

**For Immediate Release**

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**Big Sky Care Connect Partners with Industry Leader SCL Health Expanding HIE Network**

*Connection brings three hospitals, 48 primary care and specialty clinics into Montana's HIE*

**Helena, Mont.** — Big Sky Care Connect (BSCC), Montana's newly-formed health information exchange (HIE), today announced that Sister of Charity of Leavenworth (SCL) Health's Montana-area hospitals have successfully connected to its network.

**“SCL Health is a key partner for Big Sky Care Connect,”** said BSCC Chief Administrative Officer Ben Tyrrell. **“A significant number of Montanans rely on SCL Health for their medical needs. We are thrilled that their patients and providers will now benefit from the BSCC network through the enhanced ability to track individual medical needs, which can prevent repeat hospitalizations and redundant testing.”**

As one of the state's largest healthcare delivery systems, SCL Health brings three hospitals and 48 SCL Health Medical Group primary care and specialty clinics to share data and improve access to critical information across the state. The three hospitals that will be connected to the BSCC HIE network include St. James Healthcare in Butte, St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings, and Holy Rosary Healthcare in Miles City. Combined, the SCL Health hospitals and clinics provided care to more than 127,000 Montanans and reported more than 50,000 emergency room visits; 535,000 outpatient and clinic visits; and 15,000 inpatient hospitalizations last year.

BSCC's partnership with SCL Health continues the substantial growth in the HIE's number of valued partnerships across the state since its launch in fall 2020. BSCC currently has over 230 participating locations with 95 currently contributing data.

Before the launch of BSCC, Montana was one of just two states without a state-designated HIE. An HIE is a modern system for improving health and saving time by feeding data from health care providers across the state into a centralized digital network. As Montana's statewide HIE,

health care organizations of all types across the state have the opportunity to participate in the network.

Clinics that participate in BSCC gain an advantage with real-time access to vital medical records. Funding is available for connection costs. More information about BSCC's HIE network is available online at [mtbscc.org](http://mtbscc.org). Organizations interested in participating are invited to contact BSCC at (406) 422-1078 or by email at [information@mtbscc.org](mailto:information@mtbscc.org).

### **About Big Sky Care Connect**

Big Sky Care Connect is a 501c3 nonprofit created in 2018 to respond to the need for a statewide coordinated health information exchange (HIE) and related services to enhance clinical care in communities throughout Montana. Big Sky Care Connect serves to facilitate timely and secure access by health care providers to clinical information between various organizations and engage in other activities to improve and promote the public health and quality of health care in Montana in a cost-effective manner. Big Sky Care Connect is governed by a board of directors made up of physicians and health care executives from around the state. For more information about Big Sky Care Connect, email [information@mtbscc.org](mailto:information@mtbscc.org) or call (406) 443-4000.

### **About SCL Health System**

SCL Health is a faith-based, nonprofit healthcare organization dedicated to improving the health of the people and communities we serve, especially those who are poor and vulnerable. Founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth in 1864, our \$2.8 billion health network provides comprehensive, coordinated care through eight hospitals, more than 150 physician clinics, and home health, hospice, mental health and safety-net services primarily in Colorado and Montana. We relentlessly focus on delivering safe, high-quality, effective care to every patient, every time, everywhere. In 2019, SCL Health invested \$255 million in community benefit—9 cents of every dollar we earn—to support health improvement in our communities.

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