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### **BigSkyRelief.org**

*Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 3 – 3/31/20*

On Tuesday, March 31, the third 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.

Updates in order of presentation:

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

- BHBSMC continues to enforce a “no visitors allowed” policy, with three 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)
- All foot traffic attempting to enter BHBSMC will be screened for a temperature of above 100.4 degrees and asked specific questions related to symptoms; positive screens will be directed to the Viral Triage Clinic
  - The Viral Triage Clinic will be up-and-running by the end of the week; three rooms will be earmarked for the triage clinic; the intent is to separate potentially affected patients from the non-viral/general population, as well as non-triage clinic staff
- The drive-thru testing site at BHBSMC is operating for all practitioner-directed COVID-19, flu, strep and other respiratory panel testing; the testing site is located in the ambulance bay
- Construction on shell space to accommodate four additional rooms is estimated to finish on May 5; necessary equipment will be installed after that date
- Three additional ventilators will arrive at BHBSMC in the next 7-10 days
- Due to high national demand, a BHBSMC COVID-19 analyzer will arrive in the next 30-60 days
- The BHBSMC pharmacy is only serving customers at a curbside pickup station to mitigate walk-in foot traffic; the pharmacy is servicing approximately 70 pickups per day
- “Right now, we’re feeling OK with the resources we have”

### **Interim Chief Greg Meegard, Big Sky Fire Department (BSFD):**

- BSFD is operating “business as usual”

- BSFD has received official notice of 69 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Gallatin County and 184 total in Montana; of those cases, 0 in Gallatin County and 14 in Montana are hospitalized, respectively
- BSFD is protecting in-house personnel, continuing to take temperature readings of every firefighter every 12 hours; first readings commence at the beginning of a shift; temperature readings over 100 degrees will result in dismissal
- BSFD is exploring options to obtain additional PPE (personal protective equipment); BSFD is running low on gowns
- “We appreciate everyone’s support throughout the community, it’s been incredible”

**Sergeant Brandon Kelley, Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office (GCSO):**

- GCSO is reporting an increase in calls related to theft and mental health issues
  - GCSO is advising extra diligence in securing homes, businesses and vehicles
  - GCSO is asking the community to be extra vigilant in spotting early signs of depression or negatively evolving mental health issues
- At present, GCSO has no outstanding needs

**Sara Gaither, Program Coordinator of Big Sky Community Food Bank (BSCFB):**

- BSCFB has succeeded in ordering all food needs to cover the next 6 weeks; two shipments will arrive by Friday
- BSCFB has been in close contact with the BSCO for volunteer needs; last week, the food bank distributed 56 food boxes, down from 86 boxes in the previous week; BSCFB continues to monitor fluctuating needs
- BSCFB has reported an influx of requests for assistance in applying for unemployment (see “Financial Assistance” on BigSkyRelief.org) as well as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enrollment
- BSCFB has recognized the need to provide service information in Spanish to accommodate the Spanish-speaking segment of the population; “We need to get people the information they need, people are still ill-informed. Other than that, we’re looking set for the week”

**Jean Behr, Executive Director of Women In Action (WIA):**

- WIA has updated its website to include information on practitioner Kasey Anderson, M.Ed, LCPC, who is accepting new clients; call (406) 551-0949 for Big Sky or telehealth appointments
- The full COVID-19 Behavioral Health Resource Guide will be complete and uploaded to the WIA website by the end of the week; bigskywia.org
- WIA has been working closely with community members and organizations to facilitate online social forums/platforms for community engagement

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

- BSTD continues to operate on the modified winter schedule; four round trips from Bozeman to Big Sky each day, via the Link Express service; 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

- Link Express trips will be fare-free through “at least” April 19, when BSTD would typically shift into a “shoulder season” schedule
- BSTD is in contact with BSCFB to assist with any food delivery needs; a first trip is scheduled for Thursday, April 2

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

- BSCC is updating the [bigskychamber.com/communityupdates](http://bigskychamber.com/communityupdates) webpage to reflect new resources available to employers and employees as it relates to COVID-19 economic relief efforts; numerous webinars and “how-to” videos have been created to assist in navigating said resources
  - Many of those resources pertain to the CARES Act: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, a \$2 trillion legislative package to protect employers, workers and businesses; President Donald Trump signed the act into law on Friday, March 27; BSCC recommends local businesses take advantage of the free resources now available
  - The Montana Department of Labor and Industry has created a video guide on “How to File an Unemployment Claim”; [youtube.com/watch?v=zEYaWXATES4&t=22s](https://youtube.com/watch?v=zEYaWXATES4&t=22s)
- BSCC recommends local businesses watch the March 30 “National Federation of Independent Businesses Coronavirus Part III: Financial Resources and Updates for Small Business” webinar for additional information pertaining to small business resources available at this time; [nfib.com/webinars/nfib-coronavirus-webinar-part-iii-financial-resources-and-updates-for-small-business](http://nfib.com/webinars/nfib-coronavirus-webinar-part-iii-financial-resources-and-updates-for-small-business)
- VBS and its property management lodging partners have been working to dispel the misinformation that is being circulated by a Montana Free Press article which made reference to people “fleeing” to Montana to get away from COVID-19; the article referenced Livingston, Whitefish and Big Sky, but the AirDNA data used for Big Sky was completely inaccurate; VBS and its property management lodging partners are compiling data from the DestiMetrics lodging platform to better illustrate the reality of the state of Big Sky’s visitor economy; VBS and its property management lodging partners are adhering to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s guidance and social distancing, as well as the directives from Gov. Bullock

**Ciara Wolfe, CEO of Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO):**

- To date, 32 COVID-19 community response volunteers are registered via the BSCO
- BSCO reports high volunteer needs in packing BSCFB food boxes, BSCO trail ambassadors, and the “senior buddy” program where an individual is responsible for the mail, groceries and other errands of high-risk individuals practicing social distancing; “We assume those needs will slowly amp up over time”
- BSCO is working toward the development of a community-wide resources page both in English and Spanish, to be completed this week
- BSCO is clearing and sweeping the 5 contiguous miles of the Lone Peak Trail and Trail to School along U.S. Highway 191, in anticipation of the melting and muddying of the town’s cross country trails; preparation for use should be completed next week
- BSCO playgrounds and all facilities at parks and trailheads are closed due to a Gallatin County-wide mandate; trail ambassadors have been advised to contact law enforcement when observing larger groups socializing and not practicing social distancing
- BSCO has advised that U.S. Forest Service employees have been stationed at all area trailheads, enforcing social distancing measures as mandated by the county and state governments

**Dustin Shipman, Superintendent of Big Sky School District (BSSD):**

- BSSD is enforcing an only essential personnel on-site policy, per a directive from Gov. Bullock; teachers will be allowed admittance on truly necessary grounds; food, administration, business operations and maintenance personnel are still operating on school grounds
- BSSD continues to deliver food and school materials to those who are unable to pick them up; BSSD is servicing between 40-50 meals a day as well as supplying food for the weekend to some of its families; deliveries range from the Mountain Village area to the far reaches of the Gallatin Canyon; “...Almost all the way to Bozeman for families that have been forced to relocated at this time”
- Virtual and distance learning initiatives are in their third week; “We are hitting our stride”
  - Friday has been earmarked for teacher professional development to enhance BSSD’s virtual/distance learning experience for students; students will have the day off

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*