Big Sky Resort Area District
(406) 995-3234
PO Box 160661, Big Sky, MT 59716
www.ResortTax.org
info@resorttax.org

BigSkyRelief.org
Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 2 – 3/27/20

On Friday, March 27, the second BigSkyRelief.org Operational Partners Coordination Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 30 minutes.

The purpose of the virtual bi-weekly meetings is to consolidate regular updates for the Big Sky Community as well as to identify and coordinate needs.

Big Sky Resort Area District board Chairperson Kevin Germain coordinated the meeting, beginning the dialogue with an emphasis on the promotion of social distancing and highlighting Governor Bullock’s “Stay at Home” directive.

Updates in order of presentation:

Taylor Rose, Director of Clinical Services & Operations at Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center (BHBSMC):

- As of March 27, there are 42 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Gallatin County; of those cases, no patients are hospitalized in the county
- Social transmission is occurring in Gallatin County; it is imperative Big Sky citizens follow the stay at home directive issued by Gov. Bullock on March 26; covid19.mt.gov
- Drive-thru COVID-19 Test Sites in Bozeman, Belgrade and Big Sky are now accommodating oral swab collection for strep test; Bozeman Health will continue to update test sites as needed
- To combat personal protective equipment (PPE) supply pressures seen around the nation and globe, Bozeman Health has researched and tested a prototype reusable mask with a filter-insert pocket; prototypes have been evaluated and approved by Incident Command, infection prevention, and physician and nurse leaders; a quality control process has been developed, with a community volunteer effort helping to manufacture them; expect to see them in circulation
- Visitor restrictions have been enhanced; no visitors are allowed at Big Sky Medical Center, with these exceptions:
  - Pediatric patients are permitted one visitor or companion age 18 or older
  - If medically necessary for mobility, one person may escort a patient to their outpatient or clinic appointment
  - Compassionate exceptions, coordinated with the clinic or nursing manager (example: companion for patient with autism, dementia, or Alzheimer’s)
- Enhanced infection prevention screenings are taking place for all staff, patients and visitors at every open Big Sky Medical Center entrance; a Big Sky Medical Center employee wearing appropriate PPE will take the temperature, ask questions related to respiratory health and confirm the destination of every employee, visitor and patient; “Anyone entering or exiting gets screened”
BHBSMC is working on adding a Viral Triage Clinic at Big Sky Medical Center, where individuals with respiratory and/or viral symptoms will be evaluated and treated.

BHBSMC Pharmacy is offering curbside pick-up for prescriptions to help maintain social distancing; anyone with a new or refill prescription can call the BHBSMC Pharmacy to request curbside pickup and can pay via credit card over the phone; any community member wishing to transfer their prescription to the BHBSMC Pharmacy can do so by calling (406) 995-6500.

Construction on shell space to accommodate four additional rooms is estimated to finish on May 5.

Jason Smith, Chief Advancement Officer Bozeman Health and Bozeman Health Foundation (BH/BHF):
- BH anticipates inbound patients needing high-acuity critical care from across the service region; BH is also scaling up its capacity at Deaconess Hospital, with an immediate ability to add twenty beds, and a contingency plan to add an additional 20 when needed.
- BH suspended all on-site non-essential medical services and moved many traditional appointments to telehealth platforms; this has created additional capacity in our hospitals and helped to free up medical and nursing staff to support a surge as well.
- Charitable gifts are funding about 75% of anticipated build-out costs to double BSMC’s capacity.
- If patients in Big Sky need intensive care, they will be transferred to Bozeman Deaconess.

Interim Chief Greg Meegard, Big Sky Fire Department (BSFD):
- BSFD continues to operate, “business as usual.”
- BSFD has worked to ensure communication lines with the Big Sky Medical Center are “clear and open,” ensuring that information about a patient’s infection status is ultimately passed on to the responding BSFD personnel.
- BSFD is conducting temperature readings of all on-duty personnel every 12 hours; the first temperature reading is conducted before the personnel enters the building.
- Protocols are “changing rapidly”; there is a premium on the increased use of protective equipment; BSFD is currently well-equipped but welcomes additional equipment for potential future needs.

Sergeant Brandon Kelley, Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office (GCSO):
- No updates.

Sara Gaither, Program Coordinator of Big Sky Community Food Bank (BSCFB):
- Client needs have slowed down from last week, from 86 boxes to an estimated 55; “We’re expecting an uptick next week as we’ve moved to twice-weekly pick-up services.”
- There continues to be an increase in clients who have never needed food bank services in previous periods.
- Confidentiality remains at a premium; BSCFB is working to move volunteers into non-client-facing operations.
- BSCFB reminds the public that income and employment status are non-factors in seeking food bank services.
- BSCFB has faced recent difficulties in sourcing cereal, shelf-stable milk, lentils and fresh and frozen egg products.
Jean Bearh, Executive Director of Women In Action (WIA):

- WIA has added a new counselor/practitioner who will begin taking clients as early as next week; in-person and telehealth services will be available
- WIA has added a family therapist who will assist parents with coping strategies in response to strains from stay-at-home directives
  - There will be several new, virtual creative and social outlets for community members to engage with; “We hope to have some of that in place by next week”
- WIA is working on after-school programming for children, with virtual meetings to foster social connection

David Kack, Coordinator of Big Sky Transportation District (BSTD):

- Service is “as is”; four round trips from Bozeman to Big Sky each day, via the Link Express service, with an average of four passengers per trip; local service remains Demand Response for no more than three healthy passengers at a time; there are between 12-14 requests per day, with individuals seeking transport for groceries, medicine and other essential services; individual rides can be requested for at-risk individuals; (406) 995-2867
- BSTD continues to monitor demand, updating services on their website; skylinebus.com
- Anyone in the community needing delivery services should contact BSTD; the BSTD will assess if assistance is possible; “We will do what we can to help”

Candace Carr Strauss, CEO of Big Sky Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) & Visit Big Sky (VBS):

- BSCC is working on a Big Sky Business Emergency Relief Fund to provide micro-grants and/or 0% interest-fee-free loans for small businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; BSCC is targeting an April 1 launch to coincide with the philanthropic application process for individuals and families through bigskyrelief.org
- BSCC is closely following the CARES Act: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, a nearly $2 trillion legislative package to protect employers, workers and businesses; CARES Act passed the U.S. Senate on March 25, and passed the U.S. House on March 27; the act awaits a tentative signature from President Trump; “We don’t want to duplicate any funding opportunities that are already available federally”
- Lodging has been deemed an essential business industry and thus remains open in Gov. Bullock’s March 26 stay at home directive; The Wilson Hotel remains open to guests, along with many property management companies; several local property management companies have reported layoffs as a result of COVID-19
- BSCC reports that Dan Martin, owner of Karst Stage, has offered to convert some of Karst’s larger motor coaches into mobile medical facilities for hospital overflow, if needed; the process would take roughly half a day

Dustin Shipman, Superintendent of Big Sky School District (BSSD):
• BSSD, in its second week of virtual education, is becoming more streamlined in how its teachers and students are interfacing
• BSSD is working with BSCO on securing COVID-19-specific grant funds
• BSSD is “beefing up” what it’s doing online
• BSSD is continuing with a Monday, Wednesday, Friday lunch program, handing out some 50-60 lunches per day

Ciara Wolfe, CEO of Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO):
• BSCO volunteer coordination program is “ramping up” in response to increasingly higher needs; bscomt.org/covid-19-update
• BSCO has identified a large volunteer need in servicing high-risk individuals; BSCO is organizing a “senior buddy” program where an individual is responsible for the mail, groceries and other errands of high-risk individuals practicing social distancing
• BSCO is also working closely with the Big Sky Community Food Bank in coordinating volunteers
• BSCO is seeing an uptick in public use of BSCO trails, and volunteer trail ambassadors are proving crucial in maintenance
• BSCO is working with Women in Action and Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center on launching a pop-up, urgent/emergency care facility for mental and behavioral health needs for anyone in Gallatin County; telehealth resources will also be available for individuals needing counseling and prescriptions; “There has been a big spike in [Gallatin County] mental health-related emergency crisis calls”
• BSCO is working with four different committees on expanded behavioral health programming for all levels and ages in Big Sky; those services will be launched by the end of next week; bigskywia.org

A cohort of Resource Partners were also invited to the virtual meeting. Those names and organizations included:

Daniel Bierschwale, Big Sky Resort Area District

Taylor Middleton & Troy Nedved, Big Sky Resort

Matt Kidd, CrossHarbor Capital Partners

Kevin Hinkle, Lone Mountain Land Company

Hans Williamson, Yellowstone Club

Heather Morris, Moonlight Community Foundation

Loren Bough, Yellowstone Club Community Foundation

John Haas, Spanish Peaks Community Foundation