Big Sky Relief Partner Meeting- 10/05/21

On Tuesday, October 5th, the Big Sky Relief Partner Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 40 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):
- Plenty of masks available, if you need any please contact the BSRAD office or the Big Sky Chamber.
- Engaged with BHBSMC to define a proposal of COVID impacts for the upcoming year, including testing.
- Will explore options to encourage vaccinations in our community.

Taylor Rose, Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center (BHBSMC):
- Working on a COVID readiness plan as we enter the winter season. Three-fold plan:
  - Increase testing capacity
  - Create space to store supplies
  - Increase capacity to see patients

Chief Greg Megaard, Big Sky Fire Department (BSFD):
- Preparing for winter season.
- Increasing COVID cases are impacting emergency services across the Gallatin Valley and BSFD is helping as they can.
- Station 2 is now operating full-time, and both stations are closed for public access to keep crews safe.

Sergeant Dan Haydon, Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office (GCSO):
- No updates or needs currently.

David Kack, Big Sky Transportation District (BSTD):
Shoulder season includes 8am-6pm demand response, and 2 round trips daily on Link Express.

Winter schedule will be released in coming weeks, there will be a few minor changes to the schedule.

Closing on the Bus Barn at the end of the month.

Mask mandate on public transportation is still in place through January.

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

- Seeing a higher percentage of homeless people compared to other fall seasons.
- Been assisting customers with unemployment benefits for the off season.
- Resource center is open at the Food Bank.
- Pumpkin giveaway will be on October 23rd.

Jean Behr, Women In Action (WIA):

- New therapist has started in the WIA office twice a week (Monday and Thursday).
- Working on a proposal to hire a Spanish speaker to be a resource liaison and translator.

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

- Chamber is willing to assist with administration of COVID needs.

Whitney Montgomery, Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO):

- More staff working remotely to keep themselves and families safe.
- Parks, trails, and fields are seeing higher use.
- Public restrooms will be closed for the winter soon.

Dustin Shipman, Big Sky School District (BSSD):

- Testing 130-140 students weekly, grade K-7.
- Will start using rapid tests for faculty.
- Mask mandate is in place at the school.

Mariel Butan, Morningstar Learning Center (MLC)

- Board will be voting on a mask mandate for some students at the next board meeting.
- Testing staff weekly with remaining LetsGetChecked tests.
- Looking into a program to test students.

Scott Poloff, Big Sky Discover Academy (BSDA)

- Mask mandate is in place at Discovery based on parent feedback.
- Testing staff weekly.
- Looking into a program to test students as well but need help administering tests.

Hans Williamson, Yellowstone Club (YC)
• Surveillance testing continued all summer, saw a slight uptick in September, and now testing all staff weekly through October. Currently shipping tests on Mondays and Thursdays.

Troy Nedved, Big Sky Resort (BSR)
• No updates or needs currently.

Kevin Germain, Lone Mountain Land Company/Big Sky Resort Area District (LMLC)
• No updates or needs currently.

Hannah Richardson, Spanish Peaks Community Foundation (SPCF)
• Still have Relief funds available.

Ciara Wolfe, Yellowstone Club Community Foundation (YCCF)
• Currently funding School surveillance testing and supporting sick days for staff having to stay home due to COVID.
• Provided boxed lunches to staff at Big Sky Medical Center and will do the same for Bozeman Deaconess.
• Recently gave $800,000 in grants for Behavioral Health Programming over the next two years.

Anna Shipley, Moonlight Community Foundation (MCF)
• No updates or needs currently.