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### **BigSkyRelief.org**

*Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 10 – 4/28/20*

On Tuesday, April 28, the tenth BigSkyRelief.org Operational Partners Coordination Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 20 minutes.

The purpose of the virtual once-weekly meeting 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 is in Phase 3 of incident command, meaning Bozeman Health is beginning to open services at a 25% capacity; this capacity provides flexibility in analyzing the disease's progress in serviced communities; the next stage will move capacity to 50%
- Construction on four additional inpatient rooms will be completed by the end of next week
- BHBSMC is actively working with and watching for news from Yellowstone National Park and the tourism industry; openings could place pressure on BHBSMC facilities and staff
- BHBSMC encourages the public to continue to turn to its staff and facilities for all potential needs; BHBSMC urges people to not delay seeking treatment they need
- A lab analyzer is on-site, though there is a delay in receiving testing media, necessary for the completion of any testing needs; media has been allocated to national hot spots and legacy customers; BHBSMC expects new information by the end of May
  - BHBSMC reminds the community on-site testing is available, though turnaround times will be extended until on-site analyzer testing media is made available
- Next week, BHBSMC will have a detailed update on an ETA for new ventilators

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

- BSFD has no updates at this time

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

- GCSO has no updates at this time

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

- This past March, BSCFB distributed 128 food boxes (6,854 pounds of food), covering 203 individuals; for comparison, in March 2019, BSCFB distributed only 57 food boxes (1,189 pounds of food), covering 70 individuals; the difference underscores a steep increase in demand as a result of COVID-19 and related economic effects
- BSCFB will maintain the current curbside, pre-packed, pick up model through the entire summer, with a possibility of extending the model further, as necessary; the model has proven more effective in addressing client needs and identifying needs that might go unnoticed in the traditional grocery store format; the new format also helps maintain social distancing and maintain the additional and necessary hygienic standards within the facility

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

- WIA continues to provide free counseling through April; a potential grant from United Way may extend that service through May; Kasey Anderson, a licensed clinical professional counselor under WIA has reported an increase in potential clients contacting her; Anderson can be reached at (406) 551-0949
- WIA, the Big Sky Community Organization, Arts Council of Big Sky, Big Sky School District and Big Sky Discovery Academy are sponsoring the Big Sky "Chalk your Gratitude" day, held on May 9; chalk stations will be set up across Big Sky, and community members are encouraged to leave messages of gratitude for food service workers, first responders, healthcare staff and nonprofits; community members are also encouraged to bring chalk home, where they can decorate neighborhoods and write messages of encouragement to family, friends and neighbors, celebrating their efforts throughout this challenging period

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

- BSTD is operating its Shoulder Season schedule as published; the Link Express remains fare-free at this time; [skylinebus.com](http://skylinebus.com)
- Depending on information received from Big Sky Resort and the Yellowstone Club, it's likely BSTD will initiate its Summer Season schedule as published on May 26

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

- BSCC is working to decipher another \$484 billion funding package the U.S. Congress appropriated last week; the funds are to be used for Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Advances, Payroll Protection Program Loan programs, healthcare industry needs and advancements in testing; BSCC reports Montana fared very well in receiving initial rounds of federal coronavirus aid, thanks to strong community banks and due diligence by Stockman Bank and First Security Bank, in particular
- BSCC reminds members of the community that ballots are due in the mail today, April 28, for the May 5 Special District Elections and Big Sky School District upgrades bond initiative; ballots may be delivered in person on Election Day to the Gallatin County Election Department office in Bozeman, and individuals may carry up to six other ballots with a form of consent signed by those parties
- On May 2, BSCC is hosting their annual Shred Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., where local businesses can drop off documents that need to be shredded; BSCC asks participants to bring only two boxes, maximum

- BSCC reminds community businesses and nonprofits the FY21 Resort Tax applications are due on April 30 at 11:59 p.m.
- Coming soon, BSCC will be unveiling news on relief efforts for Big Sky's small businesses, thanks to a collaboration between BSCC, VBS and the Big Sky Resort Area District
- Resources continue to be updated and made available at [bigskychamber.com/communityupdates](http://bigskychamber.com/communityupdates) and [bigskychamber.com/lovelocalrestaurants](http://bigskychamber.com/lovelocalrestaurants)
- VBS hosted its first Regional Tourism Recovery sub-committee meeting last Wednesday, on April 22, featuring a cohort of representatives from a full spectrum of the region's tourism industry players; future meetings will be held weekly, on Wednesdays at 11 a.m.
  - While Gov. Steve Bullock's stay-at-home directive was lifted on April 27, the 14-day self quarantine for individuals traveling from outside of Montana remains in effect; Big Sky's tourism economy will continue to be impacted due to this quarantine and similar measures
- In celebration of the "Spirit of Travel" for National Travel & Tourism Week, spanning May 3-9, VBS will host its 3rd annual Marketing Outlook Meeting virtually on May 7 at 11:30 a.m., where VBS will lead discussion on how to invite visitors back to Big Sky; special guests include Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly and Big Sky Resort COO Taylor Middleton; register at [visitbigsky.com/marketingoutlook2020](http://visitbigsky.com/marketingoutlook2020)

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

- To date, there are 63 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
- In collaboration with the Gallatin River Task Force, BSCO helped to organize the Runoff Cleanoff pickup in Big Sky, specifically targeting dog waste between April 24 and 26; a total of 283 pounds of waste were collected
- BSCO has scheduled a Community Park trash cleanup day for April 30
- BSCO is operating on 50 percent of normal maintenance staff capacity, and will not be bringing on additional staff in order to be fiscally conservative after returning a portion of their FY20 Resort Tax appropriations to the Big Sky Resort Area District; BSCO is grateful for its volunteers in this time; BSCO has additional volunteer days on the horizon

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

- The BSSD board has decided to not r-open school for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, maintaining the virtual and distance learning environment through the last day of classes - May 29
- Lunch requests have increased, up to 70-75 lunches daily; those lunches remain available for delivery or pick up
- 95% of BSSD staff is working during this period

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, Women in Action*

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

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