



**Orange County Economic Recovery Task Force**  
**Wednesday, April 22, 2020 | 9:00am – 10:30am**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes - Revised**

**Welcome & Purpose of Task Force:** The Orange County Economic Recovery Task Force meeting began at 9:05am. Mayor Demings welcomed the members, reviewed the agenda, and discussed the purpose of the Task Force. Here is a recap of Mayor Deming’s comments. “Good morning. It is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the first meeting of the Orange County Economic Recovery Task Force. As each of you know, we are experiencing a global pandemic associated with the COVID-19 virus, which has now infected over 800,000 individuals in the U.S., with over 44,000 deaths. We have seen over 28,000 persons confirmed positive within Florida, with over 800 deaths. Within Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Lake Counties, there are over 2,200 confirmed cases and 46 deaths.

Because of the highly contagious nature of the virus, health care experts, including the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control have recommended social distancing that has disrupted our daily lives and normal business activities. Many of our local businesses (small, mid-sized, and large) remain closed or operate at significantly reduced levels. None of us fully expected what we have experienced. This has resulted in a multi-billion dollar decline in our region’s economy. It is my desire to work with you in planning for the region’s economic recovery as soon as possible. “

Mayor Demings reviewed the Task Force agenda, which included a presentation on Florida’s Sunshine Law; a health care update; a review of federal guidelines for re-opening America; and a three phased approach followed by a group discussion and next steps.

Mayor Demings shared the goal of the task force and the priorities. Mayor Demings stated, “The goal of the task force is to develop a phased-approach to reopening business in Orange County that balances the need to ensure the protection of employees and the public while preserving the economic livelihood of our community. The task force priorities are: 1) Assist businesses with determining best practices and data-driven policies to ensure safety of customers and employees upon reopening; 2) Creation of a support system for small to mid-sized businesses in re-opening; 3) Development of a framework to ensure businesses are compliant with safety guidelines, or protocols mandated by authorities; and 4) Revitalize tourism to build visitor and consumer confidence.”

Mayor Demings introduced the co-chairs and provided remarks. Mayor Demings said, “These efforts will be led by co-chairs George Aguel, President of Visit Orlando, and Tim Giuliani, President of The Orlando Economic Partnership. Before I turn the remainder of the meeting over to the co-chairs, please allow me to thank each of you in advance, for volunteering your time to this effort!

You will find that the work that you will do, provides meaning and value to our entire community. We all have rare moments in our lives in which we influence the well-being of others. Through your collective input, you will have positive impact of many. Our business community is depending on us to get it right as we prepare to re-engage socially and gradually re-open locked and sheltered businesses.”

**Task Force Member Introductions:** George Aguel, Co-Chair introduced the task force members.

- AdventHealth, Scott Brady, MD
- Black Business Investment Fund (BBIF), Inez Long
- CareerSource Central Florida Pamela Nabors
- Central Florida Auto Dealers Association, Evelyn Cardenas
- Church Street Entertainment, Doug Taylor
- City of Orlando & Orlando Venues, Allen Johnson
- Don Julio’s Mexican Kitchen, Florencio “Larry” Rodriguez
- Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Kathy Ramsberger
- Florida Department of Health in Orange County, Raul Pino, MD
- Highwoods Properties, Steve Garrity
- J Henry’s Barber Shop, John Henry
- Johnny Rivers Grill & Market, Johnny Rivers
- John Michael Exquisite Weddings & Catering, Michael Thomas
- Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce, John Newstreet
- Lake County Agency for Economic Prosperity, Brandon Matulka
- M.C. Spa & Nail Bar, Mary Chau
- Mosaic Hair Studio, Mike Van del Abbeel
- National Entrepreneur Center, Jerry Ross
- Nelson Mullins, Wayne Rich
- Orange County Public Schools, Barbara Jenkins, Ed.D.
- Orlando City Soccer Club, Alex Leitao
- Orlando Health, George Ralls, MD
- Orlando International Airport, Phil Brown
- Orlando Magic, Alex Martins, Linda Landman Gonzalez representing Alex Martins
- Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Douglas Love-Ramos
- Prospera, Augusto Sanabria
- Rejoice in the Lord Ministries & African American Council of Christian Clergy, Pastor Roderick Zak
- Rosen Shingle Creek, Dan Giordano
- SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Brad Gilmour
- Seminole County Government, Tricia Johnson
- The Mall at Millennia, Steve Jamieson
- The Trentham Santiago Group, Conrad Santiago, CFP®, MSFS
- Unicorp National Development, Chuck Whittall
- VMD Ventures, LLC, Harold Mills
- Walt Disney World Resort, Thomas Mazloum
- WaWa, Inc., Todd Souders

George Aguel, Co-Chair introduced the following members into the record after the introductions.

- Alford Inn, Jesse Martinez
- The Vineyard Wine Bar & Healthy Bistro, Deborah Linden
- UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management, Youcheng Wang, Ph.D.
- Universal Orlando, Rich Costales
- Walmart, Inc., Monesia Brown
- YMCA of Central Florida, Dan Wilcox

**Public Comment:** Tim Giuliani, Co-Chair, asked if there was any public comment submitted to the Task Force. No public comment was submitted.

**Presentations:** George Aguel, Co-Chair, introduced Katherine Latorre, Assistant County Attorney, Orange County Attorney's Office. Kate provided the task force with a presentation on the Sunshine Law and Public Records Law. As you know, the Task Force is a public advisory body, and Katherine will discuss public meetings, emails, and communication between the members.

**Sunshine Law Training:** Kate Latorre, Assistant County Attorney, reviewed the Sunshine Law as it pertains to public meetings, what constitutes a meeting, posting requirements for public meetings, required minutes for public meetings, and the penalties. Kate provided an overview of the public records law to include types of public records and the penalties.

**Healthcare Update:** Tim Giuliani, Co-Chair, introduced the presenters for the Health Care Update. Listed below is a summary of the healthcare presentations.

**FL. Dept. of Health in Orange County:** Dr. Raul Pino, Director, provided the task force members with an update on the coronavirus cases collected by the Florida Department of Health. In Orange County, as of April 21st, there are 1,251 positive cases and 27 deaths. The age range is three months old to 101 years old. The demographic breakdown of the positive cases is 52% male and 48% female, and 13% African-American, 44% White, and 28% Latino. We see a decline in the percentage of positive cases even with an increased capacity for testing. Dr. Pino reviewed Orange County ER admission data in reference to coughing, fever, and shortness of breath, and presented the hospital bed statistics, ventilation statistics, and new cases by day and age distribution. The underlying conditions associated with COVID-19 deaths in Orange County include Hypertension, Diabetes, Kidney Disease, Cardiac Disease, and Chronic Lung Disease. Dr. Pino talked about the peak of coronavirus cases in Orange County on April 10th.

**Question:** Harold Mills asked what are our plans for region-wide sampling and testing and how fast can we see the effect. Dr. Pino indicated there are different types of testing, and each lab is using a different platform, which is challenging.

**AdventHealth:** Scott Brady, MD, Senior Vice President of Ambulatory Services, provided an update on COVID-19 from the hospital perspective. Dr. Brady indicated that the internal hospital task force has met every day for the past eight weeks. Today, they have over 100 patients with COVID-19 throughout their hospital system (Flagler to Polk County). We are seeing a flattening of the curve over the last 21 days in large part due to social distancing. With this in place, we can take care of COVID-19 patients. We've seen a softening in the plateau; no significant drop yet, but no sharp increase either. Dr. Brady talked about ramping up testing in the community. He indicated that we are seeing a 1% positive rate of tests administered at Daytona International Speedway and a 2%

positive rate at Millennia Mall. Dr. Brady and AdventHealth are working on anti-body testing, and they are involved in several studies on Plasma therapy.

**Orlando Health:** George Ralls, MD, System Chief Quality Officer, provided the task force with an update on COVID-19 from the hospital perspective. Dr. Ralls indicated that Orlando Health has around 20 In-Patient COVID-19 patients. Dr. Ralls indicated they are ramping up testing capacity for patients and staff. He indicated that it is critical that we maintain a safe environment for staff and patients. Orlando Health is continuing the necessary surgeries. They have over 1,000 patients in the next two weeks that will need surgery. Dr. Ralls is optimistic, but he indicated we are not taking our eye off the crisis. It looks like a slow up and a slowdown type of curve.

**Question:** Chuck Whittall - the numbers are going down, is that because a large number of the population may already have the immunity. Dr. Pino – What is not known is how long the immunity would last. If this is not a permanent immunity, a vaccine would be the only effective solution. Dr. Brady – For a herd immunity, you would need to have 60% of the population immune. This would be highly unlikely considering we only see 1% – 2% positive cases among the population tested. We will most likely see a 5%-6% positive rate as we increase testing, but we would not be at 60%.

**Federal Guidance:** Andrea Wesser-Brawner, Orange County Chief Innovation & Emerging Technologies Officer, provided the task force with an overview of the Federal Guidance for Opening Up America. Andrea discussed the three-phase plan and minimum 2-week roll-out. The federal government is enabling state and local governments with recommendations. The outline includes the core preparedness responsibilities on operational guidelines.

- Testing and Contact Tracing
- Supply sufficient PPE and critical equipment
- Ensure ability to surge ICU capacity
- Protect employees in critical industries
- Limit/mitigate rebounds or outbreaks
- Reopening Criteria based on Symptoms, Cases, and Hospitals

### **Guidelines for All Phases: Employers**

#### **Phase One**

- For all employers – Continue to encourage telework, return to work in phases, minimize non-essential travel, and special accommodations for the vulnerable populations.

For Specific Types of Employers

Two-week window before you consider the next phase

#### **Phase Two – Satisfy gating criteria twice - no evidence of re-bound**

- For all employers – Continue to encourage telework
- Close common areas where people are likely to congregate
- Non-essential travel can resume
- Special accommodation for vulnerable populations

For Specific Types of Employers

#### **Phase Three – Satisfy gating criteria thrice - no evidence of re-bound**

**Resume unrestricted staffing of work sites**

### **For Specific Types of Employers**

- Visits to senior care facilities and hospitals can resume
- Large venues operate under limited physical distancing requirements

### **CDC Operations Support**

More details support across important operation

- Infection prevention & control
- Community mitigation tactics
- Contact advice
- Laboratory capacity & testing
- Data surveillance
- Communication material

FDA's Emergency Use Authorizations for tests

TRAIN.org

Community Mitigation Strategy

**Question:** Mayor Demings- Can you talk a little bit about how these Federal and State guidelines would be implemented in Florida? Andrea - We are waiting to hear from the Governor's Office on input on the operational side for specific industries like restaurants, hospitality, and tourism, which hopefully will be released on Friday.

**Mayor Demings** – we have to understand the federal and state guidelines and how our local government would use the guidelines to create a system that works for us.

**Question:** There is no mention of any specific guidelines relating to social distancing and the number of people permitted in each stage. Andrea – There is not a document available with that information at this time. We may look at the healthcare industry, but at this point, a number has not to be used for the Federal or State guidelines.

**Question:** Mike- How are you going to communicate with the community what phase we are in? Andrea – Roseann is going to present next and will answer most of the questions raised on this topic.

**Phased Approach to Re-Open Business:** Roseann Harrington, Chief of Staff to Mayor Demings, provided the task force members with an overview of the phased approach to re-open business in Orange County.

### **Objectives:**

- Align with guidelines established by President Trump and Governor DeSantis
- Establish clear guidelines for businesses and monitor compliance
- Ensure consistent implementation across all industries
- Monitor health data and use in the decision-making process
- Comply with new federal and state regulations

### **Approach Framework**

- Guidelines will be driven by “ability to manage social distancing at all times.”
- Phases will be categorized by the level of human interaction

- Approach is dependent upon availability of testing
- Task Force will assist in determining which industries fall into each category

### **Three-Phase Approach**

PHASE 1: Low human interaction

PHASE 2: Medium human interaction

PHASE 3: High human interaction

### **Working Groups**

1. Guidelines for All Businesses to Reopen (base guidelines for operations)
2. Business Readiness (supplies, internal procedures, and employee training)
3. Business Compliance (ensure adherence to guidelines and enforcement)
4. Health Monitoring (public-facing dashboard, testing, and establishment of criteria to move to next phase of opening)
5. Bringing Back Tourism

\*Staff support and subject matter experts will be provided to the working groups.

Questions can be directed to [economicrecovery@ocfl.net](mailto:economicrecovery@ocfl.net) – direct all suggestions, notes, and thoughts to this email for public record and transparency.

Question: Harold Mills – Why would we need consistent guidelines? Should we have guidelines based on the type of risk or industry? Roseann – We are looking at the basic requirement for all industries so that the basic sanitization has been met. We will have different guidelines for certain industries that will carry more stringent requirements. We will have the base requirement, and each organization will build upon the requirement to ensure the safety of employees and customers.

**Hospital Internal Guidelines:** Scott Brady, MD, Advent Health, provided sample internal guidelines for AdventHealth on how to prevent or mitigate the second wave if it comes (even if the cases come down). Dr. Brady reviewed:

- Tier - 1 (After an effective vaccine or treatment has become available– back to normal), Tier 2 (Post-Surge, Pretreatment or Pre Vaccine), and Tier 3 (Current Tier).
- Phase 2 Highlights – Masks, temperature, social distancing measures, Mass PCR testing, and aggressive COVID-19 patient tracking and exposure tracing.

AdventHealth Tier 2: Universal Masking, adjusting visitation, rapid testing, 100% temperature checks, and design environment to accommodate social distancing.

**Hospital Internal Guidelines:** George Ralls, MD, Orlando Health, provided recommendations on hospital guidelines. Dr. Ralls talked about the state of acceptance and normalization of operation. He indicated the phased approach makes sense. He spoke about social distancing, screening and face masks for visitors and patients, and maintaining testing capacity so we can provide a safe place for our residents to return.

Question: Chuck Whittall – Unicorp National Development asked what is the timeline for opening as a community. I have spoken with a lot of businesses in the restaurant sector as well as other industries and they are hurting. Mayor Demings – The overall purpose of this task force is to focus

on the business recovery effort. However, to map out the strategy for the re-opening, it does require an understanding of the health-related information and consequences. Re-opening should occur at a pace that continues to protect your employees and consumers from the virus itself. The work of this task force is to make informed decisions by which to make recommendations about when businesses can re-open with specific dates depending upon the type of businesses and the direct guidance from the state. The state is working at a relatively fast pace with multiple meetings this week. We hope to have some type of documents and guidance from the state this week. We cannot get ahead of the various regulatory authorities to open without appropriate guidance. The role of the task force is to represent the businesses and commerce within our community.

Question: Conrad Santiago - Can you give us a sense of availability of supplies in our area. Dr. Brady - We have enough gloves and PPE for the front line, but they are not abundant. Business communities would need certain protective equipment like masks and thermometers.

Question: Conrad Santiago - How effective is handwashing. Dr. Brady – Hand washing is still the most effective method to prevent contracting COVID-19.

Question: Would you recommend cloth masks. Dr. Ralls and Dr. Brady - Cloth masks would be a good option for the community, but we need to make sure to keep them clean. Cloth masks would not be recommended for healthcare workers.

**Next Steps:** George Aguel, Co-Chair, announced the next Task Force meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2:30 pm – 4 pm. This will be a virtual meeting, and Lucas Boyce, County Administrator's Office, will send the Webex instructions to the members. George also asked the members to complete the Working Group Preference Form and the Industry Categorization Form by Friday, April 24 at noon and send to [economicrecovery@ocfl.net](mailto:economicrecovery@ocfl.net).

**Closing Remarks:** Mayor Demings closed the meeting by thanking the members in advance for their service and the critical work they will be doing for our community and our economic vitality. Staff will assist the members in making sure we get the work done. The Mayor stated that we want to be inclusive and receive comments from the many sectors that are impacted.

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 am