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### **BigSkyRelief.org**

*Big Sky Relief Partner Meeting- 09/03/21*

On Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Big Sky Relief Partner Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 45 minutes.

The purpose of the virtual meeting is to consolidate regular updates for the Big Sky Community as well as to identify and coordinate needs.

**Big Sky Resort Area District Executive Director, Daniel Bierschwale** coordinated the meeting.

*Updates in order of presentation:*

#### **Daniel Bierschwale, Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD):**

- Two groups on the call
  - Operational partners- service providers during pandemic
  - Funding partners- financial support and resources
- Regrouping with rise in cases due to the Delta Variant and for group to share needs and best practices.
- Additional masks have been purchased and exploring options for surveillance testing if needed.
- Large focus on the youth who are unable to be vaccinated.
- This group will continue to stay engaged and will meet again in a month.

#### **Taylor Rose, Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center (BHSMC):**

- Increase in COVID cases within Gallatin County. Compared to this time last year there are more people in the hospital in Big Sky. Dealing with higher volume of patients than last year and with flu season coming on there is a concern about the ability to take in patients.
- Seeing breakthrough case; seeing about 1 employee a day with a breakthrough case. Encouraging people to continue to get the vaccine.
- Majority of hospitalizations are unvaccinated; breakthrough cases are less severe.
- Vaccines are available in Big Sky and boosters are available with a referral from primary care physician.
- Working with Dr. Shipman to get a surveillance testing program at the school for students who are not eligible for vaccines.
- Plenty of PPE supply, staffing is the biggest issue currently.

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

- Seeing an uptick in COVID-19 cases daily across the county.
- The fire department is doing well and prepared.
- No needs currently.

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

- No updates or needs currently.

**David Kack, Big Sky Transportation District (BSTD):**

- Federal mask mandate for public transportation has been extended through January 18<sup>th</sup>. Masks will still be required on buses.
- Working on Winter bus schedule and hoping to add half hour frequency on routes 1 & 2. More details coming at the end of the month.
- Hoping to close on Bus Barn at the end of the month.
- December is the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Skyline!

**Sarah Gaither, Big Sky Community Food Bank (BSCFB):**

- Average number of services at the Food Bank. Did have a spike in delivery service for people in quarantine a couple weeks ago.
- Now asking staff and customers to wear masks. Keeping inside services and hours.

**Jean Behr, Women In Action (WIA):**

- Counselors are currently at capacity. Some are meeting virtually and some in person. Currently have 6 days of in person counseling a week.
- Updating information (rack cards, website) on counseling services soon, please help share this information.

**Brad Niva, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce (BSCC):**

- Have masks available at the Chamber and will monitor demand.
- New posters encouraging masks, reach out if you need any.
- Hard signs about recreating responsibly and social distancing are available.

**Whitney Montgomery, Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO):**

- Office is now closed to the public and shifting to people working remotely to keep everyone safe.
- Unsure future with BASE opening with indoor activities in the winter.

**Dustin Shipman, Big Sky School District (BSSD):**

- Update provided by Daniel: Morningstar has requested a surveillance program. School is focused on launching a surveillance program.

**Hans Williamson, Yellowstone Club (YC)**

- Have been surveillance testing team throughout the summer. Only seen a few positives since July, three of which were vaccinated.
- Testing is also available for members on a voluntary basis twice a week.
- Masks are optional on property.
- Will offer voluntary vaccination clinics at the start of winter season and new employees.
- Employee housing will stay at two people for room and will have isolation rooms available if needed.

**Troy Nedved, Big Sky Resort (BSR)**

- Internal plan for safe winter options more details will be announced in late fall. There is a need for a larger community strategy for the winter season.
- Encouraging vaccinations among employees; do require vaccines for people in Employee housing.

**Kevin Germain, Lone Mountain Land Company/Big Sky Resort Area District (LMLC)**

- Looking at options for surveillance testing for the winter, most likely will not launch the program during the upcoming fall off season. Asked LetsGetChecked details about getting the lab trailer back in Big Sky or a mail in option for testing.

**Hannah Richardson, Spanish Peaks Community Foundation (SPCF)**

- Still have remaining funds allocated for COVID relief if needed.

**Ciara Wolfe, Yellowstone Club Community Foundation (YCCF)**

- Just recently awarded over \$700,000 of grants for Behavioral Health programming in Big Sky for two years. An announcement with funding and program details will be shared soon.
- Training will be available for managers and front line on mental health first aid.
- Funding the school surveillance testing program since keeping children safe is a high priority.
- Still have restricted funds for Big Sky Relief.

**Anna Shipley, Moonlight Community Foundation (MCF)**

- All three foundations have been in very close contact and have funds remaining but have not opened another grant cycle.