



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 2021

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Big Sky Care Connect Stands Up Montana's First Statewide Health Information Exchange

Helena, Montana – On December 18th, medical providers, health care workers, and multiple healthcare systems across the state of Montana witnessed the moment many have awaited, as [Big Sky Care Connect](#) (BSCC) stood up the first statewide health information exchange (HIE). This HIE is a modern system for improving patient health by saving time and expediting patient care through sophisticated information technology. **BSCC** feeds data from healthcare providers across the state into a centralized digital network that serves as a real-time information system for participating providers, patients, and payors in Montana. Healthcare organizations and providers of all types throughout the state can participate in the network.

BSCC is a continuing collaborative effort among Montana healthcare providers and health professionals committed to embracing and implementing the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) Triple Aim: Improving the patient experience of care (including quality and satisfaction); Improving the health of populations; and reducing the per capita cost of health care. This framework for care developed in 2007 continues to shape the manner in which the highest quality of healthcare is optimized and delivered.

One of the key facets of the Triple Aim is the focus on identifying and addressing risk in communities. Everyone living in the community a health care organization is part of *could potentially become a patient*. Montana is a rural state with unique health information needs. Currently, the Board of Medical Examiners (BOME) reports nearly 3,000 practicing physicians in the state of Montana. Of these reported 3,000 practicing physicians, 1,500 are practicing in a rural setting. The need for a statewide HIE has never been greater.

Understanding what the most likely reasons would be for members of a specific population to engage with the health care system can help organizations preemptively develop strategies to offset costs and provide improved, patient-centered, and coordinated care. With the technology platform that **BSCC** has developed, health care providers of all specialties, patients, and payors across the care continuum can now, for the first time, share real-time health information.

As new providers and health care systems join Montana's HIE, **BSCC** will continue to grow, making a real-time, secure, and robust data-sharing platform a reality for all Montanans.

About Big Sky Care Connect

Big Sky Care Connect is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit created in 2018 to respond to the need for a state-wide 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 to clinical information between various member healthcare 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 healthcare executives from around the state. For more information about Big Sky Care Connect, email information@mtbscc.org or contact BSCC at 406-443-4000.

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