

Crawford County Recovery Task Force Meeting

June 4, 2020

Representative Monica Murnan joined the meeting from Topeka, where she is in the special legislative session called by Governor Laura Kelly. She described the comprehensive COVID-19 response bill passed during the session by both the Kansas House of Representatives and the Senate, and Governor Kelly has committed to signing quickly. The bill amends the Kansas Emergency Management Act, and enables us to accept federal dollars and sets up a framework for managing this pandemic going forward. It includes three parts:

- 1) **State of disaster emergency proclamation extension.** The bill extends the emergency declaration until September 15 and establishes a new oversight process for extended it beyond that date if needed.
- 2) **Task force to manage federal money.** This bipartisan group will determine how the \$1.2 billion granted to the state of Kansas through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act will be received and distributed.
- 3) **Employer liability.** This part of the bill addresses employer liability if employees are infected with COVID-19 as part of their work.

Commissioner Jeremy Johnson and Director of Crawford County Health Department Rebecca Adamson reminded everyone that Crawford County adopted the state's Ad Astra plan to reopen our county, and that it serves as a guide and recommendation for businesses, organizations, municipalities, and citizens. It is not an enforceable order. Phase 3 is set to start June 8, and Phase Out is set to begin June 22.

The county has administered over 1,100 COVID-19 tests, and the number of positives remains at 8. Even in Phase Out and beyond, the health department will continue to advocate for social distancing, good personal hygiene, staying home when sick, and wearing a mask in public.

The county and cities in the meeting will receive relief funding, and are currently establishing a way to receive and distribute the funding.

John Keufler from DevSquared joined to discuss the development of Check-in Crawford County, a mobile app designed in partnership with PSU, the City of Pittsburg, and the Crawford County Health Department. Users of the app can anonymously check in at participating businesses and public spaces, or manually when gathering as groups at homes or private spaces. This enables easier contact tracing in the event of exposure to the virus. It also includes a way to directly contact the Crawford County Health Department and set up a COVID-19 test. If someone tests positive, users can indicate this in the app, and it alerts anyone who was in the same space as the infected person. All personally identifiable information is encrypted by default, so privacy concerns are minimal.

The lanes of activity for the task force going forward will be marketing and communication; recovery funding; economic development and business relations; public health, containment strategy, and healthcare infrastructure; and state and federal government relations.

