

**Minutes - Access and Functional Needs Coalition Meeting
Southwest Utah Public Health Department - Google Meet
3 March 2021 - 10:00 A.M.**

Welcome - Kirsten Miner, Access and Functional Needs Advocate SWUPHD - Update given on COVID-19 response through vaccination clinics in the five-county region. Efforts have been made to mitigate access needs for appointment scheduling. Thank you to our partners who have assisted by reaching out to the elderly and making appointments for them, including senior centers, aging services volunteers, county emergency managers, and Beaver City Library workers.

Steven Neish and Curtis Crawford – Iron County Senior Center – Report on efforts to assist elderly community members in getting access to vaccination appointments. They engaged two volunteers who have contacted over 400 names/phone numbers of elderly people to identify those desiring an appointment and have assisted many with filling out consent forms, etc.

David Heaton – Public Information Officer SWUPHD – Briefing on current COVID-19 cases, vaccine distribution, current priority groups. Anyone can text *swuhealth* to 888777 to receive updates on vaccine, such as appointments available or emergency cancellations, etc.

Mike Gale – Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response Division SWUPHD – Report on vaccine clinic staging, expansion as vaccine quantity increases, staffing events with new hires and MRC volunteers.

Question was raised about vaccinating primary caregivers of elderly persons: At this time caregivers must be associated with an organization to be considered eligible as a non-hospital healthcare worker.

Question about vaccinating homebound: As pharmacies receive vaccine, they may be able to supply home health agencies with vaccine for homebound. **Updated info:** Hurricane Family Pharmacy has been sending their nurse to assisted living facilities to vaccinate patients and they are willing to work with agencies to meet needs of homebound patients. Other pharmacies may be willing to help, as well. This website shows current vaccine providers in our area <https://vaccinefinder.org/>

Question about reaching Spanish-speaking community who might hesitate to seek vaccine due to lack of documentation: As of last week, we are no longer requiring identification in order to receive the vaccine, just an appointment.

Kirsten Miner – Through our efforts we have discovered gaps and have developed better practices. We are still concerned about meeting those access needs. Keep letting us know what problems you see. The knowledge we've gained will be useful in other disaster scenarios, as well.

Mike Gale – We need help to push out the Preparedness Buddy program; many senior citizens have benefitted from neighbors or family members who've helped them schedule online appointments. So many more could use a preparedness buddy for this and other disasters.

Kirsten Miner – It would be so helpful if organizations would work into their intake or discharge process the introduction of the Preparedness Buddy concept and encourage their clients to make it happen. Thank you for your support! Send me your complaints/critiques/ideas so we can improve.

kminer@swuhealth.org

Next AFN Coalition Meeting – 2 June 2021