On Tuesday, January 26th, the 29th 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):**
- Kicked off the call.
- Testing program has been going well, demand has been high.
- Dashboard is posted on BigSkyRelief.Org, saw an increase in positives following the holidays and now seeing a decline.
- Working to get vaccines for Madison County residents to Big Sky, more details coming.

**Daniel Bierschwale, Executive Director of Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD):**
- Testing drive-thru is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.
- There are two 24/7 drop off options available.
- Keep participating and spread the word to encourage people to test once a week throughout the winter.

**Taylor Rose, Director of Clinical Services & Operations at Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center (BHBSMC):**
- Vaccine update: moved through phase 1A and have vaccinated all hospital staff. All first responders will be receiving vaccines soon in Big Sky.
- BSMC is Point of Distribution (POD) and working on a plan for vaccine distribution so they are ready to distribute once the green light comes from the County and State.
- Capacity has remained open at BSMC but have treated several inpatient COVID cases. Have taken patients from Bozeman to help with capacity and relieve pressure there.

**Jason Smith, Chief Advancement Officer at Bozeman Health Foundation (BHF):**
- Thankfully not having capacity issues but seeing more mental/behavioral health patients.
- Trying to connect with West Yellowstone on surveillance program as we have excess capacity with the lab. Town of West Yellowstone will fund their own testing program.
- Evening of February 12th planning a celebration of 5 years of Big Sky Medical Center, invitations coming soon. Working on the details for virtual/in person celebrations to stay in compliance with hospital policies.
Chief Greg Megaard, Big Sky Fire Department (BSFD):
- Actively engaged with incident management team.
- Busy weeks for BSFD with high acuity calls, proud of the fire department and community for responses.
- 50-60% of staff have received the first round of the vaccine, second round in the coming weeks
- No needs currently.

Sergeant Dan Haydon, Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office (GCSO):
- Similar vaccination numbers as Fire Department.
- Search and Rescue member was caught in avalanche in Cooke City and has some major injuries. A GoFundMe page has been created to help with medical expenses as he recovers.

Sarah Gaither, Program Coordinator of Big Sky Community Food Bank (BSCFB):
- No updates or 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):
- December ridership was at 75% of last year, waiting for January numbers.
- Plan to keep mask mandate regardless of changes at state and county level due to new federal mandates.

Candace Carr Strauss, CEO of Big Sky Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) & Visit Big Sky (VBS):
- Tracking NEW Administration – Governor Gianforte and his “directives” related to COVID-10 operations as well as the 67th Legislative Session in particular the issue related to business liability insurance for COVID-19. This is also a topic on the federal level, and the Big Sky Chamber is signing on to a Letter of Support for a national baseline protection attached to a fourth pandemic relief package with the inauguration of the Biden administration.
- Regarding COVID-19 vaccines: Next week’s Economic Development Recovery & Resiliency call on WED, FEB 3 at 8am with Major Quinn – head of state COVID-19 task force under Bullock and now Gianforte. He will be speaking to Montana’s vaccination process. Anyone interested in listening in, email me at candace@bigskychamber.com for the meeting link. Vaccine Update Montana is now in Phase 1B of the State’s Vaccination Plan making the vaccine available to those 70 years of age and older, 16 to 69 years of age with a high-risk medical condition, and Native Americans and other persons of color who may be at elevated risk for COVID-19 complications. For up-to-date vaccine information visit the State’s new reporting resources:
  - COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard
  - DPHHS Vaccine Website
  - Local Public Health Department Map
- Big Sky Community Housing Trust is seeking (4) new board members; 20 very qualified candidates are being interviewed this week with a recommendation to the full board for election at the February board meeting. The significant increase in real estate sales has exacerbated Big Sky’s most critical need so it is exciting to see all the engagement around helping to address the issue.
VBS

- TODAY, January 24th is U.S. Travel Association’s National #PlanforVacation Day! #LetsMakePlans – a day dedicated to encouraging Americans to use their often left unused PTO days to plan for a vacation.
- As a destination, Big Sky continues to see YOY increased occupancy levels from the (9) DestiMetrics lodging partners which does not include Big Sky Resort or Vacasa among others. Strong bookings are also taking place for the spring/summer not only in Big Sky, but in Yellowstone as well.

Mackenzie Johnson, Program Manager of Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO):
- Received several requests for volunteers in January. 9 requests for COVID tests, of these 2 met the requirements and were delivered. Also received 2 requests for food boxes.

Dustin Shipman, Superintendent of Big Sky School District (BSSD):
- 3rd week of 100% in person learning at our elementary school.
- Ophir Middle school is transitioning to 100% learning on February 9th.
- Lone Peak High School is transitioning to 100% in person learning February 15th.
- Continuing surveillance testing at the school, 1126 tests given so far, the bulk of those beginning in December. Currently a 1.6% positivity rate. Last week 261 tests, no positives.
  - Please see the COVID dashboard on the landing page on the school website.
- 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