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BigSkyRelief.org

Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 21 – 9/22/20

On Tuesday, September 8, the 20th BigSkyRelief.org Operational Partners Coordination Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 30 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 Chair Kevin Germain coordinated the meeting.

Updates in order of presentation:

Kevin Germain, Board Chair of Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD):

- Continue to push on a testing program for the winter season. Engaged a company called It Starts with Me and have engaged Bozeman Health to work on it. Should have more updates for next call.
 - Follow up conversation on Thursday with It Starts with Me
- Welcomed Sergeant Haydon to Big Sky

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

- Ventilators:
 - Currently we have 3 travel ventilators to help address needs that may arise
 - The 980 vent will be at the hospital soon and more training is needed on this unit
 - Taylor will investigate how many of the 5 ventilators slotted for Bozeman Health have arrived and an estimation on when the remaining will arrive.
- Current State at BSMC:
 - Currently we are seeing reduced numbers in patients
 - We continue to prepare for a potential surge of COVID 19
 - Regarding COVID, we are in a holding pattern right now
 - Staffing shortages is something we continue to look at. The staffing model for the Viral Triage Clinic will look different in the winter than it does now, and this will help to alleviate the strain on staff. Also, B2 will be fully functional for the winter season.
- Testing Capacity:
 - Bozeman Health continues to strengthen our testing capacity
 - CDC has issued new testing guidelines, so more to come on this.
 - Cephiad Analyzer in Big Sky:
 - We have not received test kits for the analyzer.

- Cephiad has changed their test kits to include a panel of: Flu A & B, COVID and RSV. Once these kits are approved, we are highly prioritized to receive these.

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

- No new updates.
- Great meeting with Daniel at BSRAD to look at what winter will look like in Big Sky and how the Fire Department can help keep the community safe this winter.
- No needs currently.

Sergeant Dan Haydon, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office (GCSO):

- No needs currently.
- First couple of weeks in Big Sky and looking forward to a successful winter in Big Sky.

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

- Will be at Fall farmers market tomorrow with Sweet Bunz Bakery for a fundraiser. Donations will be accepted in exchange for cookies.
- Year over Year numbers of customers are slightly down from last year.

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

- The MSU Counseling Interns are accepting new clients aged 12+, individuals, couples, and families. Call (406) 570-3907 to make an appointment today. Spread the word on this service!
- The Big Sky Behavioral Health Working Group is meeting weekly to develop a suicide prevention and response plan. This group is reaching out to the school district, HR professionals, and business leaders to connect them with existing resources, and identify ways to engage at-risk populations in our community.

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

- Friday is the last day of service for the Summer Season schedule. This means that there will be no service this weekend (the 26th and 27th). We start our Shoulder Season schedule on Monday, the 28th.
- This winter's schedule should be very similar to our schedule for last winter (19-20) with a few minor changes.
- Will be submitting a request for BSRAD funds, but expect our Fall 2020 request to be around only \$100,000

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

Big Sky Chamber

- Hosted our 3rd Annual Community Building Forum on Thursday of last week during United for Infrastructure Week. - The recording can be found [here](#). Thanks to all who participated and who tuned in for the "state of Big Sky" blended event and to our Presenting Sponsor, Lone Mountain Land Co.
- NEW Small Business Roundtable virtual networking event Wednesday morning at 8am, the event is free, but registration needed [here](#).
- Leadership Big Sky – [Taking applications](#) for the 2nd cohort DEADLINE: September 25 at 5 PM. COVID-19 has showed how important leadership is for our community, consider investing in Big Sky's next generation of leaders and sign up your staffer today.
- Still have 50,000 masks for businesses in need in addition to #MaskUp Montana posters.

Visit Big Sky

- August and September occupancy in Big Sky is outpacing YOY numbers. This is a combination of Work from Vacation (WFV) a newly coined term with many schools being 100% online, and our position as a Gateway Community to Yellowstone. YNP hosted 881,543 recreation visits in August 2020, a 7.5% increase from August 2019, making it the second busiest August on record. (The busiest August on record was in 2017, the year of the solar eclipse.) Year to date, the park has hosted 2,546,373 recreation visits, still down 18% from the same period last year due to COVID-19 closure from March 24-May 18 (WY)/June 1 (MT).
- Winter. Is. Coming. – Big Sky Resort announced their plan for [winter operations](#) and put season passes back on sale. The window to get them at the deepest savings is closing TODAY at midnight so [buy now](#).
- NEW Air Service announcement out of BZN yesterday: Bozeman to Charlotte, NC starting December 17 – April 5 on American Airlines. Despite COVID, Charlotte will become the 5th destination added since May after Nashville, Boston, New York (JFK), and Fort Lauderdale.
- RFP for Ad Agency and Publisher/Content Provider services was due this past Friday, September 18. Ten agencies have submitted proposals. Three will be presenting to the VBS Board and DestiMetrics Partners this Thursday/Friday. Hope to have an agency on board by mid-October.
- Both the “Let’s Go There” campaign from U.S. Travel coalition partners and the Montana Aware initiative from the Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development continue – encouraging potential travelers to #LetsMakePlans and Know Before They Go.

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

- No new activity with volunteers. But tomorrow hosting the volunteer appreciation party at the community park.
- Lots of use on Parks and Trails. Keeping maintenance staff until mid-October to keep up with use at parks and on trails.
- Parks District Boundary approved to match Big Sky Resort Area District by the County.
- Community foundations have opened another funding cycle for non-profits and public entities that are providing additional services to support people getting back to work or services around health or behavioral health. Applications are open through tomorrow (9/23). Group will meet the end of this week and award grants on September 30.
- Individual grants have slowed down, and requests have been more related to people voluntarily not working to stay safe and limit exposure to COVID.
- State of Montana has released an additional grant for Non-Profits that have seen a loss in revenue or increase in services because of COVID.

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

- 3rd week of 50/50 learning model. 10% of students are participating in a 100% distance/virtual environment.
- Busses are running their regular routes and capacity is increasing and school lunches are still being served in the classrooms.
- Task force still meeting weekly and board is also meeting weekly. Bozeman voted yesterday to set some timelines for returning to school and set forth some guidelines to keep the school community safe.
- Hosting a flu shot clinic for employees in partnership with Big Sky Medical Center.
- Still looking to hire a few employees.

Daniel Bierschwale, Executive Director of Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD):

- Roughly \$150,000 remaining in Relief Fund for Non-Profits and Organizations in need of relief due to impacts of COVID.

John Haas, President of Spanish Peaks Community Foundation (SPCF):

- SPCF have delayed Fall grants until mid-October to make decisions based on funded awarded from other community foundations

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*