

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. 4 – 4/3/20

On Friday, April 3, the fourth 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):

- Construction on shell space to accommodate four additional rooms is estimated to finish within 3-4 weeks; necessary equipment will be installed after that date
 - BHBSMC is hoping to complete construction prior to peak needs
- The Viral Triage Clinic is now open; patients arriving at BHBSMC with viral symptoms have been directed to that clinic; BHBSMC continues to serve existing and new general patient population needs
- There are no COVID-19 patients hospitalized at BHBSMC
- Big Sky Relief funds have been applied to existing needs; “I can’t think of anything [funding needs] that has not been addressed”

Deputy Fire Chief Dustin Tetrault, Big Sky Fire Department (BSFD):

- “We’re sitting pretty right now”; BSFD recently received new PPE, including Tyvek suits and N95 face masks; several items came from the Strategic National Stockpile
- BSFD has no ill personnel, none currently in isolation
- BSFD has no additional needs at this time

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

- No “big” changes to report at GCSO
- GCSO is seeing an increased need for more N95, or higher-grade, masks

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

- BSCFB is continuing to see a drop in service needs; this week, the food bank has serviced 36 total boxes, down from 86 boxes two weeks ago and 56 boxes last week
- BSCFB expects to see needs “bottom out” over the next few weeks, before seeing an increase as unemployment rates rise
- BSCFB has begun servicing an increase in clientele from West Yellowstone, Four Corners and Gallatin Gateway; there are reports members of Big Sky’s workforce are seeking food bank aid in Bozeman
- BSCFB seeks to remind individuals there are no qualifications necessary for food bank access; anyone experiencing a food emergency can seek BSCFB aid
- BSCFB received a large shipment of food this week; “great” new employees have helped smooth operations significantly

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

- A collaboration between WIA, Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center, the Big Sky Community Organization, community educators and members of various community foundations is addressing increased needs for mental and behavioral health, wellness, education, addiction relief, and social connectivity; both WIA and Bozeman Health are offering counseling and behavioral health support at no cost; Bozeman Health services are accessible via The Help Center (dial 211); WIA’s behavioral health services are available via ongoing counseling offerings; dial 911 for emergency assistance
- WIA is seeking financial assistance to fund the no-cost counseling for April

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

- No updates; 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 remain fare-free through “at least” April 19, when BSTD would typically shift into a “shoulder season” schedule

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

- BSCC continues to distill and deliver information from various COVID-19 Economic Relief packages
- On March 31, the Small Business Administration issued guidance and an application to be used by banks for CARES Act loans; home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Paycheck-Protection-Program-Application-3-30-2020-v3.pdf
- The SBA issued an interim final rule explaining details on the Paycheck Protection Program that starts Friday, April 3; home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP--IFRN%20FINAL.pdf
- Commercial lending institutions are working diligently to begin execution on the new legislation; businesses are urged to apply through their lenders if their bank(s) is a SBA 7A lending partner; lenders are accepting applications from current customers preferentially

- BSCC's events calendar lists daily informational webinars to assist small businesses with the CARES Act forgivable loan and the other COVID-19 I & II Economic Relief packages; bigskychamber.com/events/calendar
- CARES Act Phase II brought with it expanded Unemployment Insurance; BSCC is working with the Big Sky Community Organization to provide businesspeople with a volunteer hotline to assist out-of-work employees with filing; additional details to arrive soon
- CARES Act Phase III also provided for cash disbursements directly to individuals and families; bigskyrelief.org
- BSCC requests all residents fill out a Census 2020 form; my2020census.gov or call (844) 330-2020 for English or (844) 468-2020 for Spanish
- VBS has learned from the U.S. Travel Association that tourism industry projected losses are estimated to deliver a \$910 billion hit to the U.S. economy, 7-times that of 9/11; those effects will be felt in Big Sky
- Big Sky lodging that is "open" is required to post the 14-day self-quarantine for anyone coming into Montana from out of state or out of the country, per the recent Directive from Gov. Bullock
- VBS emphasized that Big Sky is not experiencing the "fleeing to the mountains" phenomena that has been reported by other Rocky Mountain and East Coast resort destinations; occupancy in Big Sky is at less than 10% by visitors, with a relatively small number of homeowners in their units; VBS asks that community members do not spread rumors
- VBS is participating in weekly calls with 18 mountain resort communities who participate in the DestiMetrics lodging platform, gathering insights into their handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on their destinations
- VBS urges individuals to seek accurate COVID-19 information from the Gallatin City County Public Health Department; healthygallatin.org/coronavirus-covid-19

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

- To date, BSCO has 42 volunteers registered for any opportunities and community needs; "It's been pretty incredible to see the volume of people stepping up in this community"; BSCO has five different available shifts for volunteers
- BSCO reported its first "matches" in their Senior Buddy program, designed to connect young, healthy individuals with at-risk senior citizens in need of assistance in safely retrieving mail, groceries and other errands
- With collaboration from the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, BSCO is developing a new resource hotline, staffed by educated Unemployment Insurance and Small Business Administration Loan volunteers; the hotline is also a resource in accessing applications, financial assistance and grant information for individuals with limited-to-no access to computers

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

- With support from Big Sky Relief, BSSD has been able to "beef up" online distance learning offerings
- BSSD continues to distribute between 40-50 lunches per day, available in both pickup and delivery options; BSSD reported a large amount of weekend food needs this past weekend; meal delivery continues to span locations as far apart as the Mountain Village area and some households close to Four Corners
- Counselors are working individually with students, along with whole-class and small-groups sessions

- BSSD is seeking to print face masks on their 3D printer

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*