



**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN**

AGENDA

South Central Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team
April 7, 2020
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

1.541.465.2805, code: 730943#

- I. Governor's Office update – Annette Liebe, Regional Solutions
- II. Unemployment Insurance Claim Data – Damon Runberg, Employment Department
- III. Forecast Update – Josh Lehner, Office of Economic Analysis
- IV. Small Business Navigator – Larry Holzgang, Business Oregon
- V. Partners Meeting Update – Kat Rutledge, SBDC
- VI. Hospitality Sector Update – Jim Chadderdon, Discover Klamath
- VII. Higher Education Update
 - a. Oregon Institute of Technology – Sandra Fox, OIT
 - b. Klamath Community College update – Chip Massie, KCC
- VIII. Next steps/wrap up



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MEETING SUMMARY

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I. Governor's Office update

Regional Solutions Coordinator Annette Liebe talked about the criteria being considered for when restrictions will be lifted. These are consistent with the criteria expressed by Dr. Birx on the white House Corona Task Force. 1) no deaths within 10-14 days, 2) need for additional hospital beds is declining, and 3) better ability to do surveillance testing to support contact tracing. Annette also mentioned that it is likely that restrictions will be eased over time rather than all at once.

Governor's Office is also tracking hospitals closely. Hospitals have canceled many elective surgeries, so many medical facilities are operating at slightly more than half of normal.

Annette also talked about the \$1.65 billion coming to Oregon through the federal government. Those resources are primarily for virus related expenses. Local governments should be tracking all virus-related work.

II. Unemployment Insurance Claim Data

Damon Runberg with the Oregon Employment Department talked about the reliance on unemployment insurance claims, which is now an important tool to gauge impacts regionally. There has been an unprecedented number of claims submitted to the state in the past two weeks. The pattern in Lake and Klamath counties are similar. Lake County had 22 claims processed, up from 13 the week before that. This is a large number for Lake County. Proportionally, Klamath had even more claims with 262 claims processed, mainly from restaurants and hotels. The total number of claims was more than 700 in Klamath County in the past three weeks. Health care and social assistance is the second hardest hit industry, with more than 130 claims even though hospital workers have generally not been laid off. Claim filings related to retail trade (aside from grocery stores) and construction are also high, though all industries are seeing some unemployment impacts

III. Small Business Navigator

Larry Holzgang said the Small Business Navigator website is being set up through Business Oregon. It includes various links and resources for small businesses. The soft launch was this past weekend and the site will be fully operational this week. Cities and counties can also use the resource.

SBDC, Travel Oregon and Business Oregon have sent out a survey to better understand the challenges businesses are facing.

IV. Partners Meeting Update

Kat Rutledge with SBDC has worked with stakeholders on the Paycheck Protection Program, which has generated a lot of interest and questions. SBDCs are expected to serve non-profit organizations through the PPP. Annette added that the state is analyzing data to better understand who is being served by the program and where the gaps are.

V. Hospitality Sector Update

Jim Chadderdon with Discover Klamath said there is good coordination on tourism messaging happening between the local organizations and the state. Tourism staff are starting to plan for when the tourism market reopens, even though the timing of that is uncertain. Tourism grant funding is being identified for when the region starts promoting travel again. Lodging tax revenue is expected to be very low going forward, which will impact city and county budgets. Discover Klamath has data on traveler sentiment, with most travelers pessimistic about summer travel. Most people say they expect to travel again in the Fall, though many will be avoiding crowded destinations even when they do resume travel.

VI. Higher Education Update

Chip Massie with Klamath Community College said KCC has moved most classes online with some exceptions like welding and aviation. KCC is adding workforce training programs in anticipation of a growing need once COVID restrictions are lifted. Some computer labs in Lakeview and Klamath County remain open to students who otherwise lack internet access, all with appropriate social distancing in place. KCC also moved all apprenticeship programs online and students remain on their career paths in fields such as plumbing and electrical. The college is focused on maintaining enrollment moving forward.

Sandra Fox said OIT has lost some enrollment and is contacting all students who have dropped classes to better understand the reasons why. The college is focused on remote teaching and moving classes online. OIT has also increased loan amounts for existing students. Both KCC and OIT are exploring whether the colleges can access funds in the CARES Act.

VII. Roundtable

Betty Riley with SCOEDD has received a number of loan requests and is processing those.

Randy Cox with KCEDA is contacting all members and making referrals to PPP.