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BigSkyRelief.org

Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 26- 12/15/20

On Tuesday, December 15th, the 26th BigSkyRelief.org Operational Partners Coordination Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 20 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):

- Kicked off the call

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

- Testing program has started and BSRAD staff at the Chamber/Visit Big Sky Offices.
- Video about testing will be going out today
- Hours and details can be found at BigSkyRelief.Org
- About 600 tests have been given out, and 3 positive cases. A few businesses are having outbreaks and additional resources have been provided to them.
- Lock box will be available for after hour drop off in foyer at Chamber/Visit Big Sky
- Masks will still be crucial even after the vaccine is widely available

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

- **Holiday Surge:** We are currently preparing for the holiday surge of patients that we typically see the last 2 weeks of December. Our staffing looks good through the holiday season. We are not at capacity now and we are prepared for the holiday surge of patients
- **COVID Vaccines:**
 - Vaccines are now being distributed to the 1st phase – hospital workers.
 - Bozeman Deaconess Hospital employees began receiving vaccines this week.
 - We are a CAH (Critical Access Hospital), so Big Sky Medical Center is set to receive the Moderna vaccine next week.
 - Moderna should be approved by Friday and available to us next week.
 - Pfizer requires a special cold storage fridge and Moderna does not require this.
 - BHBSMC has a cold storage fridge on order, and it will be here in February.
 - There is no timeline now on when the vaccine is available to the public.
 - Danny and Taylor can connect to discuss details of the vaccine being available to the Big Sky Community.

- It is important to communicate to all that masks are still required even after you are vaccinated.

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

- Gearing up for a busy holiday season
- Big Sky Fire Department is willing and able to administer vaccine at the Fire Station if needed. No firm plans yet but could be a great resource for Big Sky.
- No needs currently

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

- No updates or needs currently
- New Big Sky Deputy just graduated for Law Enforcement Academy, will be fully staffed for winter.
- Seeing good mask compliance on checks around town.

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

- Seasonal influx is slightly above average for this time of year.
- October 14 new households, 43 in November.
- Prepacking bags has shown the need for people who do not have access to kitchens. About 2/3 of customers do not have access to a full kitchen, just a microwave or hot plate.
- Holiday hours only open Tuesday for next couple weeks. Full holiday hours are on website.
- Coordinating deliveries to households that are in quarantine.
- No needs currently.

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

- No updates or needs currently

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

- Staying busy with services.
- Thank you for getting the word out with changes in late night schedules.
- CARES Act funding will go through at least March, reducing funds needed from BSRAD.
- Working to make sure all passengers are wearing masks.
- No needs currently.

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

- The Big Sky Chamber and Visit Big Sky offices are currently hosting the test pick up/drop off for Big Sky Relief's FREE Community-wide COVID-19 Surveillance Testing partnership. Now in week two, we have had some lessons learned, but are seeing more and more people as the word gets out and understanding of how the program works builds. We anticipate much greater participation in the weeks ahead with more residents and workers in-market leading into the holiday season.
- Advocating alongside U.S. Travel and the U.S. Chamber for Congress to pass #CovidReliefNOW: By the end of December, 50% of all travel-supported jobs will be lost—**an additional loss of 948,000 jobs and a total loss of 4.5 million direct travel jobs.** Congress can help **#SaveTravel, bring back jobs and rebuild our economy** by prioritizing relief for the travel industry. New legislation would expand PPP Loans to 501(c)(4)s and (c)(6)s and make the most hard-hit businesses eligible for round two of PPP Loans, among other things.
- We have 120,000 FREE masks and lots of public health messaging signage available for all businesses direct them to the Big Sky Chamber and VBS. PLEASE NOTE: The offices have a NEW

phone number 406-995-3606 with the 406-995-3000 number being dedicated solely to Visitor Servicing.

- Winter 20/21 tourism season is about to kick into high gear! Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow! Occupancy is up considerably YOY so the demand for the destination is there. We are grateful for where our state and local public health restrictions sit compared to many others including Aspen, Tahoe, and Mammoth in particular.

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

- Working on updating pick up and delivery services form on Big Sky Relief page. It will include mail, foodbank, and test kit pick up and drop off. Please share information once updated.

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

- The board is meeting today to consider a phased approach to returning to 100% in person learning.
- We are testing weekly, on Tuesday and Wednesday, using the community testing company. Still trying to get the numbers of people consented for testing to a high number.
- Received a grant from Big Sky Medical Center for additional PPE in anticipation of possible 100% in person learning across the District.
- No needs currently from the group, thanks to all.

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*