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BigSkyRelief.org

Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 12 – 5/19/20

On Tuesday, May 19, the 12th BigSkyRelief.org Operational Partners Coordination Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 25 minutes.

The purpose of the virtual bi-monthly 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):

- Bozeman Health, including BHBSMC, is in the midst of a phased reopening approach; the overall goal is to maintain day-to-day operations while maintaining abilities to address potential future challenges related to COVID-19
- In order to address rapid testing shortcomings, BHBSMC is bringing on a Biofire Analyzer from Montana State University; the analyzer should arrive this week; as the test is particularly expensive, the analyzer will be used only in emergency/urgent situations; the Cepheid Analyzer test kits have been difficult to obtain due to a national backlog and facility/staff testing requirements; BHBSMC is still able to test under a 24-hour turnaround time via Bozeman Health facilities and state lab testing abilities
- The four new inpatient rooms are fully equipped and ready to hold patients, following bed delivery on May 19; total inpatient capacity has increased to eight individuals, with a surge plan to hold more at BHBSMC
- BHBSMC would like to emphasize there is no FDA approved antibody test available at this time; existing tests only analyze viral load, meaning there is not enough information to determine if someone has built up antibodies to COVID-19
- Ventilator manufacturers are experiencing a nationwide parts shortage; BHBSMC currently doesn't have a ship date for those pieces of equipment, but will continue to push for a date

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

- BSFD continues to monitor reopen information as directed by Gov. Steve Bullock in order to maintain preparedness for tentative future needs

- BSFD is working with the Big Sky Community Food Bank, transferring a number of donated gift and gas cards to the facility

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):

- BSCFB is on track to complete 80 food boxes for the month of May; the figure is down from 98 in April and 128 in March
- BSCFB reports around 25% of clients are new to the food bank, up from the 15% yearly average
- BSCFB will begin conducting a client follow-up and survey this week, analyzing current and future needs of clients; BSCFB is undergoing training for triage of client needs and subsequent household counseling; outside of food, the most common needs include medical bills and housing - both emergency and rental support
- The food bank continues to support households in the form of gift and gas cards and grocery store vouchers, along with food boxes
- BSCFB reports clients have been able to take advantage of the Bozeman Health COVID-19 Compassion Fund, along with resources found on BigSkyRelief.org, Montana state resources and those provided by the HRDC

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

- WIA has begun to focus on long term substance abuse counseling along with mental and behavioral health plans; additional information will be made available at the next Operational Partners Coordination Meeting
- WIA reports that several community members have taken advantage of counseling services provided by WIA, and a grant from the Greater Gallatin United Way has ensured no-cost counseling through May if insurance is unable to cover those costs

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

- BSTD will continue to operate its Shoulder Season schedule until June 14, pending no major needs changes up to that date; BSTD will begin operating on the weekends, however, with the first weekend being June 6-7; BSTD reports demand remains relatively low
- BSTD Link Express service will remain fare-free until the start of the Summer Season schedule; around 7 passengers make round-trip use of the service daily, split between roughly one dozen rides

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

- The Big Sky Save Small Business Relief Fund microgrant program - a joint venture of BSCC, VBS and the Big Sky Resort Area District - has doled out checks to 57 local small businesses for a total of \$192,500 in microgrants; funds remaining from the original \$210,000 earmarked for the program are buying "reopening bundles" for local businesses - items include masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and stands, open for business signs, social distancing floor decals, safe/expected

behavior posters and plexiglass shields for Big Sky businesses needing assistance to reopen safely

- On May 20, the BSCC and City of Bozeman will host Dr. Pat Barkey, University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research Director, via a Webex webinar; there, he will discuss Montana's reopening plans and economic recovery following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, with emphasis on the greater Gallatin Valley; for a link, visit bigskychamber.com
- BSCC advises the community that on May 21, the Montana Department of Transportation will host a Big Sky Bridge Decks Virtual Open House via Zoom to discuss the three bridges on Lone Mountain Trail and U.S. Highway 191 in great need of repair, along with project timelines and anticipated traffic impacts; MDT representatives will also answer questions related to the project; construction will begin in late May; attendance is free; to register, visit bitly.com/bigskybridges
- BSCC advises the community that the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act, providing \$3 trillion for various COVID-19 relief measures, among other provisions; the act would expand the Paycheck Protection Program to all associations and nonprofits, including 501(c)(6)s like BSCC and VBS; the legislation would also make several other important changes to the PPP:
 - At least 25% of PPP funds would go to nonprofits, and at least half of that 25% would be reserved for nonprofits under 500 employees
 - The covered period for PPP loans would be extended to December 31, 2020
 - The covered period for PPP loan forgiveness would expand from the current eight weeks to 24 weeks
 - The act clarifies that organizations receiving PPP loans can also take advantage of the Employee Retention Payroll Tax Credit
 - The act also eliminates the 75/25 rule on the use of loan proceeds
- On May 15, the Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, released the PPP Loan Forgiveness Application and detailed instructions for the application; to view the application, visit content.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/3245-0407%20SBA%20Form%203508%20PPP%20Forgiveness%20Application.pdf
- BSCC advises the community that if you or your business has not yet applied for a PPP loan, there is still approximately \$100 billion in funding available through the SBA; having received further forgiveness instructions, now might be a good time to reconsider whether the loan is right for you and your business
- VBS advises the community that Yellowstone National Park opened the two Wyoming entrances as of May 18
- For a list of statewide camping facilities and their COVID-19-dictated status, visit marketmt.com/Portals/129/shared/RegionsCVBs/Resource%20Page/COVID-19/Parks-Recreation-Lands.pdf?ver=2020-04-30-085113-000

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

- To date, there are 65 local volunteers registered to help, as needed, across five weekly shifts; BSCO has been able to make seven 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 advises the community

the service is also available to people arriving to town and must undergo the mandatory 14-day self-quarantine

- BSCO reports that community parks and trails are getting “hammered with use across the board”; BSCO will bring on additional staff to assist at this time; BSCO will open park bathrooms over the next week, adjusting protocol as needed
- BSCO continues to monitor reopen information as directed by Gov. Steve Bullock in order to maintain preparedness for tentative future needs, including camp programming and the community softball league; those community recreational opportunities will also face new protocol and policies in order to operate safely; camp programming is particularly critical for parents needing to return to the office following the end of the school year

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

- BSSD continues to serve approximately 50-60 lunches daily, a service that will discontinue on the last day of school: May 29
- Graduation for the Class of 2020 commences on Saturday, May 23

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*