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### **BigSkyRelief.org**

*Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 7 – 4/14/20*

On Tuesday, April 14, the seventh 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, kicking off the discussion with an emphasis on maintaining social distancing. Germain again underscored that everyone must “do their part,” as peak needs are projected to arrive less-than two weeks, and the community should avoid placing undue strain on the Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center when that date arrives.

Updates in order of presentation:

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

- BHBSMC continues to anticipate a May 5 completion date for the additional shell space buildout, providing four additional inpatient beds
  - BHBSMC is exploring all equipment options for those rooms, including rentals; the rooms are expected to be fully operational by mid-May
- BHBSMC has ordered an analyzer for COVID-19 testing; the ETA remains unknown due to backlog and national demand
- BHBSMC is expecting three ventilators on site within the next two weeks, bringing facility totals to four
- To date, there have been lower-than-anticipated cases in Gallatin County; BHBSMC and the larger Bozeman Health system still anticipate peak needs during the week of April 27; “We’re hoping this is the calm before the calm, and if it’s the calm before the storm, we’re still preparing for it ... Everything’s going well”

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

- BSFD is prepared for the projected surge; adequate PPE is available for that date
- BSFD encourages community members to practice good physical and mental health and wellness, and to check in regularly on those struggling

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

- All GCSO deputies assigned to the Big Sky area are healthy and working
- GCSO has received requested masks and is in "good shape" in regards to overall PPE needs
- GCSO is reporting an increase in thefts, particularly in the Ramshorn View Estates area, and advises extra vigilance; lock your homes and vehicles and call-in any suspicious or unusual behavior; GCSO will follow up on all leads; (406) 582-2100

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

- BSCFB reports the HRDC has secured a contract with an anonymous Bozeman motel for emergency housing needs; 42 people spread across 40 rooms used the service last weekend, with an additional 21 rooms under contract still available; the motel "shelter" will be available for 30 days
- 1-3 condos in Big Sky have been made available for emergency shelter space, thanks to an anonymous donor; the service will be available by recommendation and request only, and will not be widely advertised

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

- Kasey Anderson, a newly appointed licensed clinical professional counselor under WIA, still has appointments available; those sessions will remain free-of-charge for the remainder of April

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

- BSTD will switch to its Shoulder Season schedule on April 20; [skylinebus.com/routes-schedules/shoulder-season](http://skylinebus.com/routes-schedules/shoulder-season)
- Due to CARES Act funding the Montana Department of Transportation will receive from the Federal Transit Administration, BSTD likely is able to reduce its FY21 Resort Tax request from the Big Sky Resort Area District; due to timing challenges, that reduced figure may be realized after applications are submitted

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

- On April 16, BSCC will launch the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Employer-Employee Assistance Hotline manned by business volunteers from the Big Sky community; "Office Hours" will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. to provide information and assistance regarding Unemployment Insurance filing and applying for Payroll Protection Program Loans, along with general questions
- BSCC has launched a new website platform where people can purchase t-shirts, with net proceeds going to small business relief efforts; [staystrongbigsky.com](http://staystrongbigsky.com)
- BSCC encourages voters to participate in the May 5 Special District Elections; items include:
  - A 1% increase in Resort Tax for community infrastructure needs, namely critical upgrades to Big Sky's wastewater treatment plant
  - The \$23.5 million Big Sky School District bond for critical facility expansions and upgrades
  - Board elections for four Special Districts, including Big Sky Resort Area District

- BSCC also encourages voter participation in Montana’s Gubernatorial Race; The Montana Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Tele-Town Hall with candidate Mike Cooney on April 17 at 2 p.m.; for registration, visit [zoom.us/meeting/register/uJ0lde2orz0i8g-Y42bvtLD8Syrvfj4hA](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/uJ0lde2orz0i8g-Y42bvtLD8Syrvfj4hA)
- Resources continue to be updated and made available at [bigskychamber.com/communityupdates](https://bigskychamber.com/communityupdates) and [bigskychamber.com/lovelocalrestaurants](https://bigskychamber.com/lovelocalrestaurants)
- VBS continues to update two new landing pages on [visitbigsky.com](https://visitbigsky.com)
  - For tourism partners and community stakeholders: [visitbigsky.com/about-us/covid-19-resources](https://visitbigsky.com/about-us/covid-19-resources)
  - For consumers: [visitbigsky.com/about-us/riseupbigsky](https://visitbigsky.com/about-us/riseupbigsky)
- On April 9, the Madison County Public Health Department issued a directive to close lodging properties including RV parks; the VBS 60-day Retail Report as of March 31 is available on the VBS COVID-19 Resources page; occupancy in Big Sky is below 7% for those lodging properties that remain open

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

- To date, there are 61 local volunteers registered to help, as needed, across five weekly shifts; BSCO has been able to make six matches in the BSCO “Senior Buddy” and at-risk program, which is designed to connect young, healthy individuals with at-risk senior citizens in need of assistance in safely retrieving mail, groceries and other errands
- BSCO has organized Trail Day trash pickups on April 14 and April 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; trash bags will be provided at the Kircher Park Trailhead and Geyser Whitewater’s front door, but gloves will not be provided; as individuals pick up trash along Lone Peak Trail and Gallatin Canyon Trail, two paved trails expected to see extensive use as snow melts and muddies other BSCO trails, people can leave full bags along the side of the road for BSCO staff pickup; BSCO requests people work individually or in pairs to observe social distancing regulations; snow is forecasted for April 16, so visit the BSCO Facebook page for updates; [facebook.com/bscomt](https://facebook.com/bscomt)
- All BSCO Community Calendar programming is available at [bscomt.org/events](https://bscomt.org/events)
- BSCO is working with the Arts Council of Big Sky to organize a pep rally to coincide with the original closing day of Big Sky Resort, April 19, prior to the early closure in March due to COVID-19; participants will dress up in fun costumes with their families and drive from Big Sky Town Center to the Freeskier Parking Lot at Big Sky Resort, providing an opportunity to see friends and community members at safe distances while also celebrating the community and the resort; more updates soon

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

- BSSD continues to manage online and distance learning offerings
- BSSD continues to distribute between 40-50 lunches per day, available in both pickup and delivery options; BSSD reports a large amount of weekend food needs on weekends
- Counselors are working individually with students, along with whole-class and small-group sessions
- May 29 is scheduled to be the last day of school, a week earlier than previously expected; BSSD is working on how seniors will finish the academic year
- Per notice from the Office of Public Instruction, Board of Public Education and the Montana Public Education Center, BSSD should plan to postpone any graduation ceremonies or devise an alternative plan

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*