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### **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 Behr, 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”

- BSCC encourages businesses to take advantage of the free “National Federation of Independent Businesses Coronavirus Part III: Financial Resources and Updates for Small Business” webinar;  
[nfib.com/webinars/nfib-coronavirus-webinar-part-iii-financial-resources-and-updates-for-small-business](https://nfib.com/webinars/nfib-coronavirus-webinar-part-iii-financial-resources-and-updates-for-small-business)
- 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](https://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](https://bigskywia.org)

A cohort of Resource Partners was 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