BigSkyRelief.org  
**Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 19 – 8/25/20**

On Tuesday, August 25, the 19th BigSkyRelief.org Operational Partners Coordination Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 21 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:

**Kevin Germain, Chairman of Big Sky Resort Area District Board of Directors (BSRAD):**

- **Surveillance testing update:** Still working hard on getting a program into the community for winter ski season. Have been working with DPPHS and got a contact with “It Starts with Me” to work on getting a program to Big Sky. Should have more to report on the next call.

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

- **School Opening:** Big Sky School District begins school on Aug 31st. We are currently figuring out how the school re-opening with the alternate schedule will impact staffing at BSMC. We need to ensure we have adequate coverage for ER, Clinic, etc. We have many staff who have children in day care and/or school.

- **COVID Testing:** We continue to work on how to strengthen the capacity of COVID testing. Currently, Bozeman Health can perform over 100 tests a day.

- **Cepheid Test Kits:** Cepheid has ceased producing test kits for COVID only tests. They have started making test kits that are a bundle of 3 tests – COVID, Flu, RSV. This is to better prepare for flu season. At this time, Cepheid has not shipped these tests out and we are on the top of the list to receive an allocation. Taylor will work to receive a ship date for these test kits. We do have the Biofire machine for rapid COVID tests for emergent patients only.

- **Larger Ventilators:** The one ordered has not arrived in Big Sky. It has arrived in Bozeman and details are currently being worked out before it is delivered to Big Sky.
  - It is called the 980 Ventilators. These are the “fighter” jets of ventilators. These machines are complex and require a very high level of training to run them.
  - The plan is for Bozeman Health Respiratory Therapists to be available to us in Big Sky to maintain a patient on this ventilator. We will not be able to train our staff, as it is too
high of a level. It would be like asking some who drives a vehicle for a living to fly a plane.

Chief Greg Megaard, Big Sky Fire Department (BSFD):
- Wants to remind everyone that fire danger is extremely high and to be careful when out in the community due to the high fire danger.
- No needs from the group currently.
- 2 staff helping with fire in Norris and sent 5 staff to help with the California fires.
- Calls have decreased over the last week.

Sergeant Brandon Kelly, Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office (GCSO):
- This is Sergeant Kelly’s last week as Sergeant in Big Sky and Sergeant Dan Haydon will be taking over.
- No Needs from the group currently.

Sarah Gaither, Program Coordinator of Big Sky Community Food Bank (BSCFB):
- Looking for an extra space heater to allow people to shop outside and avoid people in the building as the weather cools down.
- Contracts for 2 employees end in September, seeing if they are available for the long term
- Normal August numbers and steady needs among customers.
- Have customers that are looking for firewood as a heat source. Let Sarah know if there is space that needs to be cleared of wood.

Jean Behr, Executive Director of Women In Action (WIA):
- Counseling sessions are available through the MSU-Human Development Clinic. Cost ranges from $5-$30 per session. Call (406) 570-3907 to make an appointment.
- The Big Sky Behavioral Health Coalition is meeting this week to assist parents and educators through hybrid learning.
- The Discovery Academy, Food Bank, and WIA are developing programming to support the Spanish speaking community in Big Sky.

David Kack, Coordinator of Big Sky Transportation District (BSTD):
- Another month of summer season for the Skyline schedule. Demand is dropping off a little bit as summer winds down.
- Federal CARES Act funding will continue through December, resulting in less need from Resort Tax.
- MDT is setting aside money for the Bus Barn. Bus barn could be used to help food bank with storage and drive through pickups.
- Planning to run same winter schedule as last year, unsure on what demand will look like at this time. Will make sure everyone wears masks and only rides the bus if they aren’t sick.
- More movement on TIGER grant busses, hope to have them by 21/22 winter season.

Candace Carr Strauss, CEO of Big Sky Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) & Visit Big Sky (VBS):
- Big Sky Chamber
  - With Back-to-School for k-12 upon us, CHILDCARE is THE topic of conversation for our businesses and employees
• **#SaveJ1 Visa program** – In June the Administration issued a Presidential Proclamation suspending Summer Work Travel and other work-based exchange programs until December 31, 2020. The Proclamation requires periodic reviews, and while restrictions may be relaxed, it is also possible that it could be extended into 2021.

• **Thursday, Sept 17 from 5:30-8:30pm** – hosting our 3rd Annual Community BUILDING / Building COMMUNITY Forum VIRTUALLY for the public. To register, go to [www.bigskychamber.com](http://www.bigskychamber.com)

• **Montana Business Stabilization Grant** – Round 2 information
  - YOU HAVE ALREADY APPLIED FOR A BUSINESS STABILIZATION GRANT - DO NOT REAPPLY TO GET YOUR 2ND PAYMENT! ***
  - Follow the Instructions in the email sent to you on 8/12/2020 to accept or decline your 2nd grant payment
  - The Montana Business Stabilization Grant has been created in response to the economic impact to small businesses in Montana caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
  - Funds can be used for: Grants will provide working capital for small businesses to support payroll, rent, accounts payable, debt services and expenses related to shifts in operations in order to retain existing businesses, retain current employees or retain business viability for future re-employment.
  - **Eligibility Requirements** - To be eligible to apply, businesses must meet all the following eligibility requirements:
    - Montana-based company
    - Registered and in good standing with the Secretary of State or Local Tribal Government
    - The business had 50 or fewer employees’ part- or full-time prior to February 15, 2020
    - The business sustained a loss of revenue due to COVID-19 since February 15, 2020
    - To receive federal funds, may not be a marijuana-based business.
    - Maximum Award: The maximum award available per applicant is up to 6 months of working capital up to $20,000.
    - Funds can be used for: payroll, rent, accounts payable and expenses
    - Priority for funding will be given to applicants that have not received SBA Payroll Protection Program or other relief programs.
    - Applications will be accepted and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are expended. Only one application per business entity per filing status will be considered for funding.

**Visit Big Sky**

• Hosting a Winter 20/21 Scenario planning meeting with BSRAD and Big Sky Resort on Thurs, Sept 27 at 9am to help all of us better plan for the coming season

• Visitation in market - despite wildfires and road construction projects/unexpected issues in YNP – is up; Big Sky continues to be busy as illustrated by the 60-Day Retail Report on the last page of notes. Please note, this EXCLUDES Big Sky Resort data
Ciara Wolfe, CEO of Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO):
  - No reports on volunteers
    - Trying to plan for September to plan staffing needs for the staff that usually ends in September. Asked the group if it is predicted for September to be busy.
      - Retail report and other data indicates September is booked more than usual

Dustin Shipman, Superintendent of Big Sky School District (BSSD):
  - Staff is back in the office this week and planning for the soft opening of the school next week that leads up to 50% occupancy the next week.
  - The school has been working with many families to solidify their plans for the off-school days.
  - No needs from the group currently.

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
NOTE: This is not a forecast of bookings. Data presented in this report
represents occupancy on the books as of the report date.