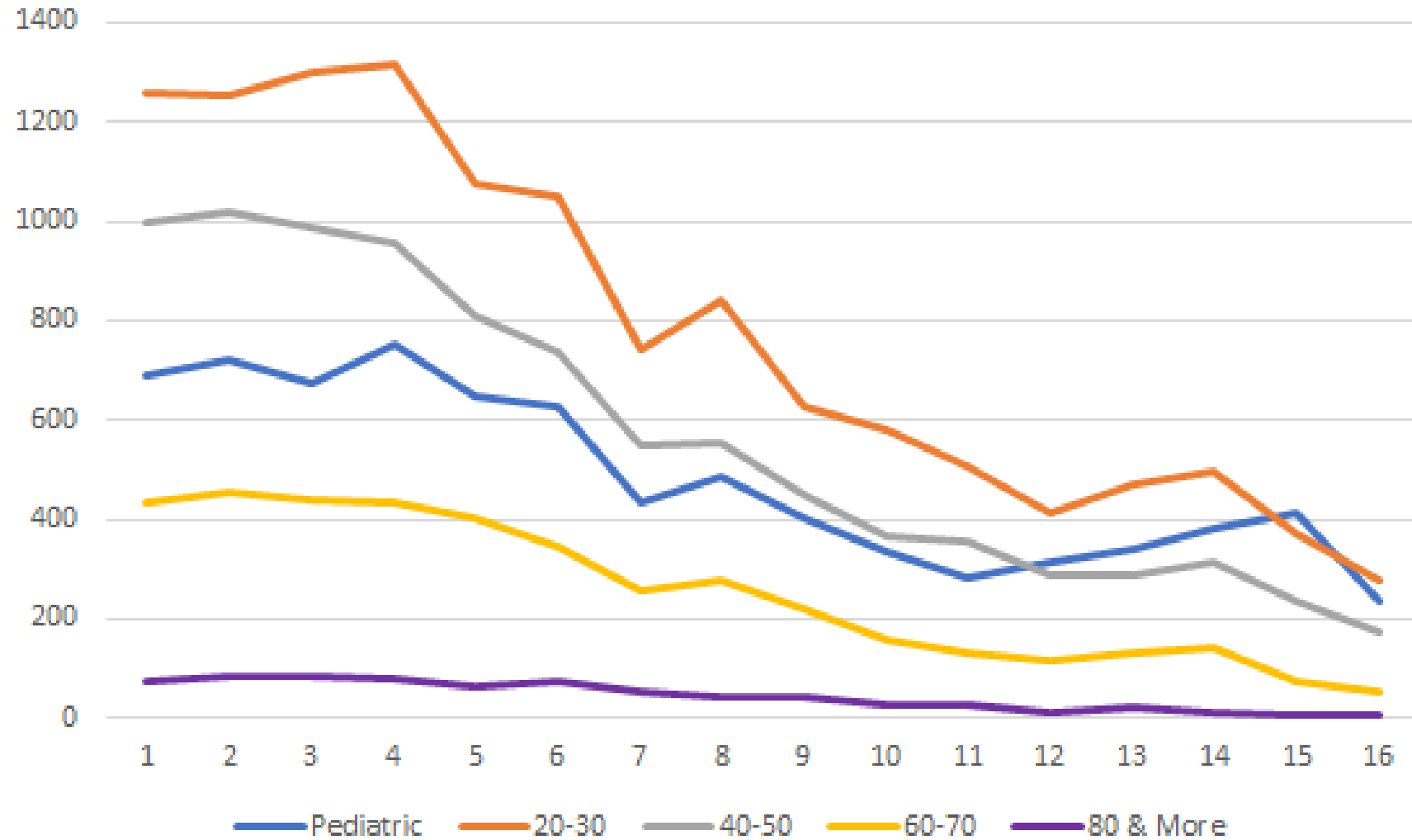
- ❖ Currently we are seeing a plateau on Pandemic's three of the main indicators
- ❖ Positivity rate has remained below 5%
- ❖ New Cases 7-day Avg below 20 cases / 100,000
- ❖ Hospitalizations (last 3 weeks) 7-day Avg below 175
- ❖ Hospitalizations TSA I between 7 – 8% (highest in state)

Vaccination/Hospitalization Elderly

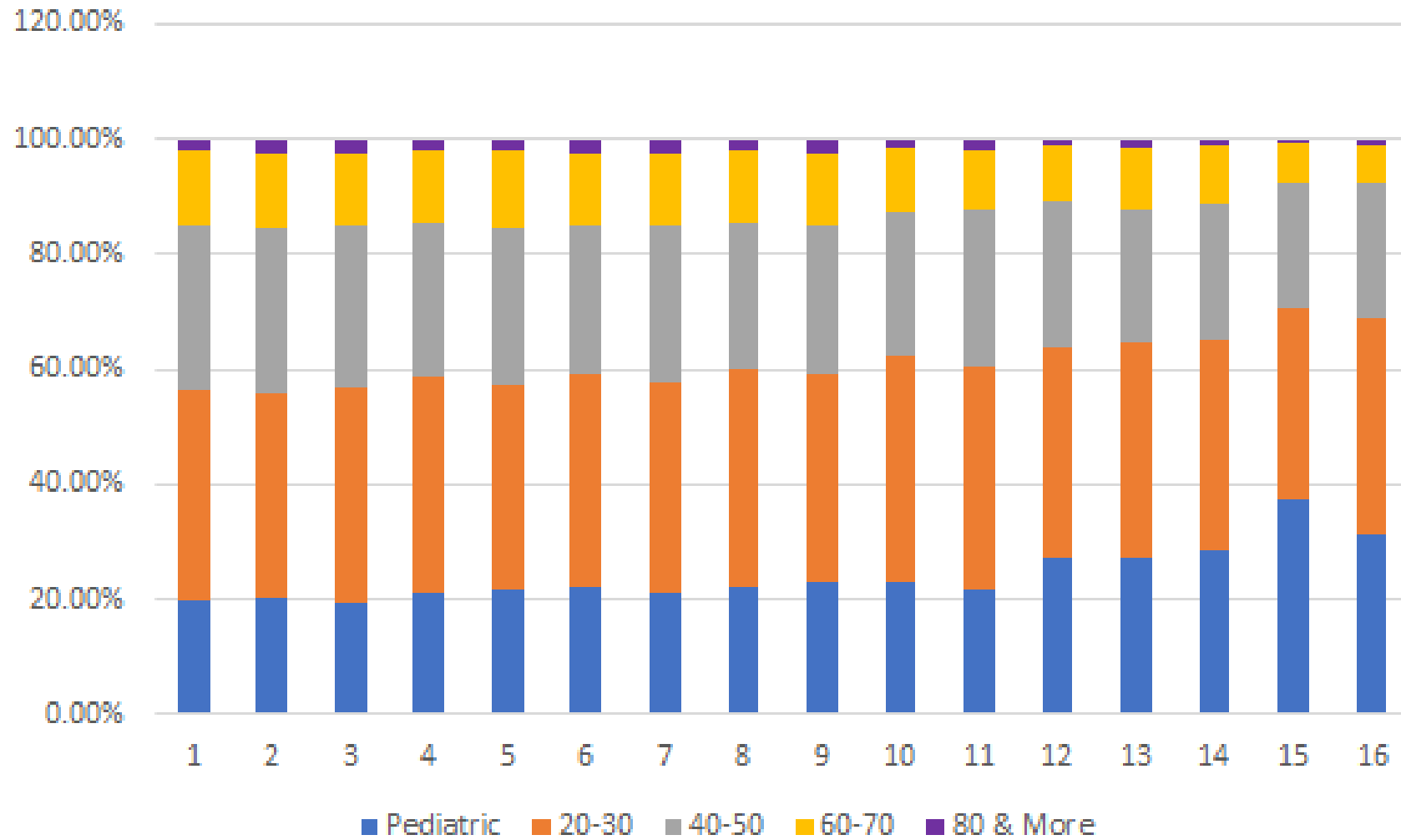




New Cases by Age Group



% New Cases by Age Group





2. Vaccination Update

Angela Mora

Education Taskforce & Deployment Teams

- ETF community outreach activities continue under same approaches throughout El Paso City-County
- Deployments continue for homebound, and bedridden
- Continue to identify and vaccinate new residents & staff at all vaccinated facilities within 3 days from admission/hire (shelters, nursing homes, etc.)
- Vaccinated all adult daycare facilities, and
- Continue vaccinating at child daycare facilities

Expanded Vaccination Community Outreach

❖ DSHS Grant

❖ 3 Expected Outcomes:

❖ Outcome #1: Increase the number of participating vaccine provider sites in underserved critical areas, including private medical providers, pharmacies, community clinics.

❖ Identify under-served areas for outreach and recruitment

❖ Identify potential providers and promote enrollment, **recruit 25 new providers**

❖ Develop Tool Kit, including DSHS enrollment requirements, vaccine safety, safe storage management, and patient safety

❖ **Train 75 adult care providers** on proper patient referral for vaccines

❖ Expand hours of operation at DPH immunization clinics

❖ **Establish 2 Strike Teams** for deployment at identified vaccination areas of need

Expanded Vaccination Community Outreach-Continued

❖ Outcome #2: Ensure high-quality and safe administration of COVID-19 vaccines

- ❖ Monitor active COVID-19 vaccine providers to ensure proper vaccine management and safety, record finding and issue recommendations for improvement, conduct follow up visits
- ❖ Identify needs and provide limited equipment, clinical supplies and PPE as needed (freezers, refrigerators, data loggers, portable coolers)
- ❖ Provide training and technical support as needed

Expanded Vaccination Community Outreach- Continued

- ❖ **Outcome #3: Ensure ongoing equitable distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines**
 - ❖ Develop a plan to continue efforts to vaccinate unvaccinated persons in underserved areas and vulnerable groups (elderly, homeless, victims of violence, incarcerated, agricultural workers, undocumented, etc.)
 - ❖ Outreach to essential workers; agricultural, grocery stores, public transit, and other essential workers
 - ❖ Those not interested on vaccinating to increase knowledge and trust on vaccines

Next Steps

- ❖ Vaccination for homebound
- ❖ Continue grocery stores, Flea markets, and neighborhood door-to- door registration
- ❖ Continue identifying/immunizing congregate setting for elderly, disabled, and homeless
- ❖ Expand to remote county areas through Texas A&M Promotoras Program
- ❖ Continue vaccine registration with WIC mobile services in Tornillo, Ft. Hancock, and Sparks
- ❖ Identify and target other sites for vaccination team's deployment
- ❖ Prepare to launch outreach expansion project



5. City Manager Wrap Up

Tommy Gonzalez



Thank you!