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Economic Recovery Team

Meeting Date: 4/27/2021 10-11AM

**Short Term Economic Recovery:**

**Community Survey:** Kim said they did a survey in February as a follow-up to the original inquiry. They had almost double the responses. 70% were satisfied with COVID information. Community members wanted more Data about vaccines. Majority of people wanted info sent through email, followed by social media. 42% reported mental health negatively impacted by COVID. 50% needed food/rental assistance. 39 Responses from business owners. People haven’t been applying to government relief programs due to being either too time consuming, too confusing, or needing more assistance. This is a potential place for us to improve. Only 30% businesses are requiring vaccinations for their employees.

**Childcare:** Kim – Childcare requirements are in the late evenings and weekends: majorly in July-Sept. Businesses all over the place about subsidizing childcare costs. Schools did a survey with parents and confirmed childcare is less of an issue than what the business owners are reporting. School will do summer program and after school program during school year. They are not planning to expand at this time. The daycare is not opening for Fridays this summer, but they are advertising for someone to become a reliable licensed home daycare provider. SFLC will help cover fees and assist with applications to become licensed. Providing a babysitting class to middle/high schoolers. Began last Friday. The goal is to create a group of kids who have First Aide and some education to support families in evenings and weekends. The school does have 3 AmeriCorps positions available to bring people in to work through the summer.

**Region 9 Application:** Laura said there is a funding source through DOLA for regional issues. Region 9/10 want to do an application for technical assistance around high alpine communities and their commonalities. Example: San Juan County and Rico. The application would address county roads, natural disasters, and affordable housing. The scope is broad. It is a planning process and would require our partnership and a person to attend the meetings. It’s still in the planning process, but a good source/opportunity we might not want to ignore. Will be asking Town and County for a letter of participation for support of this venture.

There was some discussion about OHVs. The community is currently heavily in discussion over that hot topic right now.

**Restaurants Open:** Scott mentioned how difficult it is to find an open restaurant. One of the worst Aprils we’ve seen with nowhere for tourists to have lunch. Silverton Grocery has been a big help there. Also, the gas station and Kendall Mt Café. Would be nice if the restaurants would coordinate so we always had at least one place open. With the Brown Bear closed we’re seeing an effect.

**Long Term Issues:**

Fire season is a big concern. Another is the dial increasing with people. Rooms are already booked for the summer.