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BigSkyRelief.org

Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 23- 10/20/20

On Tuesday, October 20th, the 23rd BigSkyRelief.org Operational Partners Coordination Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 17 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):

- Community Surveillance Program work is still taking place. Speaking with the State today to try and get financing from the state. Getting close to having a plan in place.
- Sub-Committee of BSRAD include Board Members Steve Johnson, Kevin Germain, and Executive Director, Daniel Bierschwale. The sub-committee will bring a recommendation to the full board at a special meeting on Wednesday, October 28th at 9am.

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

- Actively monitoring positive cases in the community.
- Starting to see impacts on staffing due to the positive cases.
- No major surges of inpatients or influx in the ER.
- Some concerns about what the ski season will look like and preparing for the winter season as much as possible.
- Feel good about capacity for ventilators.
- Rooms are all built out and ready to go once ventilators arrive.

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

- Working to prepare for what winter season may look like and making sure the PPE supply is sufficient.
- Have not been contacted to assist with contact tracing but have continued to stay in touch with the County. Some more training may be needed if services are requested.
- No needs currently.

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

- Things have slowed down a bit for the shoulder season allowing time to get ready for the upcoming winter season.
- Had first exposure in the department and the quarantine process went very smooth and feel good about keeping staffing up over the winter in case of exposures.
- No needs currently.

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

- Slow September, but October is picking up and getting busier, due to seasonal unemployment
- Seeing a higher number of customers trying to live in vehicles due to housing constraints. Emergency personnel should be on the lookout for people living in their cars
- Increase in home deliveries due to people being in quarantine.
- Will continue curbside pick up through winter
- Taking reservations for thanksgiving meals-everything people need to make a thanksgiving meal
- Wilson Hotel/Sweet Buns Catering providing hot thanksgiving meals. The Food Bank is taking reservations for these as well.
- Pumpkin giveaway is this weekend, it will be a drive thru event.

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

- WIA camp scholarship application deadline is this Friday, October 23rd. Scholarships are open to all Big Sky families who meet financial eligibility requirements.

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

- Finalizing the winter schedule, and it will look almost the same as last year's schedule.
- BSTD will not be requesting any BSRAD funding until at least January, as our CARES Act funding should go through December.
- BSTD is still collecting signatures but should have enough signatures to get the question about expanding the boundaries of the Transportation District on the May 2021 ballots.
- Looking forward to the upcoming winter season.

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

Chamber

- PPP Loan Forgiveness is top of mind for businesses who received PPP Loans. SBA released another "interim" final guidance on it which is just causing more confusion. Still waiting for more clarity.
- Leadership Big Sky 2nd cohort kicks off tomorrow, Wednesday, October 20 at The Wilson Hotel with 18 participants. Thanks to Lone Mountain Land Co and First Security Bank for their underwriting support.
- As we look to Winter 20/21 the issue for many small business employers is workforce housing. Heard from many that it is the worst it has ever been with the hot real estate market and the reduced capacity in dense, more seasonal housing.

VBS

- MT Tourism Safety Grant dollars – VBS received \$330,000; making \$250,000 available for Community wide Surveillance Testing program for Winter 20/21 should that program move forward. These funds must be spent by December 30, 2020 and come with restrictions on how they may be allocated.

- Yellowstone National Park had its best September on record following 2nd best August after the solar eclipse in 2017. Big Sky consequently has continued to see visitation unlike previous years into October. August/September very strong for our destination as well.
- With increase in cases continued cancellation of in-person events around the state and some adjustments on maximum numbers by some counties of only up to 25 people.
- NEW tourism development and cultural grants announced from [Montana Department of Commerce](#) and Yellowstone Country Tourism Region (see attached).

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

- No volunteer updates but planning for the winter season for activities and volunteers.
- Increasing maintenance staff by 1 for winter to make sure services can be provided.
- Today is Ciara's last meeting as her last day with BSCO is October 31st. Mackenzie Johnson, Program Manager, will be filling Ciara's place until the new CEO is hired.
- Interview process is underway for CEO, received many applications.

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

- We had our first confirmed cases, a student and a staff member which lead to quarantining of a group of students.
- The task force continues to work towards a transition in learning models.
- No needs from the group currently.

Daniel Bierschwale, Executive Direct, (BSRAD)

- Working with foundations to send out an impact report for the Big Sky Relief efforts along with a press release.

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*