

Big Sky Resort Area District
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BigSkyRelief.org

Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 24- 11/17/20

On Tuesday, November 17th, the 24th 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 Chair, Kevin Germain coordinated the meeting.

Updates in order of presentation:

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

- Close to getting partnership finalized for community surveillance testing program, once finalized a press release will come out.

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

- Proud partner in surveillance testing program.
- Still experiencing normal shoulder season volumes, volume is handled well so far.
- Planning for winter season, which is usually a high-volume time for the hospital. Working hard to keep operation going and while keeping staff safe.
- 3 ventilators on site; 2 are smaller and able to be used for transport and 1 is larger. Air transport has their own ventilator.
- Have had a steady flow of inpatients at BSMC.
- Swing bed programs allows BSMC to take patients who are discharged from a hospital and need to go to a skilled level of care. Getting systems in place to begin this program that will assist Bozeman Deaconess Hospital to start utilizing our additional capacity.
- Working closely with the Fire Department to safely transport patients.
- CEPHIAD machine is now getting allocated 60 tests a week. Within in the next few weeks anticipating all 3 testing machines to be up and running next week. Will have rapid tests coming soon.
- Bozeman Health will be handling symptomatic testing in the community.
- Use smart practices; social distancing, washing hands, and avoiding gatherings as we move into the holiday season.

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

- Increasing call volumes for shoulder season compared to other years.
- Implementing new protocols to limit exposure while on shift.
- No needs currently.

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

- Health Board has changed closing hours of restaurants and bars to 10pm, have not seen any local issues with this. Seeing good compliance with new order.
- No needs currently.

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

- Seeing higher than average numbers for October, making it hard to plan to go into the busy fall season. *Graph included below*
- Reaching out to HR to get an idea of how many employees will be here this winter season.
- Offering delivery services to people in quarantine.
- Packing up Thanksgiving boxes, nearly 80 families signed up this year.
- In need of 20 more turkeys and 20 pre-cooked turkeys by Monday, November 23.

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

- No updates or needs currently

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

- Appreciate BSRAD's support for this year, and all previous years! Would not be able operate Skyline without the Resort Tax funds.
- Winter season schedule will start on Monday, November 23rd and is posted [online](#) and brochures will be distributed this week.
- There is a mask mandate on the bus. Those riding the bus must wear masks or a face covering. Riders are encouraged to socially distance themselves, but it can be hard on a bus and there will be times the buses are full this winter.
- The District is not subject to capacity limits on the buses (no limits for public transportation).
- With the increase in COVID-19 cases in the area the District is carefully monitoring what is happening in both Madison and Gallatin Counties.
- The COVID-19 situation again highlights the uniqueness of Big Sky, as a portion of the community is in Gallatin County and another portion is in Madison County. Those two counties may have different rules concerning the COVID-19 situation, and that could lead to some interesting behavior (such as people going up to the Mountain Village to take advantage of bars staying open later, etc.).

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

Chamber

- Wed, Nov 19 @ 8:30am *Eggs&Issues* – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH with Big Sky Medical Center (BSMC)/Bozeman Health, Madison Valley Medical Center Health Center, Providence Health, Western Montana Mental Health Center and Yellowstone Club Community Foundation. The event is free, but registration is required. Go to www.bigskychamber.com or watch the Big Sky Chamber's Facebook Live stream. Gallatin-Madison Joint County Commission meeting has been POSTPONED until after the New Year.
- Monitoring COVID-19 related business operations for both Gallatin and Madison Counties – They are different for each county, so this is problematic for some businesses who operate across county lines.

VBS

- Partnering with Big Sky Resort Tax Board and BSMC on the community-wide surveillance testing program, contributing \$250,000 from Montana Tourism Safety Grant monies

- Used \$27,000 from these federal/state grant dollars to purchase an additional 100,000 masks to be able to provide to Big Sky businesses for the upcoming Winter 20/21 season. These along with posters stating that masks are REQUIRED per a Governor mandate are available at the Big Sky Chamber | Visit Big Sky office.

Mackenzie Johnson, Program Manager of Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO):

- No mail pick up requests recently. Will connect with the Foodbank on volunteer needs.
- Gearing up for winter season and expecting a high level use this winter. Looking for trail ambassador volunteers for the winter season.
- Virtual community programming committee is back in place, looking at ways for community members to connect virtual over the dark winter months.

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

- Still moving along with 50/50 learning model. Board will be getting an update from the back to school task force at tonight's meeting.
- Testing 40-50 students and staff each week to help guide decisions.
- Need a larger level of community consent for testing, currently only about 40% of students have consented and about 50% of staff. As surveillance testing becomes available encourage people consent to testing.

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*

BSCFB services per month (service = one "food box" per household)

