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### **BigSkyRelief.org**

*Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 5 – 4/7/20*

On Tuesday, April 7, the fifth 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. Germain reiterated that it is essential for everyone to continue to “do their part,” practicing social distancing and observing recommendations from the CDC, state and federal authorities.

Updates in order of presentation:

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

- Sheetrock installation on additional shell space has been completed; medical gas lines have been hooked up, with remaining equipment pieces to be installed at later dates; May 5 remains the estimated completion date; there are no expected delays
- BHBSMC has been “bumped in the queue” for three purchased analyzers due to high-demand in COVID-19 hotspots around the nation; those analyzers are expected to arrive the first week of May; the three purchased ventilators are between 2-3 weeks from arrival, bringing BHBSMC’s total to four
- The latest data from Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation suggests medical facility needs in Montana will not outpace availability; current needs in Big Sky remain low; BHBSMC continues to encourage social distancing, with current community efforts proving successful
- BHBSMC is confident in its ability to meet demand; “Everything is going about as we expected, we haven’t hit any major obstacles ... We’re hoping the curve will be flattened enough to not be overwhelmed ... We are optimistic but are still preparing for a major surge”

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

- BSFD has temporarily halted all community outreach and inspections
- BSFD is encouraging personnel to lead by example, e.g. wearing masks while grocery shopping
- “From a needs standpoint, we’re good right now”

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

- GCSO is in need of face masks

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

- BSCFB is looking to expand a voucher program that previously allowed access to The Country Market; with funder backing, BSCFB will potentially add voucher options for The Hungry Moose Market and Deli and Roxy's Market, in addition to The Country Market; said effort keeps funds within the community while also aiding with client grocery needs
- BSCFB has ordered \$10 gas cards for client emergency trips
- BSCFB will begin advertising the Women in Action mental health programs and the Big Sky Community Organization and Big Sky Chamber's collaborative effort to streamline CARES Act, Unemployment Insurance and other financial aid applications assistance via a hotline launching next week
- BSCFB is seeking to "cross train" with other HRDC programs, such as the Household Economic Planning program, to build additional and robust lines of support
- BSCFB is in need of a reusable forehead thermometer, both for staff and client needs

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

- Kasey Anderson, a newly appointed licensed clinical professional counselor under WIA has accepted her first clients and currently has no limit to the number of clients she can take on; WIA and the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation will pay all insurance co-pays and cash fees through April; to schedule appointments, call Anderson directly at (406) 551-0949
- WIA is launching the Big Sky Random Acts of Kindness social media campaign, encouraging community members to lend aid to neighbors and organize socially distanced events, sharing those moments with the #bigskyroak hashtag

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

- BSTD continues to operate on the modified late winter schedule; 4-6 people per trip from Bozeman to Big Sky via the Link Express service; local service remains Demand Response for no more than three healthy passengers at a time; there are roughly 14 requests per day; individual rides can be requested for at-risk individuals at (406) 995-2867
- This Thursday, BSTD will be on a call with the Montana Department of Transportation, assessing how federal funds received by MDT can potentially be used for BSTD needs
- Link Express trips will remain fare-free through April 20, when BSTD would typically shift into a Shoulder Season schedule; the Summer Season schedule is set to commence May 26, but that date is subject to change
- BSTD encourages organizations with delivery needs to contact them at (406) 995-2867

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

- BSCC continues to provide guidance on the CARES Act and other federal and state emergency relief opportunities available to the community's small businesses; BSCC is working to assemble a group of business-minded volunteers to provide "hands-on" assistance virtually; more information will be available by the end of the week

- BSCC is continuing to support and promote BSCC-registered small businesses, and their employees, that continue to serve the Big Sky community during the public health crisis via #MemberMonday, Member Spotlight and Making It In Big Sky features, #TakeOutThursday, #FrontlineWorkerFriday; stay updated at [bigskychamber.com/communityupdates](https://bigskychamber.com/communityupdates) and [bigskychamber.com/lovelocalrestaurants](https://bigskychamber.com/lovelocalrestaurants)
- New BSCC member business Mountain and Canyon Cab Company owner Benjamin Keefe is providing transportation and delivery Services to those in need; (406) 600-4368, [mountainandcanyoncab.com](https://mountainandcanyoncab.com)
- The Wilson Hotel – Residence Inn by Marriott is providing rooms to frontline workers at a special rate of \$69 per night; contact [lindsey.foote@marriott.com](mailto:lindsey.foote@marriott.com) for additional details
- BSCC is participating in a weekly “Recovery and Resiliency” call with the Governor’s Office of Economic Development and fellow Gallatin Valley economic development organizations; the calls serve as a platform to share information, resources and best practices
- April 8 would have hosted the bi-annual “Eggs & Issues” Gallatin-Madison Joint County Commission meeting, with “How Taxes Fund Community Development” as the discussed issue; scheduled educational pieces included information on the upcoming May 5 election, which also serves as a vote-in day for a \$23.5 million bond for the Big Sky School District and a 1% Increase in Resort Tax with collected funds applied to vital water and sewer infrastructure necessary to facilitate continued growth, future workforce housing and better water quality; BSCC encourages residents to vote yes for both ballot initiatives
- On April 3, VBS participated in a U.S. Travel Association spring board meeting; the organization is leading the advocacy and lobbying efforts for the tourism industry, with losses expected to deliver a \$910 billion blow to the U.S. economy
- VBS is monitoring the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the national, state and local level in partnership with the U.S. Travel Association, Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development, Tourism Matters to Montana, Yellowstone Country Tourism Region and six convention and visitor bureaus in the region
- Occupancy for Big Sky at this time is less than 10% for those lodging entities that have remained open; according to a Longwoods International tracking study of American travelers and the coronavirus pandemic, 84% of those travelers are changing their travel plans for the next 6 months because of the coronavirus, the same percentage reported last week; when asked how those travelers will change their plans because of the pandemic, 53% said they would cancel some trips, up slightly from 50% the week prior, and 43% said they will reduce travel in the next 6 months, up from 35% a week ago; changing trips from international to domestic and from air travel to auto travel continues to occur but is less frequent than in previous weeks
- VBS is providing insights into the Big Sky market on two weekly calls with 18 fellow Rocky Mountain resort communities from our DestiMetrics lodging platform, as well as on a CEO conference call to compare local market conditions and share solutions

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

- Currently, BSCO has 50 registered volunteers available for five different shifts; to date, there have been five matches made 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
- The “Community Calendar,” which highlights local activities and happenings, will launch this week as part of the Big Sky Behavioral Health Coalition; several volunteers will lead programming for the community

- The Unemployment Insurance and CARES Act hotline, a collaborative effort from the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and BSCO, will launch next week; the hotline is available every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- With assistance from Kevin Miller and Big Sky Landscaping, BSCO was able to clear the bike path along Lone Mountain Trail down to the Conoco; as the snow melts, highway litter is starting to surface; BSCO will be coordinating a trash pickup day next week after a couple more warm days; more information will be available April 10
- GRTF and BSCO are coordinating the second annual Runoff Cleanoff the weekend of April 24-26 to pick up pet waste around town; more details soon

**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 reports a large amount of weekend food needs on weekends; 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
- 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

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*