

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. 8 – 4/17/20*

On Friday, April 17, the eighth BigSkyRelief.org Operational Partners Coordination Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 15 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 to reinforce increasingly and encouragingly slow-growing numbers of COVID-19 in Gallatin County. Germain again underscored that everyone must “do their part,” and applauded the Operational and Funding Partners for their continued successes in helping to manage the situation in Big Sky.

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 build, providing four additional inpatient beds
  - There are delays on some equipment deliveries; BHBSMC continues to push for fulfillments and ETAs
- A PCR Lab Analyzer should be on-site April 17 or April 20
  - BHBSMC is unable to perform on-site testing until cartridges also arrive; cartridges are backordered due to national demand; BHBSMC hopes for delivery by the end of April to increase access to testing in Big Sky
- BHBSMC received a donation of PPE - reusable face masks and bodysuits - from community member Dan Zelson; BHBSMC is coordinating with the Big Sky Fire Department on their PPE needs, potentially transferring the face mask supply, if appropriate

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

- BSFD personnel remains healthy, and continues to train and prepare for potential needs

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

- GCSO has no updates to report

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

- BSCFB is servicing between 35-40 food boxes per week, matching anticipated volume
- BSCFB continues the Kidspack program, a nationwide schoolchildren weekend meal program; BSCFB continues to serve roughly 10 children involved throughout the entire year
- BSCFB is coordinating with the Big Sky Community Organization for upcoming volunteer needs

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

- Through a collaboration by WIA and the Big Sky Community Organization, Ally Wold, a licensed family and marriage therapist, will host a virtual series on mental health issues related to COVID-19; sessions include:
  - 10 a.m., April 22 - Support and ideas for enhancing senior citizen well-being; the discussion is intended for both seniors and caretakers
  - 7 p.m., April 22 - Finances and Unemployment: Managing family dynamics as work roles shift
  - 7 p.m., April 29 - Helpful ideas for those experiencing anxiety, depression, isolation, or those concerned about a loved one
  - More information is available at [bscomt.org/events](https://bscomt.org/events)
- The "Chalkable Day of Gratitude" is scheduled for May 2; Big Sky residents will take to their sidewalks to write inspiring quotes, leave messages for neighbors, draw pictures, and to thank frontline workers; WIA encourages community members to show their support through sidewalk chalk, and to share moments of gratitude using the #bigskyRAOK (Big Sky Random Acts of Kindness) hashtag on social media; for questions and more information, contact [jean@wiabigsky.org](mailto:jean@wiabigsky.org)

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

- BSTD is switching to its Shoulder Season schedule on April 20, with two roundtrips per day between Bozeman and Big Sky, Monday through Friday; Link Express rides will remain fare-free at this time; [skylinebus.com/routes-schedules/shoulder-season](https://skylinebus.com/routes-schedules/shoulder-season)
- Service in Big Sky remains Demand Response for no more than three healthy passengers at a time; individual rides can be requested for at-risk individuals; (406) 995-2867

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

- On May 16, the BSCC's EMPLOYER | EMPLOYEE Assistance Hotline went live; "Office Hours" will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m.
  - Individuals: the hotline is available to answer questions specifically related to filing for Unemployment Insurance and Big Sky Relief; Spanish-speakers are also available; (406) 813-6151
  - Businesses: the hotline is available to answer questions on applying for Paycheck Protection Program Loans along with general questions; (406) 813-6153
  - BSCC commends the Big Sky Community Organization for its role in helping to recruit and organize the volunteers staffing the hotline

- BSCC advises business owners that as of May 16 the Small Business Administration has closed loan application portals for Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Advances and PPP Loan programs due to lack of appropriations; bipartisan and bicameral support in congress will likely see cash infusion into these programs within the next two weeks; BSCC advises business owners to have their paperwork ready for the reopening of those funding mechanisms
- BSCC, in its role of facilitating local governance, is sponsoring the weekly Big Sky Virtual Town Halls produced by Outlaw Partners and Explore Big Sky; on April 20 at 5 p.m., speakers will include Gov. Steve Bullock, Cam Sholly (Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park), Dustin Shipman (Superintendent, Big Sky School District), Dan Martin (CEO, Karst Stage) and Matt Kidd (Managing Partner, CrossHarbor Capital Partners); [facebook.com/explorebigsky](https://facebook.com/explorebigsky)
- BSCC encourages community members to observe #FrontlineWorkerFriday, thanking frontline workers battling the pandemic
- 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 work with the Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development, Yellowstone Country Tourism Region, five convention and visitor bureaus/destination management and marketing organizations, Bozeman Yellowstone National Airport, VBS lodging partners and transportation providers, guides and outfitters to formulate marketing plans for when regional communities and the state will reopen to travelers
- On April 22, in partnership with Anna Rosenberry (Assistant City Manager, City of Bozeman), VBS will launch a Regional Tourism Recovery sub-committee to meet virtually on a weekly basis; the committee will “live” under the Economic Development Resiliency and Recovery Committee that Rosenberry currently oversees within the Emergency Operations Center overseeing Gallatin County and the City of Bozeman during the COVID-19 crisis
- As a Gateway Community to Yellowstone National Park, VBS is participating in an April 21 call with Superintendent Cam Sholly, where he will discuss tentative plans to reopen the park

**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; there have been no new requests for matches, and volunteer sign-ups have slowed significantly
- BSCO encourages community members to spread the word about the Community Calendar, filled with community programming to engage and socialize; [bscomt.org/events](https://bscomt.org/events)
- BSCO encourages community members to participate in the “Big Sky CARE-avan,” available through a collaborative effort by the Arts Council of Big Sky, Big Sky Resort, Big Sky Relief and BSCO; on April 19, participants will dress up in 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, celebrate the community and the resort, and raise funds for community members in need; a fundraising goal of \$11,167 has been set, matching the elevation of Lone Mountain; [bigskyrelief.org/donate](https://bigskyrelief.org/donate)
- The April 14 and 16 Trail Day trash pickups along Lone Peak Trail and Gallatin Canyon Trail were successful, filling pickup trucks with trash and debris from those essential warm-weather trails

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

- BSSD continues to manage online and distance learning offerings
- BSSD continues to distribute daily lunches, available in both pickup and delivery options; BSSD reports a large amount of weekend food needs and an increase in general requests
- 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
- BSSD 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

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*

**Ania Bulis**, *Moonlight Community Foundation*

**Loren Bough**, *Yellowstone Club Community Foundation*

**John Haas**, *Spanish Peaks Community Foundation*