

LEPCA Meeting  
April 23rd, 2021

Recording Name:  
[LEPCA]

Transcript Prepared By:



**T R A N S C R I P T I O N**  
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1 Hoage: Morning, Casey.

2 Casey: Hey, morning. How's it going?

3 Hoage: Good.

4 Casey: You guys get a new, uh, firetruck?

5 Hoage: Mmm-hmm. Looks nice, doesn't it?

6 Casey: Yeah. How long -- how many years did that take to  
7 figure out?

8 Hoage: I started working on it when I got here in 2016.

9 Casey: I would just blame it on Bryan Fisher (ph). He's  
10 having -- I'm sure it can be traced back to him  
11 dropping the ball somewhere.

12 Fisher: Denied. I mean, what?

13 Hoage: I guess technically I got here in 2014, but we really  
14 started the effort in 2016, so --

15 Casey: Nice. Yeah, that's a nice, uh -- nice platform.

16 Hoage: Yeah.

17 Fisher: I blame -- I blame Frank or Jim or one of your  
18 predecessors. That's what I blame.

19 Hoage: Oh, yeah, I'm sure it's their fault. How long is that  
20 -- is that good for, blaming the -- the previous  
21 chief?

22 Casey: Ever.

23 Fisher: U- -- until you're the previous chief.

24 Hoage: Yeah, okay, perfect.

25 Casey: Ba- -- based on Jim's history, you can use that

1 forever and ever.

2 Hoage: Nice. Well, folks I have, uh, 9:01 by my clock, so I  
3 think we'll go ahead and call this meeting to order  
4 and get started. This is the regular meeting of the  
5 LEPCA Business Meeting. And, uh -- start off here  
6 with a few administrative announcements, and then I'm  
7 going to ask, uh -- Kevin or Roy to do a rollcall for  
8 us but, uh -- again, welcome to the meeting, uh --  
9 unfortunately we're doing this vi- -- via video  
10 instead of in person. It'll be nice when we can get  
11 back to in person meetings. It's been way too long  
12 doing these -- these video meetings. Uh,  
13 administrative announcements -- reminder to everyone  
14 this meeting is being recorded and is a public meeting  
15 so keep that in mind as you speak and make comments,  
16 uh, during the meeting, uh -- and then the one other  
17 thing that I'd like to -- to say briefly is  
18 congratulations to Bryan Fisher. For anyone who  
19 hasn't heard, uh -- Paul Nelson (ph) has taken a new  
20 position and -- I guess with the Guard, and Bryan is  
21 the acting director of Homeland Security and Emergency  
22 Management, so Bryan will do a great job and  
23 congratulations, Bryan.

24 Fisher: Thank you, sir.

25 Hoage: With that, I will ask for someone to do the rollcall

1 for me, please.

2 Reeve: Okay, not a problem. So, just if you would, please,  
3 go ahead and unmute your mics now so we don't have mic  
4 delay issues, uh -- and I'll just run through them.

5 Real quickly. Aleutian Pribilof. Okay, no one -- not  
6 hearing anyone from Aleutian Pribilof. Anchorage --  
7 Audrey, I think you're on. Audrey Gray, are you on?

8 Gray: Uh, yep, sorry, there's just a lot of feedback and I  
9 couldn't quite understand what you were saying.

10 Reeve: Okay, Bristol Bay? Copper River? Willard, are you  
11 on? Delta-Greely. Delta-Greely. Denali Borough?

12 Noel: Present. Good morning, all.

13 Reeve: Hey, Chris. How are you?

14 Noel: Great, thanks.

15 Reeve: Fair- -- thank you. Fairbanks? Fairbo- -- -banks,  
16 final call. Juneau?

17 Whitty: Yeah, Bill Whitty (ph) here in Fairbanks. Sorry about  
18 that.

19 Reeve: Okay, Bill. Thank you. Juneau? Michelle or Tom  
20 Mattice, are you on? Okay, Kenai?

21 Bud: Present.

22 Reeve: Hey, Dan (ph).

23 (CROSSTALK)

24 Bud: This is Bud, actually.

25 Reeve: All right.

1 Bud: Bud's (inaudible - 00:06:09)

2 Reeve: All right, thank you, sir. Uh, Ketchikan, we know  
3 Abner's (ph) on. Kodiak?

4 Mullican: Kodiak's here. Jim Mullican.

5 Reeve: Hey, Jim. Welcome. Mat-Su. We know Casey's here.  
6 Nome? Tom, are you on? Nome? Final call. Northwest  
7 Arctic Borough. Auchau, are you on? Northwest  
8 Arctic, final call. Petersburg?

9 Dixson: Yes, Sandy Dixson's present.

10 Reeve: Hi, Sandy. Welcome. Sitka. The infamous Dave  
11 Miller, are you on? Sitka, final call. Skagway, Ray  
12 (ph), are you on? Final call, Skagway. Southern and  
13 Southeastern. Brian Templin, are you on?

14 Templin: I am. Southern Southeastern.

15 Reeve: Okay. Thanks, Brian. Welcome. Valdez? (Inaudible -  
16 00:07:39) are you on? And final call, Valdez.  
17 Wrangell?

18 Sprehe: Dorianne Sprehe, Wrangell Fire.

19 Reeve: Hi, Dorianne. Welcome. Uh --

20 Sprehe: Hi, guys.

21 Reeve: So, is there anyone that did not report out that they  
22 are on -- in attendance? Okay, it looks like we have  
23 one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine,  
24 10. We have about 50%, Abner.

25 Hoage: Thank you, I was just going to ask that question. You

1 must have read my mind once again. Uh, it'll be nice  
2 to get back in person where people actually want to  
3 attend these things, because it's -- it's  
4 disappointing when we go into these and have only half  
5 of our folks at -- (inaudible - 00:08:36) thank you to  
6 those of you that have taken the time to -- to call in  
7 and connect to this. We'll get moving into the agenda  
8 here. We've covered Item 1A and B, Welcome  
9 Introductions, Administrative Announcements. Again,  
10 one more reminder, uh, this meeting is being recorded  
11 and it is considered public --

12 (CROSSTALK)

13 Brower: Sorry, I'm going to jump in.

14 Hoage: Uh --

15 Brower: I was having technical issues (inaudible - 00:08:55)  
16 I'm just saying, uh, the North Slope Borough LEPC is  
17 finally back.

18 Hoage: Oh, very good. Welcome back, North Slope Borough.  
19 Thank you.

20 Brower: Thank you. Good morning, this is Frederick Brower  
21 with North Slope Borough LEPC also.

22 Hoage: Thank you, Frederick. Welcome. Uh, so that'll bring  
23 us down to Item 2 on the agenda, Approval of the  
24 Meeting Minutes. And, uh -- that item is suspended,  
25 so we'll move on to Item 3, Approval of and Changes to

1           this Agenda, uh, and I will ask for a motion to  
2           approve the agenda with one change under new business,  
3           or, uh -- Item 7C and D, I would like to flipflop the  
4           order of those so that we get the report from the LEPC  
5           Workgroup before we go into the listening session.

6           Can I have a motion?

7   Mullican: Jim Mullican, so motioned.

8   Templin: Templin, southeast. I'll second, Abner.

9   Hoage:    Thank you, Brian. Motioned by Jim Mullican, second by  
10           Brian Templin. And so, that, uh -- is anyone opposed?  
11           Hearing none -- was there a question?

12   Mullican: (Inaudible - 00:10:07)

13   Hoage:    Uh, is there anyone opposed? Hearing none, that  
14           passes unanimous, moves us into Old Business, which we  
15           don't have any of. Move on to Item 5, Correspondence  
16           and Communications. The presentations are suspended,  
17           however you did receive written reports that Kevin  
18           sent out a little while back, uh -- you had a report  
19           from the SERC Finance Committee. It was fairly short.  
20           There really wasn't any activity to report there. Uh  
21           -- which is not totally unexpected with everything  
22           else that's been going on. Uh, Item B under there --  
23           we had some reports from Homeland Security Emergency  
24           Management. Hopefully everyone took the time to read  
25           through this, uh -- and a report from the director --



1 report from Operations, Preparedness, Planning under -  
2 - under 5B, and, uh -- it's pretty impressive the  
3 amount of work that still continues to go on even with  
4 the COVID response. I know that the folks in DHS and  
5 EM are very busy, uh -- yet somehow they manage to  
6 continue to do these other things. Bryan, would you  
7 like to add any -- any comments at this point, or do  
8 you want to hold that for presentation?

9 Fisher: Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair. Uh, we are going to be, uh -  
10 - Director Hedberg and I from Health are going to  
11 present about COVID. But, uh -- you know, when you  
12 guys did receive a -- some written reports, I -- the -  
13 - you know, the director's report has the old -- old  
14 director's name on it, and, uh -- from a couple of,  
15 uh, directors ago, but -- Abner said at the -- the  
16 chair said at the top of the meeting that, uh, Paul  
17 Nelson has moved on. He kind of got his dream job  
18 with Alaskan Command, so I've been asked to serve as  
19 acting director for the division, uh, for now. So,  
20 uh, working that with, uh, Commissioner Saxe and, uh -  
21 - the rest of the team. I will say, you know -- I'll  
22 have more to say later, uh -- at -- we're -- I think  
23 we're back to the position in my mind that, uh -- we  
24 can do a -- an updated organizational chart for our  
25 agency and put the minute stamp on it. Not a day or





1 month stamp on it. We have a lot of changes going on.  
2 Uh, more happy news, for -- for them, but sad news for  
3 us. I did want to let you know that our Disaster  
4 Assistance Program Manager and our Administrative  
5 Officer Pam and Sam Walton (ph), uh, they're both  
6 retiring, so Pam is retiring as of May 1st, Sam has  
7 graciously agreed to stay on for an extra month, so  
8 he'll be retiring at the end of May, uh -- so we have  
9 a -- we'll have a program, uh -- you know, we'll have  
10 some changes with the program managers there, and --  
11 and then there's a -- a handful of other, you know,  
12 movements that that may, uh -- cause with people  
13 moving around in -- in the organization, and also we  
14 will try our best to keep you guys updated on who's  
15 who in the zoo here. Uh -- but thank you, uh, Abner  
16 for the -- for the, uh, welcome this morning, and, uh  
17 -- you know, I'll be here, and -- and there's a lot of  
18 the staff from the division on, uh -- that can answer  
19 any questions you need, uh -- throughout this whole  
20 thing, and -- and we can use the chat, too, as to not  
21 interrupt the meeting and the listening session and  
22 all, but thank you, sir.

23 Hoage: Perfect, thank you. Uh, so --

24 (CROSSTALK)

25 Hoage: Yes, Kevin? Go ahead.

1 Reeve: Just a quick note for you. Uh, two things, uh -- Nome  
2 is on. They're just having problems with their audio.  
3 And that brings up a good point. For anyone that is  
4 having problems with computer audio, all they have to  
5 do is on meeting invitation, there is a dial in phone  
6 number that you can call in so you have audio and the  
7 ability to, uh, make comments as appropriate. Uh, so,  
8 thank you, sir.

9 Hoage: And on that Kevin, uh -- if those phone calls have  
10 been muted by the technology team here online, how do  
11 those folks unmute if they're not just using regular  
12 phone mute?

13 Reeve: Uh, it should be local phone mute on their phone. Uh,  
14 we will monitor as well if there are any questions or  
15 issues, uh -- they can, uh, just put it in the chat  
16 box and we will try and make sure that they're unmuted  
17 if they have comments, uh --

18 Fisher: It should be \*6.

19 Reeve: Yeah.

20 Hoage: \*6?

21 Fisher: On the telephone as well, if they were muted on this  
22 end.

23 Hoage: Thank you, Bryan.

24 Reeve: Yeah, and Dave Miller is also joining us. So --

25 Hoage: Very good. All right, so -- I clicked on something

1 here on my -- there we go. Go it to go away. Phew.  
2 All right, technology challenges, right? Uh, with  
3 that, I wanted to see if anyone on LEPCA had any  
4 questions, uh, on item -- the report, Item B, those  
5 four reports that we received? All right, not hearing  
6 any, we'll move onto 5C and that is ADEC's report, so  
7 that was attached as well from, uh -- bill prevention  
8 (ph) and response. Uh -- there were also some  
9 personnel changes there and I didn't notice who we  
10 have on from DEC, so I will, uh, ask if there's  
11 someone on from DEC that wants to make any brief  
12 comments, highlights about that report?

13 Spiegel: Uh, Graham Wood (ph) would be joining shortly. Uh, so  
14 -- I apologize, I don't think we have really anything  
15 to add except for that we do have a new director of  
16 Spar (ph). This is Becky Spiegel. I apologize, Mr.  
17 Chairman.

18 Hoage: Thank you, Becky.

19 Spiegel: And, uh -- Graham will be on and able to answer any  
20 questions if you have -- if anyone has them. Thank  
21 you.

22 Hoage: Okay. Thank you very much. Uh, does anyone have  
23 questions for Graham when he comes on from that report  
24 or can we just move on? All right, that brings us to  
25 Item 6, Public Comment. Kevin, I don't know if we

1 have anyone signed up for public comment?

2 Reeve: I do not have anyone signed up for public comment. If  
3 there is anyone from the public that wishes to make  
4 public comment, there are two opportunities. One now  
5 and one later. Please put that in the chat and we  
6 will monitor, uh, and try and identify anyone desiring  
7 to make public comments.

8 Hoage: Is there anyone on the line currently who is wanting  
9 to make public comment? All right, very good. We'll  
10 continue on to Item 7, New Business, and first up we  
11 have Item A, State Agency Status, COVID-19 and  
12 Vaccination Report, and it looks like Bryan and Heidi  
13 have both joined us.

14 Fisher: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and, uh -- for the record, this  
15 is Bryan Fisher, uh -- acting director of the Division  
16 of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and, uh  
17 -- incident commander for the state of Alaska's COVID-  
18 19 Unified Command and, uh -- while you introduce  
19 yourself, Heidi, I'll -- I'll, uh, try not to mess  
20 this up and get our slides up for everybody, so  
21 standby. Go ahead, Heidi.

22 Hedberg: Perfect. Thanks, Bryan. Hi, everyone, my name is  
23 Heidi Hedberg, and I'm the director for the Division  
24 of Public Health, and, uh -- I support Bryan in, uh,  
25 Unified Command for this COVID response.

1 Fisher: Okay, I can, uh -- can you guys hear us and see the  
2 slide deck?

3 Hoage: We can, Bryan.

4 Fisher: Okay, well thank you very much, everybody, and you  
5 know, I got to say, I -- I know you're all tired. We  
6 are all tired. The work that all of you in your  
7 committees or your jurisdictions or agencies that you  
8 -- you work in fulltime or as a volunteer have done  
9 just an amazing job for this last year and almost year  
10 and a half, uh -- I -- I think we have learned so much  
11 about, uh, working together, about, uh, Unified  
12 Command Organizations, about, uh -- really -- well,  
13 with -- for the first time, a statewide response, uh,  
14 where every jurisdiction in the state was under, uh --  
15 uh -- State Disaster Emergency and under, uh, Stafford  
16 Act federal emergency, so, uh -- absolutely incredible  
17 work by all of you. Uh, Heidi and I today -- we have  
18 a slideshow that's similar to what we -- we present in  
19 a lot of other forums throughout the week to the  
20 public, to healthcare providers, to, uh -- uh --  
21 industry, a whole bunch of folks, so we're going to,  
22 uh, go through the slide deck real quick, and then  
23 really what -- interested in hearing what the  
24 association representatives, uh, have to say, any  
25 comments or feedback, so just tell me when, Heidi, and

1 I will, uh, advance the slides. So, I -- I just  
2 pulled up the Cases Dashboard.

3 Hedberg: Perfect. Thanks, uh -- well, just real quickly, you  
4 know, we are tracking our cases, uh -- we're at 64,000  
5 as of yesterday. You know, I think as we all lived  
6 through -- we saw a huge spike. It's kind of co- --  
7 you know, it's -- it's interesting to look at, uh --  
8 the November, December -- we know what a pandemic  
9 looks like when you see that wave, and right now,  
10 we're just hovering. It's between vaccinations and  
11 cases, and we just continue to hover. So, the goal is  
12 to get that, uh, static line between January to, uh,  
13 April to even be flatter. Uh, and that's what we're  
14 doing with vaccinations. Unfortunately, uh -- we are  
15 sad, uh, that we've had 329 fatalities, and our hearts  
16 definitely go out to each and every one of those  
17 individuals and families. Next slide. So, uh -- the  
18 good news is we are almost at the 50% mark, so you  
19 kind of have to take a step back and say we started  
20 vaccinating in December, we're at the 50% mark, uh --  
21 you can advance to the next slide. We have a -- uh --  
22 oh, well, there's the -- the slide, uh -- go back if  
23 you wouldn't mind, Bryan. The goal is -- you know,  
24 when we talk about what is the threshold, what are we  
25 looking for? And there's lots of discussions about

1 this immunity, and there's like a 70 to 90% goal, and  
2 so in a few slides we're going to talk about this nay  
3 campaign and the goal is if we can increase by 25%.  
4 So, when you think about this arc of effort that we  
5 have all participated in with vaccinations, we're  
6 almost to the 50% mark. We've got that last sprint,  
7 uh -- to that 70, 75%, before tour season truly kicks  
8 off. Uh, we're sitting in a good position and that's  
9 only because of all of the work that you guys have  
10 done. I know many of you have been in late night  
11 conversations around vaccine. Okay, (inaudible -  
12 00:21:08)

13 Fisher: Yeah, and I -- I'll just jump in real quick and say of  
14 -- of course, you know, we're all looking at metrics  
15 and percentages and things like that -- you know, this  
16 -- this percentage on the slide here, you know, it  
17 says right there it's Alaskans age 16 o- -- and over,  
18 so these numbers are going to change, the percentages  
19 will drop a bit once we have further, uh, emergency  
20 use authorization for younger, you know, adolescents  
21 or -- or younger children as they -- that process  
22 makes it way through with companies and -- and the  
23 FDA, so there will be some fluctuation there. Uh, we  
24 are very, very hopeful that, uh -- you know, that the  
25 -- the -- the process continues with the phase trials



1 and -- and acceptance by ACIP and the FDA and those  
2 folks for, uh, making this vaccine available to, uh,  
3 adolescents and then children eventually, that --  
4 whose parents choose for them to get the vaccine so,  
5 uh -- and it -- it -- it seems to us like it's moving  
6 uh -- even faster than we were an- -- anticipating, so  
7 I think that's good news. Back to you, Heidi.

8 Hedberg: Yeah, so many of -- what we hear across the board is  
9 well, what does our vaccination look like within our  
10 region? And so, if you go to the DHSS website, you  
11 click on COVID, you find dashboards, uh -- you can, uh  
12 -- we have many dashboards. One of them on vaccine  
13 and, uh -- there's actually a new box that actually  
14 shows first dose, and fully vaccinated, and it will  
15 give you your percentages. Uh, so Skagway is doing  
16 phenomenal. They're over -- I think they're at, like,  
17 77% of their community members are vaccinated, which  
18 is phenomenal. And then we have a few Red Lantern  
19 comments, but I encourage you to go visit the website,  
20 uh -- the dashboards, so you can actually look at  
21 where your community is. It really helps inform sort  
22 of your strategic -- how to support your community  
23 through education and access to vaccine. Next slide?

24 Fisher: So, I'll just add to that, uh -- is somebody asking a  
25 question?





1 Paschall: Yeah, Michael Paschall of Delta-Greely. The -- the  
2 dashboard is broken down in some cases by community  
3 and some by census track. Why is not broken down by  
4 all communities so we can get a local number?

5 Hedberg: Yeah, that's a great question. So, one is, uh -- it's  
6 -- it's -- we try to protect the identity of  
7 individuals, so we suppress information le- -- with  
8 communities less than 1,000. When it comes to  
9 vaccine, the problem that we have is that a lot of the  
10 addresses that we have are PO Boxes, and so it doesn't  
11 actually represent the community that they live in.  
12 And so, we've been struggling with that. Uh, if we  
13 were to release it, it would show -- it would  
14 overexaggerate one zip code because that's where the  
15 post office is versus the community that probably has,  
16 you know, 60, 70% vaccination rate but they don't have  
17 that PO Box. So, that's the difficulty. That's what  
18 we're wrestling with right now. That's why you see  
19 the vaccine dashboard is by census borough area. It's  
20 because of the PO Box problem.

21 Fisher: And I'll, uh --

22 (CROSSTALK)

23 Fisher: I'll just note that they continue to update the  
24 dashboard as possible, so that image in the lower  
25 right hand corner -- kind of the shades of green, uh,

1 and yellow or tan, uh -- that's a -- a fairly new  
2 update. There are -- there is, uh -- you know, and we  
3 do other public health echoes and vaccine echoes where  
4 we share more specifics about how to navigate the  
5 dashboard, but we are trying to provide, uh, that  
6 information that you and your, uh, elected officials  
7 particularly have been asking for, uh -- with those  
8 constraints that Heidi just talked about. You know,  
9 another big one that we -- we've heard a lot about  
10 just in the last couple of days is the request to have  
11 kind of that Department of Defense and Veterans  
12 Administration data, uh, also as part of the kind of  
13 local or regional, uh, vaccine numbers, and you know,  
14 we have not been receiving that data parsed that way.  
15 We kind of get total aggregate -- aggregate for that  
16 from the DOD VA, uh, numbers, and I know a number of  
17 communities have been trying to work locally with, uh,  
18 military installations or Coast Guard bases, that kind  
19 of thing, to try to incorporate those numbers at the  
20 local level where they can and where the -- where the  
21 military would allow. So, there are still lots of  
22 challenges to try to provide that fidelity, uh, down  
23 to the granular level, and it -- it is -- it just is  
24 what it is. Some -- some things have to do with, like  
25 Heidi said, protecting small community, uh,



1 information. And then, uh -- and then there's just  
2 some other reporting and data metrics with post  
3 officers and zip codes and things like that, so --  
4 just -- and then, uh -- it -- it -- is that good  
5 enough, now, for Mike? Mike, for now?

6 Hoage: And Bryan, this is Abner. I just want to -- I'll ask  
7 the group to hold any questions until Bryan and Heidi  
8 complete the presentation, and then we'll give an  
9 opportunity for questions. Uh, I did see typed in the  
10 chat also -- I know we had a few more people join us.  
11 If you joined by phone, please mute your phone using  
12 the mute button on your phone. If you don't, then Roy  
13 and Kevin or I may mute you, and then you'll have to  
14 press \*6 in order to get unmuted. If you -- if you  
15 start talking and nobody's answering you and you're on  
16 the phone, you probably have been muted by us and you  
17 need to press \*6 to unmute. But Bryan and Heidi, go  
18 ahead and finish the presentation, please, and then  
19 we'll give an opportunity for questions.

20 (CROSSTALK)

21 Hedberg: Thanks, Abner. I appreciate that. So, we all, uh --  
22 saw that, uh -- the J&J -- also known as the Janssen  
23 vaccine was paused. And really, that is just  
24 reflective that the system is working. Uh, we  
25 encourage everyone to report adverse reactions into

1 VAERS, which is the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting  
2 System. Those reports go to CDC, CDC evaluates them.  
3 When they notice a potential issue, that's when they  
4 flagged it. So, uh, it -- you know, it's good to see  
5 that the system works. We have been, uh, monitoring,  
6 uh, what is going to happen with the J&J vaccine.  
7 Today, the ACIP is meeting -- uh -- in fact, we have a  
8 meeting with CDC today at 2:00 to hear what the  
9 outcome is going to be. Uh, with this vaccine,  
10 whether they're going to, uh, stop the vaccine,  
11 continue to pause, or, uh -- give recommendations on  
12 who should be using that vaccine. So, we're watching  
13 that very closely. Uh, you may all know before we do,  
14 because I'm sure it will be all over the media, uh --  
15 today's announcements on the J&J vaccine. Bryan, do  
16 you have anything else to add?

17 Fisher: Nope, just add that that is the Advisory Committee on  
18 Immunization Practices who, uh -- you know, there's a  
19 process with F- -- FDA -- Food and Drug Administration  
20 -- to, uh, look at authorizations and emergency use  
21 authorizations and then the ACIP -- the Advisory  
22 Committee on Immunization Practices really takes, uh,  
23 things that get received -- emergency use  
24 authorizations -- and then provides guidelines and  
25 recommendations, uh, through CDC on, you know, who and

1           what -- who gets -- who -- who's recommended for the  
2           vaccine, who isn't, those kind of things, so we're --  
3           we're -- we're definitely looking forward to hear, uh,  
4           later on today, kind of right in the middle of the --  
5           the Emergency Response Commission meeting what the  
6           Advisory Committee has to say. Uh, I spoke about  
7           this, uh -- a little bit earlier, uh -- mentioned you  
8           know -- so, this slide here, coming soon -- vaccines  
9           for youth, uh -- at -- I think there's some very great  
10          news out there. You know, we have, uh -- you know,  
11          many, many millions of people that have received the  
12          MRNA vaccines as well as the, uh -- the Janssen one up  
13          until the pause, so, uh -- Pfizer BioNTech has  
14          requested just a couple weeks ago an amendment to the  
15          -- to the FDA to authorize its -- its vaccine for use  
16          in adolescents age 12 to 15. So, that's great news,  
17          uh -- they have reported again with their studies and  
18          -- and the continued data, uh -- that is being mined  
19          as -- as they roll out the vaccine and do their --  
20          their phase trials, uh -- for all the -- all the youth  
21          that they enrolled in -- in the next part of their  
22          trials. That it was safe and 100% effective in 12 to  
23          15 years old. That is, again, we have said this from  
24          the beginning, uh -- and the -- uh -- messenger RNA  
25          technology is, uh, for vaccinations is, uh -- is just



1           incredible technology. The efficacy and safety, uh,  
2           has just been incredible, uh -- you know, kind of  
3           never seen before in -- in -- in, uh -- you know, in  
4           recent memory or -- or current history with, uh --  
5           safety and efficacy for -- for vaccinations that have  
6           been developed, so if it's authorized, it could become  
7           available to all of us as early as May. I mean, we  
8           were super hopeful that we might see something maybe  
9           in June, maybe in July, hopefully had time to, uh,  
10          fully immunize, uh -- this age demographic prior to  
11          the school season starting next year, and it looks  
12          like it may be a little bit earlier there. We don't  
13          have any control over that. The state of Alaska, it's  
14          -- you know, it's the federal government and FDA and  
15          ACIP and CDC but -- and then of course, the -- the  
16          production by the manufacturers and that but you know,  
17          we're very -- we feel ready to support our  
18          immunization program and all of you at the local level  
19          to continue -- continue support distribution of  
20          vaccines. Uh, and then support campaigns to vaccinate  
21          you if it becomes, uh, authorized through the  
22          emergency use process.

23 Hedberg: So, one thing, uh -- and actually, Bryan, if you go  
24          back, I just want to highlight for all of you -- and  
25          hopefully these slides will be available so you guys

1 can tag them. You'll notice, uh, there's the HIPAA  
2 Jotform, uh, and I just wanted to spike that real  
3 quickly for you. In your community, if you are  
4 hearing, uh, misinformation, you have questions, you  
5 want a presentation, we have a speakers bureau made up  
6 of, uh -- a suite of physicians and clinicians and  
7 pharmacists from varying backgrounds and disciplines  
8 that is happy to, uh, do a virtual or live, uh, in  
9 person presentation in your community. So, uh -- just  
10 complete -- you know, you can, uh, click on that link,  
11 uh -- when you get the slide deck or you can go to our  
12 DHSS website and, uh -- this is about education.  
13 There's -- there's, uh -- if -- what we do all day  
14 long is talk about vaccine and education. So, and --  
15 and specifically, as youth, uh, this is big news, uh -  
16 - moving down to 12 years old. So, there's going to  
17 be the operational effort to get kiddos vaccinated,  
18 but there's also, uh -- just the education behind  
19 that. And that's really important as well. All  
20 right, thanks, Bryan, you can go to the next slide  
21 now. All right, so, as you guys saw in the dashboard,  
22 we're just hovering just slightly below 50%. We  
23 really want to, uh -- get us into that 70 to 90% range  
24 before the peak tourist season in June, July, and  
25 August, which means we are in a sprint. We have



1 plenty of vaccine, uh -- we just launched a campaign -  
2 - the governor launched it on a video, uh -- Wednesday  
3 night, uh -- we met with a handful of communities  
4 yesterday. You are going to see a lot more media  
5 attention to a campaign called Sleeves Up for Summer.  
6 It's really, uh -- fun, festive, it's a new face.  
7 We're asking businesses to lead this, uh -- arc of  
8 effort. Uh -- to really help, uh, increase our  
9 vaccinations, uh, so that we can all have a fun and  
10 safe summer. And get out and -- and enjoy the sun.  
11 So, the big focus of effort that we have right now as  
12 I just mentioned, uh -- and the governor has alluded  
13 to in several of his press conferences is that, you  
14 know, the last 14 months has been a big focus on  
15 health and public health and, uh -- and just the  
16 mitigation strategies that we've all be following, but  
17 now we need to turn our focus to the economy and so  
18 that's part of the May campaign, is that, uh -- we're  
19 really, uh -- focusing on restoring, uh, the economy,  
20 which means that we have workers that can, uh -- are  
21 vaccinated and can go to work and if they become in  
22 close contact, they don't have to quarantine, right?  
23 Uh, it's supporting communities and promoting the  
24 health and wellbeing of Alaskans, which has been one  
25 of our foundational mantras throughout this entire





1 response. Next slide? Bryan left me. All right, so  
2 there is, uh -- there's a lot of discussion about  
3 variants so just, uh -- you know, quick overview on  
4 variants. The coronavirus unto itself does change.  
5 And those changes, uh, are identified as variants.  
6 There's variants of concern and there's variants of  
7 interest. So, when you get swabbed, uh -- at a  
8 testing center and it's a good collection and you're  
9 positive, that positive sample is sent to the  
10 Fairbanks Virology Lab, and we do sequencing.  
11 Sequencing takes about three to five days. It's a  
12 pretty labor intensive process, and we are identifying  
13 the strains and how they are changing, and then that  
14 information is submitted into CDC and there's a global  
15 picture of what's happening, uh, with the coronavirus.  
16 As you guys have probably heard in the media, there's  
17 the B117, also known as the UK. There's the, uh, P1,  
18 which is the Brazilian variant. And then there's the  
19 South African variant. Those are variants of concern  
20 and we are watching them closely, which is why it's  
21 important that we continue to test, test often, and  
22 then make sure they're good samples, so those samples  
23 can be retested, uh, if they're positive for these  
24 variants. So, this just gives a snapshot. We produce  
25 a weekly report to track it. Thankfully, very, very



1           thankfully, we have, uh -- no major shifts in the  
2           variants, uh, but we are monitoring that closely.  
3           Bryan, do you want to add anything?

4   Fisher:   Yeah, just real quick, because we get this question a  
5           lot, uh -- and you can see on this slide that it says  
6           that we will, uh, provide an update weekly in our  
7           email -- our case count email on Wednesdays. We get  
8           lots of questions about the genomic report, uh, that's  
9           -- that's written by our public health labs, uh -- you  
10          can see the link there, and again we'll -- we'll send  
11          these slides out. Sometimes that genomic report, uh,  
12          takes a little bit longer to get pushed out. We're  
13          trying to do it, uh -- on -- on a regular, periodic  
14          basis. But sometimes they just need to -- to finalize  
15          the data that they're -- they're putting together. As  
16          you heard, uh -- you know, it takes quite a while to  
17          sequence a, uh -- a positive sample and, uh -- and you  
18          know, determine that there is enough whatever stuff in  
19          it to be able to do that sequencing piece. Uh,  
20          there's my scientific term for you. So -- so we're  
21          trying to -- you know, we're trying to be very regular  
22          with that genomic report. Uh, not every single  
23          positive in the state is going to the lab to be  
24          sequenced -- the virology lab -- but we have, uh --  
25          talked with providers and testing entities, uh, across



1 the state and said if you have concern, if you want to  
2 have a positive, uh, sample, uh, sequence, then send  
3 it to -- go ahead and just send it to the lab and --  
4 and they have processes set up for that. We are  
5 sequencing the -- the positives from the traveler  
6 testing program, uh, to see if it's -- if these  
7 variants are being introduced there, but, uh -- we can  
8 talk a little bit more about that if anybody has  
9 questions, although Heidi and I are not scientists.  
10 So, you know, as I was saying -- like Heidi said, the  
11 May campaign from the start here, for the last, uh,  
12 five, six months is all about vaccine, vaccine,  
13 vaccine. Uh, we can't say it enough, it adds an  
14 incredible layer of protection. There are, uh -- lots  
15 of other tools out there -- those, uh, "NPIs" --  
16 nonpharmaceutical interventions -- that we have all  
17 been doing, masking and hand washing and social  
18 distancing, and -- and those types of things. Testing  
19 is a great tool for us to identify and try to control  
20 community transmission, uh -- looking at all the data.  
21 We present positivity and all. Uh, but now that we do  
22 have vaccines, especially since they are so  
23 efficacious, uh -- and safe, that's really -- it -- it  
24 is -- we have said it and we will say it again, it is  
25 our way out of this pandemic, so all the efforts that



1           you have done, uh, with your organizations at the  
2           local level, uh, and everything that we are kind of  
3           doing day in and day out, seven days a week, is to,  
4           uh, further that effort to vaccinate folks that are  
5           eligible for that vaccine, if they choose, uh, to get  
6           the vaccine. Say it here, you've heard it, and it  
7           will -- it's just never going to change, it's been  
8           very consistent from the beginning -- the governor  
9           will never require a vaccine passport, uh -- from the  
10          government level, uh, that's just not going to happen.  
11          We very much feel like personal health decisions are  
12          personal, uh -- and whether you choose to get the  
13          vaccine or not is a personal decision. The government  
14          of Alaska -- the state government, is not going to be  
15          doing some -- any kind of vaccine passport thing, uh -  
16          - and then at the local level and the business level,  
17          that is a decision at that level. You know, we are a  
18          home rule state. We definitely support the freedoms  
19          of local jurisdictions and the private sector to  
20          control their own, uh, interests, uh, for their  
21          businesses and for their employees and the communities  
22          -- uh -- as well as the communities that the  
23          businesses operate in. So, uh -- this is still here.  
24          You know, we keep saying it. You know, just a little  
25          while longer. If we can get the majority of, uh,

1 folks vaccinated, uh -- natural infection is part of  
2 it, but natural infection does not provide the same  
3 degree of immunity, it appears, as -- as the  
4 vaccination does. Uh -- but throughout natural  
5 infection and vaccination, uh, we are certainly  
6 shooting for that mark, uh, to, uh -- to kind of reach  
7 that herd immunity piece, and again, Heidi said, we  
8 are wanting Alaskans to make the -- make the decision  
9 and get that rate up and be prepared for, uh --  
10 hopefully a pretty good tourism season this year  
11 compa- -- compared to last year, uh -- and this is the  
12 key. We have lots of vaccines. We'll see what  
13 happens this afternoon about the Johnson & Johnson Va-  
14 -- Janssen vaccine, and we will go from there. Uh,  
15 just a couple of upcoming -- these echoes that we do -  
16 - the University of Alaska Center for Human  
17 Development Project Echo, uh, has been a great partner  
18 with us at the Unified Command and DHSS. Uh, so we  
19 have these Zoom sessions. We call them Echoes for, uh  
20 -- I -- there's probably -- sometimes I feel like it's  
21 10 a day that we're on, uh, discussing with different  
22 target audiences, but a couple of new ones, kind of  
23 pop up ones that -- that have just been developed,  
24 just today, after this meeting, and kind of between  
25 this meeting and the response commission, we are

1           having our first workplace safety considerations  
2           during COVID-19 Echoes, so representatives from the  
3           health team, the Unified Command, and our Critical  
4           Infrastructure Branch, as well as the Department of  
5           Labor and Workforce Development and the Alaska Office  
6           of, uh, Occupational Safety and Health will be  
7           presenting on the topic. We really are trying to get,  
8           uh -- get -- get to a place where we have some  
9           enduring guidance for businesses, uh -- to be able to  
10          move forward as we're -- as we're coming out of this  
11          pandemic, uh -- to get that in place for -- for -- for  
12          guidance and recommendations, uh -- not just what's on  
13          CDC's website but kind of tailored to Alaskan business  
14          concerns. So, that's happening. We also have a COVID  
15          vaccine, uh, Echo for youth. Pretty excited about  
16          that. I, uh -- I have one of my -- one of my -- one  
17          of my folks that, uh -- his -- his young daughter got  
18          in trouble yesterday and was, uh -- her phone was  
19          taken away, and she was able to get it back if she  
20          promised to participate in this youth Echo next week,  
21          and, uh -- ask questions and all, so we're pretty  
22          excited about that. Please share that. You can see  
23          in -- in -- on the slide here, you just can search for  
24          Alaska COVID Echo or UAA Echo, uh -- you can Google it  
25          or whatever and it'll bring you right to the site



1 where it has a list of every Echo that we have out  
2 there, and there's a lot of them. And, uh -- you can  
3 sign up right there for registration links and all.  
4 And they're all -- they're all, uh, Zoom -- Zoom  
5 meetings that we do, so that is available for you, and  
6 Heidi, I'll let you wrap it up on this slide.

7 Hedberg: Now this is about partnerships. I really appreciate  
8 you guys hanging with us. I think we're, like, 15, 16  
9 months into this, uh, response. Unified Command has  
10 been strong. I'm incredibly thankful for partnerships  
11 at the federal, state, and local level. Uh, happy to  
12 talk with you guys and answer questions. Abner, back  
13 to you.

14 Hoage: Perfect. Thank you, Bryan and Heidi. Great  
15 presentation. Uh, we'll open this up to questions.

16 Fisher: Did -- did I get it turned off, Mr. Chair?

17 Hoage: Yes, you did.

18 Fisher: Are we back to -- okay.

19 Hoage: Yep.

20 Fisher: Thank you.

21 Hoage: We're back to the regular view.

22 Fisher: Winning.

23 Hoage: Woo-hoo. Technology defeated.

24 Mullican: Abner? Jim Mullican. I have a question.

25 Hoage: Yep. Go ahead, Jim.

1 Mullican: Uh, this is -- and for, uh, the doc there. What's the  
2 word on potential, uh, booster shots for at least the  
3 Pfizer vaccine? We're getting a lot of questions  
4 about that down here in Kodiak.

5 Hedberg: Yeah, I appreciate that. I think I might have been  
6 referenced as a doctor. I'm actually not a doctor. I  
7 -- although I feel like should be one.

8 Fisher: Congratulations, Heidi.

9 Hedberg: I know. I'm often introduced as doctor. I'm just  
10 Heidi. Just plain old Heidi. Uh, there is, uh --  
11 there's a lot of literature that's, uh, being  
12 discussed, reviewed, drafted. It looks like, uh --  
13 you know, they're still studying the clinical -- the -  
14 - the data on, uh -- they're -- let me just back up.  
15 They're taking those phase three trial folks and  
16 they're continuing to monitor them and they're looking  
17 at the antibodies that they still have. There is  
18 discussion about a booster shot and is that  
19 incorporated into that seasonal flu vaccine, but  
20 nothing has been determined yet. They're still  
21 looking at that data to see how long, uh, these  
22 vaccines last for, so still up for discussion.

23 Fisher: Uh --

24 Hoage: I think I just read an article yesterday where they're  
25 studying that. They've actually given a booster to



1           some people that participated in the early studies,  
2           and trying to see what difference that makes. Bryan,  
3           did you have something else you wanted to add?

4 Fisher:   Well, I was just going to add for Jim's benefit, I am  
5           wearing a Bear Valley Golf Course shirt today, from  
6           the Coast Guard Station of Kodiak, and Dr. Hedberg is  
7           a doctor. She holds a PhD in being a taskmaster to  
8           all of us. So, feel free to call her a doctor.

9 Hedberg:  Well, I'll take that one.

10 Hoage:    So, I had a question -- I -- I really liked the slide  
11           about the different variants, and I get that question  
12           often down here in Ketchikan, and do we have the  
13           different variants. And I'm -- I'm sure that we have  
14           some of them. Clearly from your slide, that's changed  
15           over the course of a -- of a year, right, with which  
16           ones are the predominant variants. Uh, as we've seen  
17           that shift, have you seen any change in the impact to  
18           our hospitals and their capacity on a statewide level?

19 Hedberg:  That is such a timely question, actually. Uh -- so,  
20           the hospitalizations that we're seeing specifically in  
21           the ICUs -- actually the 20 and 30 year olds, they're  
22           not getting vaccinated. They're the I'm invincible,  
23           I'm healthy, I'm young, COVID meh. And actually  
24           they're filling -- they're starting to really fill up  
25           our, uh, ICU beds. Hospital capacity overall is fine,

1 but what we're seeing is this new, uh, generation that  
2 is, uh -- that's unfortunately being hospitalized. In  
3 fact, there was a very young, healthy soldier that was  
4 medevacked last night, so --

5 Hoage: So, a new demographic that's being impacted.

6 Hedberg: There is. Yeah, absolutely. And so, it's  
7 interesting. We actually have a slide that shows the  
8 high -- it goes vaccination rates, and then it's by  
9 age group, and there's this line and what it's showing  
10 is that our, uh, older population that we said please,  
11 you're vulnerable, we want to protect you -- they got  
12 vaccinated first. They, uh, were the ones that were  
13 being hospitalized. They're not being hospitalized  
14 anymore. And now it's the flip -- it's the 20s and  
15 30s -- they're not vaccinated, they're the ones that  
16 are being hospitalized. When it comes to variants, uh  
17 -- it's -- we don't have enough, uh, correlation yet  
18 between age groups. Again, we've got some variants of  
19 concern, some variants of interest. But we, uh --  
20 we're now trying to track that into the regional  
21 areas, like is it in one region over another, and we  
22 just don't have that yet. Enough to form a decision,  
23 I should say.

24 Hoage: Bryan put up a slide --

25 Fisher: Yeah -- I -- yeah, I just threw up the, uh -- pa- --

1 person vaccinated by age group from the vaccine, uh,  
2 monitoring dashboard, so, uh -- you can kind of see  
3 where that is, and then, like how you said there's a -  
4 - there's some lines that cross, uh, with cases and  
5 hospitalizations and -- and vaccinations and it's  
6 certainly moving the, uh -- you know, kind of to the  
7 younger -- the younger generation that already thinks  
8 they're invincible and -- and, uh -- doesn't feel like  
9 they want to do the -- the, uh -- receive the vaccine  
10 and all, so -- one of our many challenges we're  
11 working through.

12 Hoage: Are there other questions? If not, I have another  
13 question. Opportunity to ask questions.

14 Hedberg: Go for it, Abner.

15 Hoage: All right, I'll monopolize the floor. So, is there,  
16 Heidi, a magic number we're looking at for vaccination  
17 rate? You mentioned 75. Is it -- this is a question  
18 that I get all the time, so that's why I ask it, you  
19 know, uh -- I think I know the answer, but, uh --  
20 you're doing a lot higher level looking at this than I  
21 am, so, uh -- is there a magic number? And do you  
22 think we can reach it? And what happens if we don't,  
23 right? Like, we've -- we're not mandating this, so at  
24 some point do we get to a point where we say the  
25 vaccine has been widely available for enough people



1 long enough that maybe we start to proceed back to  
2 normal?

3 Hedberg: So, I'll give you sort of three different answers.  
4 I'm going to impersonate Anne Zink. You guys ready?  
5 So, Anne's going to be like every vaccine -- every  
6 vaccinated person counts. So, if it's one more  
7 person, that person counts. Okay, so that's your Anne  
8 Zink. Every person counts. If you are, uh, like the  
9 Joe McLaughlins of the world, he's going to give you  
10 that 70 to 90%. People try to be like is it 75? Is  
11 it 80? Is it 85? And that's where it defaults back  
12 to Anne. She's like every person counts. So you're  
13 not going to get, like, that magic number. Anchorage  
14 just came out and said we will pull back, uh -- uh --  
15 more of the emergency, uh, orders when it's fully  
16 vaccinated at 70% of our population. Communities --  
17 some communities are choosing to do that. That's the  
18 only one that I'm aware of. I think our goal is  
19 education, it's a choice, we really want to get to  
20 that higher percentage point, which is where I say,  
21 again, we're just below that 50%. Can we bump that up  
22 to that 70% for 16 and older before we have this  
23 influx in tourists? And we know the number and dial  
24 will be reset because once the FDA approves Pfizer, it  
25 then resets the dial and we then count from 12 up.

1 So, it's a moving target right now. You know, if I  
2 was to get my foggy crystal ball out, I would say that  
3 we're still going to have local outbreaks that we're  
4 going to still continue to respond to. Education is  
5 dominating our time. We've got to focus on -- on  
6 education about vaccine, uh -- economy's incredibly  
7 important, and when we think of health, we know that  
8 you need to have a job and you need to address the  
9 conditions of care in order to go to work. So, it's -  
10 - it's got to be this partnership together. I think  
11 that we're still going to be having this discussion a  
12 year from now. I think --

13 Fisher: I mean, yeah, and -- I -- yeah, I -- I got to tell  
14 you, you know, to some degree, this conversation about  
15 the -- say, the vaccine dashboard and a percentage of  
16 fully, uh -- in all the demographics, uh -- it -- I  
17 just caution you all at -- at the local level about  
18 that. You could very easily fall into a trap that  
19 says if you hit X, then Y. And if you hit X but you  
20 know, a variant changes, that kind of thing, and we're  
21 -- we're kind of right back to the -- to whatever it  
22 is, any kind of -- you know, social distancing or  
23 capacity restrictions or masking, that kind of thing,  
24 uh -- really, a dangerous bit. So, I like to say --  
25 because I don't -- you know, obviously not an Eppy

1 person or a doctor or health -- health professional,  
2 uh -- but when I look at this, I have suggested it  
3 really isn't about the number of sticks or the number  
4 of fully vaccinated, uh, individuals -- one each  
5 across the state. When we get close to, uh -- you  
6 know, a very -- a higher number of persons vaccinated,  
7 and unfortunately those that have had, uh, natural  
8 infection -- we're going to see -- we're going to see  
9 the results of that in all the other dashboards, so  
10 we'll see less hospitalizations. We will see the are  
11 not percent positivity, the -- the epidemic curve,  
12 all, uh -- you know, declining or staying very --  
13 very, very low and flat, that kind of thing. So,  
14 instead of getting -- you know, getting caught in that  
15 -- that -- that issue of throwing a target out there,  
16 some arbitrary percentage that there isn't the magic  
17 number, like Heidi said, uh -- we will certainly be  
18 able to see the impacts of that just like we see the  
19 impacts of, you know, a huge tourism season or a big  
20 workforce coming into the state, or, you know,  
21 unfortunately, you know, community, uh -- outbreaks  
22 from, you know, introduction or you know -- just  
23 because of -- like, you know, the unfortunate way this  
24 virus is so sneaky so I -- my recommendation, at least  
25 from the layperson's perspective is that -- that we



1 talk about the -- uh -- the effects of that, which is  
2 the effects on healthcare capacity, the effects on,  
3 uh, people being hospitalized and fatalities and that  
4 kind of thing, as opposed to just hyper focusing on a  
5 number of needles or -- or whatever so --

6 Hedberg: Totally agree.

7 Hoage: And I guess, like I said, I kind of knew the answer to  
8 that going in, but I wanted to give you the  
9 opportunity to talk about that, uh -- I will tell you  
10 in Ketchikan, we have published some changes to our  
11 risk level matrix. We use a -- a risk matrix that  
12 incorporates hospitalizations and new transmission  
13 cases and positivity rate and all of that, and we've  
14 put out three different tiers as vaccination rates  
15 increase. We think less people will get tested, for  
16 example, right? So, because of that, we expect our  
17 positivity rate is probably going to increase some  
18 based on having more vaccinations, but it doesn't mean  
19 that we're at any greater risk. It just means less  
20 people are getting tested. So we kind of took that  
21 approach, uh -- if you go on our -- our dashboard here  
22 in Ketchikan, that information is out there. If  
23 anybody wants a copy, I'm happy to share it as well.  
24 Uh, but maybe that's the kind of approach we have to  
25 look at. I think we have to balance as emergency

1 managers that risk versus benefit, and that -- the  
2 magic number is just not going to -- there's never  
3 going to be a magic number. I did see -- I think it  
4 was Michelle Brown (ph) raised her hand and H- --  
5 Hedberg: Just real quickly, before we get to Michelle, and I --  
6 we want to hear that question -- I do want to remind  
7 people, I think, you know, we're so focused on the  
8 operations about vaccine and the education around  
9 vaccine, people assume it's going to be 100% solution.  
10 And it's not. So, there is a term called  
11 breakthrough. You can be fully vaccinated and, uh --  
12 unfortunately, you can still become positive with  
13 COVID. And we see that, and I want to be open and  
14 transparent that it's a very, very, very small amount,  
15 but let's just be, uh, clear with what vaccine is.  
16 It's going to reduce the hospital capacity, it's going  
17 to reduce the impacts. You're not going to have long  
18 COVID, right? There's -- there's personal and  
19 community impacts to getting vaccinated which are all  
20 positive, so I just throw that out there as just  
21 awareness too, especially when people are so focused  
22 on that herd immunity, and then I think well, why do  
23 we still have cases? Well, you know, vaccine is not  
24 100%. So --

25 Hoage: Uh, so Michelle, you have your hand raised? I hope I



1 didn't disconnect her when I put her hand down.

2 Hedberg: \*6?

3 Hoage: Uh -- all right, does anyone else have questions? I  
4 can't hear you, Michelle. Unmuted according to the --  
5 to the participant panel, so, uh --

6 Reeve: Yeah, and she's still in, Mr. Chair.

7 Hoage: Yeah, I see that. Unmute's not working. You -- you  
8 may want to call in on a phone -- dial in in order to  
9 -- to get connected with audio if that's not working.

10 Fisher: While -- while Michelle's working on that --

11 (CROSSTALK)

12 Hoage: -- in the chat. Go ahead, Bryan.

13 Fisher: Yeah, while Michelle's working on that, Bill, uh --  
14 put a -- a comment in the chat that the percent  
15 vaccination is based on community population. How  
16 accurate? Is that known? The last census numbers are  
17 from 2010 and then agree that -- and he agrees that  
18 getting hung up on the number is a trap. So, I think  
19 Heidi can speak to that. We do use current labor  
20 estimates for population. Not just the 2010 census  
21 data. I think that's -- but I'll let Heidi correct me  
22 on --

23 Hedberg: No, that's correct. You answered it, Bryan. Well  
24 done, well done.

25 Fisher: So, we're using the, uh -- the 2019 or 2020, uh --

1 State Department of Labor, uh, population statistics  
2 that are -- you know, with the Community of Regional  
3 Affairs and the Department of Labor and Workforce  
4 Development, because they are -- they are -- they are  
5 more -- obviously more -- more fresh than the 2010  
6 census data. And then, of course, you all know what  
7 the -- you know, I guess we'll see whenever there --  
8 something happens with the 2020 census. That's -- uh  
9 -- you know, in the time of a pandemic that is an  
10 interesting thing going on that affects many things  
11 for all of you, all of us, but -- you got it, Bill.  
12 Michelle, did you -- were you able to get unmuted or  
13 you can put your question in the -- in the chat box if  
14 you want.

15 Hoage: Not seeing or hearing anything from you, Michelle, so,  
16 uh -- anyone else have questions for Bryan or Heidi?  
17 If not, what I'm going to suggest we do is take about  
18 a five minute break. We've been on here almost an  
19 hour now. Give people a chance to refill drinks and  
20 drain drinks and then, uh -- we'll come back and we'll  
21 continue on with new business, so -- uh -- yeah, three  
22 minutes until -- let's go until 10:05 and then be back  
23 on here. Break until 10:05 and then we'll come back.

24 (CROSSTALK)

25 Hoage: Uh, were you able to get your audio working?

1 Mattice: Abner, can you hear me?

2 Hoage: I can.

3 Mattice: This is Tom Mattice. I spoke with Michelle over the  
4 phone real briefly. She was just saying that one of  
5 the things that we will need to address at some point  
6 in time is a lot of the younger generation, when  
7 they're coming in to get vaccinated, I mean, they're  
8 almost having panic attacks. I mean, they're very,  
9 very nervous about it. So, it -- it's just the -- you  
10 know, we have to get them through that frightened  
11 stage and let them understand that, you know, this  
12 vaccine was created through gene sequencing and other  
13 things to be incredibly specific. It doesn't really  
14 have many side effects, even though people do register  
15 some, but we just -- we need to find a way to get the  
16 younger generation past that frightened state. And  
17 she was also saying one thing we did in Juneau is we  
18 actually had a prize -- we -- we gave an incentive, we  
19 basically had a drawing for everybody who had been  
20 vaccinated, and she thought it would be neat if there  
21 was some way we could embrace that on a greater level  
22 to try and get people involved.

23 Hoage: Right. Yeah, I've heard that a couple different  
24 places now, that younger generation -- they're not  
25 seeing the information on safety piece -- efficacy of

1 the vaccine, and so they're not as interested. I  
2 think George Keeney (inaudible - 01:07:28) Facebook or  
3 (inaudible - 01:07:30) put on how to reach that target  
4 group. I have 10:05. We'll go ahead and call the  
5 meeting back to order here and continue on with our  
6 agenda. Uh, I don't know if Heidi and Bryan are still  
7 on and -- and heard what Tom was saying Michelle's  
8 talking point was. All right, we'll continue on in  
9 our agenda. So, this brings us -- we're in New  
10 Business. We just completed Item A, so we'll move  
11 onto Item B, and we have Southeast Landslide Disaster  
12 Status Report.

13 Roberts: Hi, it's Mark Roberts with the State Emergency  
14 Operations Center, serving as Operation Section Chief  
15 for the Southeast storm as well as the COVID response.  
16 I'll go ahead and give you a quick update, uh -- the  
17 storm really dropped up to 13 inches of rainfall over  
18 multiple communities in southeast in December 2nd of  
19 2020. The State Emergency Operations Center received  
20 a call from the Haines EOC reporting a landslide that  
21 had entrapped people and cutoff and possibly, uh,  
22 required a rescue that was coordinated between the  
23 Alaska state troopers, United States Coast Guard,  
24 Alaskan National Guard, Juneau Capitol City Rescue,  
25 (inaudible - 01:08:58) to attempt to recover, uh, and

1 rescue people. That work was ongoing. There was  
2 damage reported in over 10 communities in southeast  
3 from that storm. The State Emergency Operations  
4 Center de- -- deployed division supervisors there to  
5 help coordinate the state response as well as mask  
6 care. On December 3rd the governor declared a  
7 disaster for public assistance, and then subsequently  
8 individual assistance. On February 17th, following a  
9 joint preliminary d- -- damage assessment, with the  
10 Federal Emergency Management Agency, the president  
11 declared a disaster on February 17th. Ongoing  
12 sheltering was occurring for, uh, several months  
13 because the landslide in Haines had cutoff, uh,  
14 communities, uh, neighborhoods, uh, on -- particularly  
15 on Beach Road (ph). It was mainly non (inaudible -  
16 01:09:50) sheltering supported by our Alaska  
17 volunteers active in disasters. Uh, another issue  
18 that went on was a geotechnical study to understand  
19 the real risk of the landslide. Initial assessments  
20 were that the landslide -- that it could, uh, further  
21 endanger anyone traveling on that road, trying to  
22 access that area. And that was, uh, in cooperation  
23 with the State Division of Geological and Geophysical  
24 Surveys and the Use Department of Geophysical -- yeah,  
25 uh -- the SGS (ph). We -- under the Public Assistance

1 Program Disaster Funding, we funded, uh, the first  
2 phase of a geotechnical study that was just completed,  
3 uh, late last week. That study had assessed the  
4 danger for additional slide risk at this point to be  
5 less than initially thought. So, they're working on  
6 reopening a pioneer road based upon local, uh, work.  
7 A pioneer road for that community cut off by Beach  
8 Road and Haines, and then there's a second phase of  
9 that geotechnical study that is ongoing. In addition  
10 to that, and simultaneous with that, there's been, uh,  
11 engagement of the state's public assistance program  
12 and individual assistance program with all the  
13 communities that have reported damage. To -- to date,  
14 we've put out over -- in the individual assistance  
15 program, had 174 applicants. Some of them were deemed  
16 ineligible because of the program's specifics. We had  
17 applications from places that were outside the  
18 declared disaster, and so they were obviously  
19 immediately not eligible. To date, we've put out over  
20 \$330,000 in temporary housing, other needs assistance,  
21 and, uh, housing repair assistance. That's -- and in  
22 -- in addition to that, in -- in individual ki- --  
23 individual assistance category, there's been multiple  
24 donations and mass care operations that have gone on  
25 through our volunteers active in disaster, including

1 the Salvation Army, Red Cross, mortgage vouchers.  
2 The, uh, community of Haines has established a 1- --  
3 if I didn't mention it, a long-term recovery committee  
4 and, uh, hired someone to handle that coordination and  
5 is continuing to put out disaster assistance, grants,  
6 mortgage assistance grants, and repair grants going  
7 on. So, that's under the individual assistance side,  
8 both volunteer and government agency, and then on the  
9 public assistance side, state public assistance is  
10 ramping up. They've had several, uh, scoping  
11 meetings. We have applicants for public assistance  
12 and that work is ongoing, uh -- and that's kind of a  
13 quick update on -- and I could entertain questions.  
14 That's kind of how the southeast disaster, uh, for the  
15 storms rolled out and its ongoing status.

16 Hoage: Perfect. Thank you, Mark. Uh, questions for Mark?  
17 Not hearing any, we'll move onto the next item, then,  
18 and we did change the order of Items C and D, so we're  
19 going to go to an overview of the LEPC workgroup  
20 recommendations. I'll turn the floor over to Kevin  
21 Reeve.

22 Reeve: Uh, let me turn the camera on. Uh, thanks for that,  
23 Mr. Chair. Uh, so folks, what you should have  
24 received yesterday -- I sent you the document where we  
25 captured, uh, the work product of two workgroups. One

1 that was initiated after, uh, the October, 2019 LEPC  
2 meeting, and then also we reinvigorated after the no-  
3 -- or October, 2020 LEPCA meeting. So, the document  
4 that I sent to you is not the be all, end all. It is  
5 simply our initial thoughts and recommendations from  
6 the workgroups that had looked at the issue of can the  
7 LEPCs meet the statutory requirements out of U.S. code  
8 and state statute. Uh, the primary focus of this  
9 discussion today is so you have visibility and  
10 awareness of what that workgroup had identified as  
11 potential recommendations for the SERC. It is  
12 intended to give you an opportunity to look at those  
13 recommendations. If you have burning disagreements or  
14 you feel that there is something that should be added  
15 or should be amended, that's what we want to talk  
16 about and focus on today. If you suggest that there  
17 needs to be amendments or additional items added, uh -  
18 - the way I would take that, Mr. Co-Chair is that that  
19 is a volunteer to be on the workgroup to make those  
20 amendments and additional recommendations. So, uh,  
21 that's the whole purpose for this discussion, uh --  
22 and like I said, we did not want to get down in the  
23 nitty gritty and have the, uh, knife fight over  
24 whether -- whether or not we got all the appropriate  
25 recommendations in there in this meeting. We simply





1 want to have the discussion of do we need to make  
2 further amendments add additional information. So,  
3 uh, with that Mr. Chair, I turn it back to you and  
4 solicit any feedback or comments from the LEPCA.

5 Hoage: Very good, and for clarification, we're talking about  
6 -- it's a page and a half document, right, that -- the  
7 title on the -- on Page 1 says LEPC Workgroup Issues.  
8 Is that correct?

9 Reeve: That is correct.

10 Hoage: And for me, I don't know -- I -- I was looking for an  
11 individual email from you and I just didn't see that.  
12 It is attached to my meeting invite, is where I picked  
13 up that document at. And --

14 Reeve: That is correct.

15 Hoage: -- the document is titled 20.02.28 LEPC Workgroup  
16 Issues, for those -- the document in your me- -- so,  
17 with that, we will move, uh -- actually into Item C,  
18 which is the Listening Session and Roundtable, and  
19 that is kind of the intent of this item is to be able  
20 to have any discussion, uh, and address the topics  
21 that Kevin just talked about, understanding that we're  
22 not going to hash out a final resolution here, just  
23 that we want to see what the feeling is about  
24 continuing with more, uh -- more detailed, uh,  
25 workgroup. Right, Kevin?

1 Reeve: The other thing that I would ask -- add, Mr. Co-Chair  
2 is, uh -- during the listening session, uh -- it would  
3 be really good to get any feedback from the LEPCs on  
4 any specific COVID-related issues or problems that  
5 they've encountered, any misappropriate taskings for  
6 LEPCs, uh -- I know previously, uh -- in October, uh --  
7 -- there were some taskings, uh -- it was believed that  
8 LEPC should be implementing procedures, response  
9 activities, et cetera. Uh, it would be good if we  
10 could identify any of those kinds of ongoing issues.

11 Hoage: Okay. Very good. So, the first thing I'll do is --  
12 is open it up to conversation and discussion on this.  
13 Uh, open -- open discussion. You can either use the  
14 raise hand function, uh -- (inaudible - 01:17:45) us  
15 to be heard, uh -- verbally, and I'll try to catch  
16 those, uh -- and then after we've given that a few  
17 minutes and -- and seems as if we've run that to  
18 ground, what I will ask is that we go, uh -- have  
19 Kevin go through the -- the attendance list and just  
20 doublecheck with each LEPC that they have a chance to  
21 be heard and don't have anything else to add. We  
22 don't have a -- a normal closing comments or verbal  
23 status reports in this meeting because of the format,  
24 but I do want to make sure on this topic that we've  
25 heard everyone. So, with that, floor is open for

1 discussion. A chat -- question in the chat. Who sent  
2 it and when? It was sent out by Kevin in the meeting  
3 invite for this Zoom meeting. So, if you are using  
4 outlook, you go into the calendar event and double  
5 click on it and you'll see all the attachments with  
6 the agenda, and it's also in (inaudible - 01:18:58)

7 (CROSSTALK)

8 Reeve: Mr. Co-Chair, the, uh -- the meeting invite was  
9 updated yesterday, uh -- to include that attachment.  
10 So, that's what you're looking for if you're having  
11 problems finding the document.

12 Hoage: And in some cases, like in mine, it automatically  
13 updated that meeting invite. I -- I just had to click  
14 no response necessary, but it wasn't completely clear  
15 that it was a -- an additional document there, so --

16 Reeve: (Inaudible - 01:19:39)

17 Hoage: Might be a quick meeting if nobody has thoughts on  
18 that document.

19 Paschall: This is Michael Paschall with Delta-Greely.

20 Hoage: Yes, go ahead, Michael.

21 Paschall: Okay, uh, very good with the document. I don't know  
22 if the -- you said you were going to go through all of  
23 the LEPCs, but my only overall comment is I think it's  
24 important at the state level that we recognize the  
25 different political structures that are in place in

1 the state for managing not only our LEPCs but our  
2 emergency response from -- because we do have the  
3 variation from communities like myself where we do not  
4 have -- or I am not involved in incorporated  
5 government to areas such as Anchorage that have full  
6 fledged municipalities with larger populations, and how  
7 do we, uh -- account for the differences between those  
8 as we look at what the LEPCs are doing and how we're  
9 funding them and how we're -- we're setting mandates  
10 for those? For example in our -- in our situation, we  
11 have no one that's paid staff -- not just LEPC, but in  
12 terms of the various functions that happened. It's  
13 not like we have a paid fire chief that's -- you know,  
14 that chairs the LEPC that has time to commit as part  
15 of their job, versus somewhere where it's a person  
16 where it is actually their employment function.

17 Hoage: Very good point. Thank you.

18 Reeve: Mr. Co-Chair, if I can? Uh, Mike that is one of the  
19 things that -- that at DHS and EM's level we keep --  
20 try to keep intimately in front of decision makers. I  
21 know when we have discussions with Commissioner Brune,  
22 and Commissioner Saxe -- those are the co-chairs of  
23 the SERC -- we try and very clearly articulate that  
24 there is no standardized, one-size-fits-all LEPC.  
25 Each of the LEPCs are different. They're different

1 geographically. They're different structurally with  
2 government. And that's one of the things that -- that  
3 is really a challenge for us in the state of Alaska.  
4 Uh, it's not like the lower 48, where you know, you've  
5 got a state with X number of counties and every county  
6 has similar structure and similar LEPC. So, we do  
7 very much try and keep that in the forefront and bring  
8 it to the attention of the co-chairs. Now, that does  
9 not equate to a resolution or resolving the issue, it  
10 simply means that we try and highlight it and keep it  
11 visible. Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.

12 Hoage: Speaking of co-chairs, I think Dave Miller came on the  
13 line.

14 Reeve: He did.

15 Hoage: Dave, are you there and able to, uh, unmute?

16 Miller: I think I'm on. Am I on?

17 Hoage: You are on. I know you --

18 Miller: First --

19 Hoage: I know you -- you were involved in this, so welcome to  
20 the meeting, Dave, and, uh -- I'll turn it over to you  
21 for a minute for thoughts that you may have.

22 Miller: Well, first I would like to say, uh -- a n- -- a  
23 number of years ago I met a guy at one of the  
24 meetings, his name was Kevin Reeves, uh -- and I'm not  
25 sure who the guy is that's speaking, uh, now calling

1           himself Kevin Reeves, uh -- but they sure look  
2           different from the last time I saw them, so -- I just  
3           had to bring that up, Kevin, just for -- you know, uh  
4           -- you -- you've got that '60s look going, uh -- that  
5           -- that -- that hippie look, let me say. Uh --

6   Reeve:    I'm -- I'm adopting the Samson thought process, Mr.  
7           Co-Chair. The -- the anti-COVID strength is in the  
8           hair.

9   Miller:   I got you.

10   Reeve:    Once COVID resolves, I'll get my haircut.

11   Miller:   I just had to bring it up. I know nobody else, me.  
12           Uh --

13   Reeve:    (Inaudible - 01:23:55) bringing that up.

14   Miller:   I -- I have something to say at the end of the  
15           meeting, also, but I think in this -- in this, uh --  
16           context that we're speaking now, uh -- one of the  
17           things that -- as I read through those notes in the  
18           meeting that I -- I missed for one reason or another,  
19           uh -- was -- is that I -- I firmly agree with what  
20           Kevin Reeves is saying. That, uh -- we are now a one  
21           shop fits all -- every community type place. Uh, and  
22           Michael, I agree with you wholeheartedly. Uh, I mean,  
23           you know, you get -- I've been to a few of the small  
24           villages, uh, and you get to them, and you know,  
25           they've got oil drums stacked, uh, all around and I --



1           you know, I asked at the one, you know, what are you  
2           going to do with these? Well, nothing, we don't have  
3           a barge come in, we can't get rid of them, really. We  
4           really have no way to do that. And I know DEC and all  
5           the organizations out there are trying their best to  
6           do that, but it's hard to make it happen in this  
7           state. Uh, to get sort of that one -- one thing fits  
8           all. Everything that was written in that thing I  
9           agree with wholeheartedly. I think it's -- it was a  
10          great document, I think that you guys came up with  
11          some great ideas, and, uh -- I -- I joined SERC to be  
12          able to push -- hopefully push through some of that  
13          stuff, uh, and get that going, and maybe we can make  
14          it easier on the communities, too. I think, you know,  
15          uh, the smaller communities -- and -- and Sitka is  
16          only 8,000 or 9,000 or whatever we have, uh -- so it's  
17          a small community too, but we have a full paid staff,  
18          we have everybody to be able to do that, and if you  
19          get smaller than us, it changes, and that's my goal,  
20          is to try to help them out. Thank you, sir.

21 Hoage:    Uh, I did see in the comments Michelle said I like the  
22           document, we do need a funding stream to support  
23           LEPCs. And then Sandy Dixson just said I agree with  
24           Michelle and Co-Chair Miller. Uh, I'll echo those  
25           same thoughts. There's a lot of -- of good -- we did



1 a good job of outlining the issues in this document,  
2 uh -- I don't know that we brought a lot of solutions,  
3 but I'm not sure that we're the -- the right folks to  
4 bring the -- the overall solution or the answers to  
5 some of these. We're going to need, uh, further input  
6 for that. Anyone else? If not, I will ask Kevin just  
7 to kind of go through each LEPC and make sure that  
8 we've heard any input you may have and -- Kevin, why  
9 don't we just go through, uh, LEPC by LEPC and see if  
10 they have any additional input.

11 Reeve: Roger that. Uh, did Aleutian Pribilof join us?  
12 Aleutian Pribilof going once. Okay, Anchorage?  
13 Audrey, you or Amanda? Do you have any comments?

14 Gray: Uh, I do not have any comments. Thank you.

15 Reeve: Okay. Bristol Bay, did you join us? Bristol Bay  
16 going twice. Copper River? Mike, I think we heard  
17 from you. Delta-Greely?

18 Paschall: No, nothing more.

19 Reeve: Okay, I'm sorry, Mike. I got confused myself there.  
20 Thank you. Uh, Denali? Chris?

21 Noel: I -- I'll just pipe in real quick. I -- I agree with  
22 the document, and I think while the document didn't  
23 identify the benefits of LEPCs, I think each LEPC kind  
24 of as we've identified could i- -- could speak to the  
25 benefits for their particular community, but nope, I



1 agree -- agree with everything that's been said.

2 Thanks.

3 Reeve: Fairbanks? Bill White?

4 Whitty: Yeah. Bill Whitty.

5 Reeve: Whitty, sorry.

6 Whitty: Uh, nothing to add on that. Uh, the (inaudible -  
7 01:27:54) uh, particularly, uh -- applicable to a  
8 second class borough, so glad to see that there.

9 Reeve: Okay, thank you, sir. Uh, Juneau, Tom and -- or  
10 Michelle? Thank you for joining. Did you have  
11 anything to add?

12 Mattice: I do not. I thought it was pretty well done and  
13 pretty well rounded.

14 Reeve: Thank you, sir. Kenai -- KPB?

15 Male 1: (Inaudible - 01:28:22)

16 Reeve: Okay, Abner, we -- do you have anything?

17 Hoage: I don't have anything else to add, Kevin.

18 Reeve: Okay, thank you, Mr. Co-Chair. Uh, Kodiak? Jim?

19 Mullican: No, nothing to add. You got it all written down  
20 there, and I want to thank you, Kevin, specifically  
21 for helping lead us through the bumpy road it took to  
22 get there.

23 Reeve: Thank you, sir. Uh, Mat-Su. Casey?

24 Casey: Uh, I don't have anything to add. Thanks.

25 Reeve: Thank you, sir. Uh, Nome. Tom? Thank you for

1 joining. Anything to add? Tom? Anything to add?  
2 Okay, going on, North Slope Borough, Hina or F- --  
3 Frederick? Anything to add? Okay, going on.  
4 Northwest Arctic Borough, were you able to join us?  
5 Northwest Arctic Borough going once? Petersburg.  
6 Anything to add, Sandy?

7 Dixson: I don't have anything additional to add. Thank you.

8 Reeve: Okay, uh -- Mr. Co-Chair, Miller, thank you for your  
9 comments, sir. Anything else?

10 Miller: Nothing, sir.

11 Reeve: Okay, Skagway. (Inaudible - 01:29:47) did you join  
12 us? Craig? We'll just -- that's easier than saying  
13 the whole thing. Bryan, anything to add?

14 Templin: Uh, I don't have anything more to add, just to say  
15 that I thought the group did a good job and the  
16 document came out well and reflects, uh -- uh -- kind  
17 of identifies the issues of those, uh, differences  
18 between jurisdictions, and -- and the issues the LEPCs  
19 face. So --

20 Reeve: Okay. Thank you, sir. Uh -- Valdez. Aaron (ph), did  
21 you join? Valdez going once. Okay, Wrangell.  
22 Dorianne, do you have anything to add, please?  
23 Dorianne going once. Mr. Co-Chair, that completes the  
24 list. The one thing that -- that might at some point  
25 be worth the LEPC applying some, uh -- some brainpower

1 to is the fact that with the limitations that we have  
2 even on the LEPCs, the LEPCs cover less than half of  
3 the state, and what do we do with the rest of the  
4 LEPCs? Local Emergency Planning Districts that do not  
5 have a specific LEPC representing them? So, that  
6 might be a consideration for the LEPC at a later time.

7 Hoage: I agree, it -- it probably is. Also, uh, if you  
8 weren't looking, Kevin, uh, there were a couple  
9 comments made in the chat as you were going through  
10 the group, and some of those may be folks you were  
11 looking for.

12 Reeve: Okay.

13 Hoage: All right.

14 (CROSSTALK)

15 Reeve: Yeah, I just couldn't be in two places at once. Do we  
16 want to go through those or -- or not?

17 Hoage: No, I think most of them were covered, I just wanted  
18 you to make sure you looked and saw in case you needed  
19 any of those folks for their input.

20 Reeve: Roger that. Uh, yeah.

21 Hoage: It looks like they were all --

22 Reeve: Thank you.

23 Hoage: -- concurrent with, uh -- with the document, but -- uh  
24 -- so that brings us in -- well, first any -- any  
25 other final comments or discussion on this topic? If

1 not, we'll move onto Item E, Co-Chair nominations,  
2 and, uh -- Mr. Miller, how about if you discuss this  
3 one for us? You're muted, Dave. Still muted. Nope,  
4 still muted.

5 Miller: I'm trying.

6 Hoage: There you go. We got you now.

7 Miller: Okay, so, uh -- a number of years ago -- I don't know  
8 how many years ago, I became the co-chair for the  
9 LEPCA, uh -- and -- and now -- and Abner and I have  
10 been doing it for the last few years, uh -- I retired  
11 from the fire service, uh, and in our community, the,  
12 uh -- fire chief is the emergency manager and the head  
13 LEP- -- head of the LEPC and all of that good stuff.  
14 So, I'm stepping back from that position. I step  
15 down, uh -- probably officially or semi-officially  
16 from the LEPCA. Uh -- filling in today, because the  
17 chief is doing something else -- chiefly.

18 Hoage: Chief things.

19 Miller: Chiefly things. Yeah, whatever that may be. Having  
20 lunch or whatever. Uh -- so, it's -- it's that time  
21 to, uh -- pick somebody to -- to be the co-chair along  
22 with Abner, uh -- to -- to -- to run these meetings.  
23 It's not a hard job. It's a job of sitting in front  
24 of the group, most of the time, uh, trying to keep the  
25 meetings, uh, going and, uh -- adding a little humor

1 or whatever to them once in a while. I -- before the  
2 end of the meeting, I guess I'm going to say -- since  
3 I am sort of -- I am stepping down, I would like to  
4 say that it has -- that it's truly been a privilege to  
5 work with you all, and, uh -- the things that I've  
6 learned from each and every one of you in your  
7 communities has been amazing. I mean, sitting --  
8 sitting and listening to the, uh -- you know, the five  
9 minute or three minute, uh, reports that each of you  
10 give about what you did in your communities is really  
11 great, because some great ideas have come out of  
12 those. I hope other communities have taken and -- and  
13 used them and I hope that continues on, because some  
14 of this stuff is just truly amazing how -- who thought  
15 of it. I -- man, I -- I don't have that type of  
16 imagination to make it happen. Uh, the one last thing  
17 I'd like to say is if you do this, it's a great thing  
18 -- it's a great organization to be involved with, and  
19 they're -- and I can name every one of you to say  
20 thanks for what you do and how you've done it and all  
21 of that stuff, but I'd really like to say thanks to --  
22 to, uh -- I want to say Mike Paschall for being sort  
23 of the radical -- if I may say that in a good way, uh  
24 -- keeping everybody on their toes. I mean, he -- he  
25 does that very well, uh, and we've chatted many times.



1 I like Mike, and he -- he just keeps you thinking  
2 about different things, and I think that's a great  
3 thing. Casey Cook, uh -- I don't know what he does  
4 for a living, uh -- I don't know what he does for  
5 life, but, uh -- he's -- uh -- uh -- uh -- a wealth of  
6 knowledge out there to this -- to the state and to his  
7 community and I -- and I appreciate that. Abner,  
8 you're a great guy. I love working with you. Tom  
9 Mattice, you've done a lot for the state and the  
10 communities and I really like that. And to all the  
11 state folks that are, uh, with DHS and EM, DEC, Health  
12 and Human Services -- all of those folks -- the one  
13 recommendation I have to anybody that's an Emergency  
14 Manager, uh -- is that you get to know every one of  
15 those people that everybody that you can -- because if  
16 you have a disaster, uh -- it's great to know them by  
17 name and maybe by face, and maybe by having shaken  
18 hands with them -- it'll make your disaster a lot  
19 easier to deal with in the long run. That's all I  
20 have for now, sir. Thanks.

21 Hoage: Thanks, Dave, uh -- and congratulations on retirement.  
22 Sounds like you're finally going to actually retire.

23 Miller: Sort of, semi.

24 Hoage: Uh -- all right. Uh, Mr. Fisher, I see you have your  
25 hand raised.

1 Fisher: Thank you very much, Mr. Co-Chair. And I just wanted  
2 to take a chance before you -- you get into the, uh --  
3 the process for a new co-chair to -- on behalf of the  
4 state of Alaska, uh -- on behalf of, uh -- you know,  
5 our division, uh, Homeland Security and Emergency  
6 Management and, uh -- on behalf of Director Tiffany  
7 Larson at DEC SPAR and -- and Graham Wood -- he's on  
8 the call -- I just wanted to say thank you, Dave, for  
9 your years of service, your, uh -- easygoing method of  
10 running meetings, your humor, always completely  
11 appreciated even when we had, uh, a little more formal  
12 and stuffy directors, that, uh -- that were working  
13 with you. Uh, so I -- really, I can't say enough  
14 about everything that you have contributed to this  
15 association, to the response commission, to Sitka and  
16 Southeast Alaska, and really the entire state of  
17 Alaska for sharing your ideas and -- and things that  
18 you've been doing in Sitka and, uh -- really, uh --  
19 keeping this association together with all of the --  
20 you know, the -- the -- the trials and tribulations  
21 that we're going through with funding and -- and like  
22 we just talked about and all, so -- so on behalf of  
23 the governor and the entire state, uh -- and the --  
24 and the Emergency Response Commission, I did want to  
25 say, uh, congratulations and thank you for everything.

1           And, uh -- I -- you know, I expect to be able to -- to  
2           meet you and, uh -- you know, have dinner with you  
3           when I'm in Sitka next time or when you're up here in  
4           -- in, uh -- the big city of Anchorage, so thank you,  
5           and thank you, Mr. Co-Chair, for allowing me to -- to  
6           interrupt the process here.

7   Hoage:   Absolutely. Dave, uh -- I really appreciated the time  
8           working with you. I -- I joined the LEPC and  
9           immediately was somehow thrust into this co-chair  
10          position, and, uh -- you helped guide me through that  
11          -- that process in the beginning and -- and I really  
12          appreciate that, so -- uh -- we do need to replace  
13          Dave with a -- another co-chair. That being said,  
14          Dave and I have been running this as co-chairs for I  
15          think as long as I can remember, uh -- probably like  
16          five years, now, or maybe six, even? Uh, it's been  
17          quite a while. So, with that in mind, uh, if the  
18          group desires, I'm willing to continue. I don't know  
19          what we have for, uh -- nominations or for -- for our  
20          process. I don't know how often we're supposed to  
21          change. We may have even blown through that and --  
22          and totally missed it. But, uh -- regardless, I think  
23          that, uh -- it's time to at least consider if someone  
24          else is interested in co-chairing and -- and taking my  
25          seat, I'm willing to -- to step down, and allow that



1 to happen. I'm also happy to continue to serve if  
2 that's what the group wants, so -- uh -- I would  
3 suggest we start though by opening the floor. Oh, it  
4 looks like Kevin has his hand raised. Go ahead,  
5 Kevin.

6 Reeve: So, Mr. Co-Chair, just, uh -- heads up. So, I did  
7 send out an email to all the LEPCs soli- -- soliciting  
8 interest on the part of the LEPC membership. If you  
9 would care, Mr. Co-Chair, I could, uh, give you the  
10 results of that -- or the responses to that.

11 Hoage: Sure.

12 Reeve: What I would also suggest is two things. Uh, if Mi- -  
13 - Mr. Co-Chair Miller will be good enough to hand off  
14 the beat the Reeve stick and give him abuse, that may  
15 be an incentive, uh -- and the other thing that I  
16 would suggest is probably for continuity, uh -- Mr.  
17 Co-Chair Hoage, if you would re- -- remain in -- in  
18 seat, at least through October -- or beyond if you  
19 chose to -- for some continuity, uh -- I think a -- a  
20 whole sale change might be disadvantageous at this  
21 point. Uh, so, uh, I defer to your judgment, Mr. Co-  
22 Chair on whether or not you would like the, uh --  
23 responses that I got to the survey that I sent out.

24 Hoage: We'll take those in just a moment. I -- I was also  
25 going to suggest that we -- we nominate someone to

1 take Dave's seat now, who will -- who will step in in  
2 October, and then we can consider whether there's  
3 someone else interested in taking my place in October.  
4 At that meeting. But, uh -- why don't you go ahead  
5 with the results that you have, Kevin. I see people  
6 trying to railroad me in the chat, too, so -- writing  
7 now, so just --

8 Reeve: So, uh -- in response to the email that I sent, Mr.  
9 Co-Chair, I only received one, uh, response in the  
10 affirmative and interest in taking the co-chair  
11 position. That was Mr. Tom Vaden. Uh, that's all I  
12 have to report, Mr. Co-Chair.

13 Hoage: Very good. Is -- is Tom on the call today?

14 Reeve: He is.

15 Hoage: He is.

16 Vaden: Yeah, I'm on the line.

17 Hoage: Perfect. So, Tom is willing to, uh -- step into that  
18 role. If someone would like to nominate him and I  
19 guess what I'll do at this point is open the floor to  
20 nominations.

21 Templin: Southern Southeast, I nominate Tom Vaden --

22 (CROSSTALK)

23 Templin: -- for co-chair.

24 Hoage: Very good. We have a nomination from Brian Templin.

25 Do we have a second for that?

1 (CROSSTALK)

2 Hoage: Very good. Do we have any other nominations? Going  
3 once. Going twice. The motion for nominations to  
4 close by Sandy Dixson. Is there a second?

5 Noel: Second. Chris Noel.

6 Hoage: A second from Chris. We just have one nomination, so  
7 I will ask if there's any opposition. Hearing none,  
8 congratulations, Tom, you have been railroaded into a  
9 chair.

10 Vaden: Thank you.

11 Hoage: Uh -- with that, you can lead the next meeting and  
12 I'll sit there and support you. Happy to do that, in  
13 October. Uh, that being said, I'm -- I'm -- would  
14 open it up to the floor for discussion, assuming based  
15 on the comments I've seen in the chat that folks want  
16 me to continue for the October meeting at least, and  
17 then we will put it on the agenda for further  
18 discussion in case there's anyone who (inaudible -  
19 01:42:36) that role. Is there any discussion?

20 Fisher: Mr. Co-Chair, I did have, uh -- some additional  
21 information to share if you will allow me?

22 Hoage: Please do.

23 Fisher: Sure, so thank you, Mr. Co-Chair, and -- and  
24 congratulations, Mr. Vaden. Uh, I did want to just  
25 cover what your association's bylaws say with respect

1 to, uh -- elections and officers and all. So, it's  
2 very simple. The bylaws are on the website. It's  
3 only three pages and -- or, really, just about two  
4 pages. Pretty short, but, uh, I'll just read it for  
5 all your benefit so -- so you -- you know what your  
6 bylaws say. The LEPCA will elect by majority vote of  
7 those present two co-chairs and one  
8 secretary/treasurer for the association. Election of  
9 officers shall take place during the first annual  
10 meeting of the year with office to take effect upon  
11 the close of that meeting. Officers will be  
12 authorized to speak, uh, for the organization, for the  
13 association, uh, and officers will be elected for a  
14 two year -- two -- a term of two years. There is no  
15 limit as -- as, uh, Dave and Abner absolutely know.  
16 There is no limit to the number of terms, and then co-  
17 chairs will serve staggered terms, so your bylaws  
18 suggest, you know, uh -- two year terms staggered you  
19 know, an election, uh, for one of those positions  
20 every other year at the -- the first meeting of the  
21 year, so that's what's out there for y'all, but, uh --  
22 I just wanted to make sure you guys all had that for,  
23 uh, moving forward. Thank you, sir.

24 Hoage: Perfect. Thank you very much, Bryan, and -- and I  
25 assume that's referring to the state fiscal year?

1           Would our October fall meeting be the -- the first  
2           meeting of the year?

3   Templin:   Hey, Abner, this is Brian. My recollection is we  
4           always did it in April in conjunction with the  
5           statewide conference because that generally had, uh,  
6           more attendance.

7   Hoage:     Okay, so --

8   Fisher:    And I'll -- I'll just say that the bylaws are silent  
9           on that, whether it's calendar or fiscal, so -- I -- I  
10           do recall what Mr. Templin said though, that just  
11           because of the higher number of attendants at the  
12           spring conference, when we get back to doing that.  
13           Over.

14   Hoage:    Very good. So, with that in mind, uh -- I would  
15           suggest to the group that although we've missed  
16           probably several elections that we should have had, uh  
17           -- maybe we should continue this discussion until next  
18           April and at that meeting Br- -- uh -- Kevin, we  
19           should have an agenda item for, uh, getting our  
20           elections back on track with staggered terms.

21   Reeve:     Roger that.

22   Hoage:    Is there anyone in the group that's opposed to taking  
23           that track? Tom and I will serve until April, and at  
24           the April meeting, we'll make a decision on how to get  
25           us back on track with staggered terms by establishing



1           timelines for those two. All right, not hearing any  
2           opposition, that's what we will do. So, on the  
3           agenda, I believe that brings us to -- and yes,  
4           Michelle, normally we elect two co-chairs. Dave is  
5           stepping down, and, uh -- he is stepping down, so  
6           we're replacing him at this meeting with Tom, who was  
7           elected. (Inaudible - 01:46:11) says the two year  
8           term should be back on -- Abner's seat is spr- -- yes,  
9           that probably sounds right, but we'll -- we'll put it  
10          on the agenda for April, for next April's meeting and  
11          we'll get it -- we'll just go through it with Kevin  
12          and make sure that we have everything back on track  
13          and we'll present that to the group then. Uh, yes.  
14          So, that's what we have, uh -- congratulations Tom.  
15          Co-chair. You and I will serve until April and then  
16          we'll have it on the agenda. Uh, LEPC verbal status  
17          reports are suspended, and so are member closing  
18          comments, so this brings us to the end of the meeting.  
19          Uh, we're not going to do a complete around the room  
20          but I'll ask if anyone would like to make any closing  
21          comments because we are a little bit early. All  
22          right, perfect. We're going to be done early, folks.  
23          Uh, I appreciate your time today. Uh, thank you all  
24          for -- for being here, and we will motion to adjourn.

25 Fisher: Thank you, all.

1 Dixson: Dixson so moves.  
2 Hoage: Second?  
3 (CROSSTALK)  
4 Mullican: This is Mullican, second.  
5 Hoage: And Mullican second. Anyone opposed? Hearing none,  
6 we are adjourned. Thank you very much.  
7 Miller: Thanks, Abner.  
8 Hoage: Thanks, Dave.  
9 Female 1: Thank you -- thank you, everybody.  
10 Hoage: Thank you, all.  
11 Reeve: Hey, Abner and Dave, if you've got just a minute after  
12 people sign off?  
13 Hoage: I can stay on.  
14 Miller: Wow, dude. Yeah, we're on.

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