The Exchange February 9, 2021 | Issue #7

Upcoming Events

February
BSCC HIE End User Training

February 19th-20th
Healthcare Excellence in Leadership Program

February 20th
Montana Medical Association Annual Board Meeting

March 29th-30th
ONC Annual Meeting

April 13th-15th
2021 Virtual MHA Health Summit

April 8th-10th
Montana Pharmacy Association Spring Conference

Welcome to Big Sky Care Connect!

New Year, New Milestones

What an active first of the year it has been! As you may know, BSCC went live actively sharing data on December 18, 2020 and our team started the New Year actively working with participants to complete the build of interfaces. Along with data, the HIE now includes DrFirst medication history fillinga critical gap within a medical record. BSCC is also connected with the eHealth Exchange as a bi-directional hub, which is the first step to our connection with the VA.

We are supporting our growing number of participants throughout the onboarding process and in their

utilization of the HIE with training and our Help Desk. BSCC offers training multiple times each week and the reviews shoe this training to be very worthwhile. If you haven't yet registered for training, be sure to **sign up**.

Jean Branscum, CAO
Big Sky Care Connect
jean@mmaoffice.org

End User Training

Kellie McDermott, Training Lead

Big Sky Care Connect launched its training program with the Go-Live event last month. Virtual training sessions covering getting started with and how to search for patients in the Health Information Exchange (HIE) was held for participants with positive feedback. The content reviewed in the Go-Live trainings is currently being converted into video trainings and will be made available on our website when complete. We are also going to be offering regularly scheduled classes as more participants sign on to the HIE to cover getting started, search and view patients, patient summary, allergies, procedures, demographics, and medication history in the HIE. Keep an eye out for more information to come on these virtual trainings in the next newsletter and on our social media accounts.

Sign up here

Outreach Updates

Paul Pedersen, Outreach Consultant

The Outreach Team is a multi-disciplinary team, whose primary function is to serve as the invaluable point of contact with the healthcare delivery and financing organizations within the state of Montana. Organizations such as hospitals, medical practices, commercial health plans, state and federal agencies, pharmacies, behavioral health providers and organizations, dentists, optometrists and the list goes on. Any organization or individual, appropriately licensed by the state of Montana, may benefit from the skills, knowledge and experience represented by the BSCC HIE Outreach Team.

As mentioned before, the Outreach Team is multi-disciplinary in that individuals within the team are Registered Nurses, Clinical Analysts, Project Management Professionals, Computer Science and Analytics, Marketing, Mathematics and other pertinent degrees, certifications and licenses. Suffice it to say that what you are dealing with is a high-performing, high-engagement team of healthcare professionals prepared to engage with you and your organization to fully understand the opportunity that this implementation of a modern solution for modern healthcare represents.

Your Outreach Coordinator will be your "guide" on this journey. They will facilitate the requisite information sharing and knowledge transfer necessary for you and your organization to make an informed decision regarding participation with BSCC HIE. They will leverage the skills, knowledge and experience of our subject matter experts to provide meaningful use cases, real-life documented and verified ROI examples, and innovative technical integration solutions. Your Outreach Coordinator will be at your side as you review the Participation Agreement and the Business Associate Agreement, collectively referred to as the PA/BAA. They will be at your side as you navigate the Technical Discovery process, Technical Onboarding, user training, and of course they will be at your side as you "go-live" with BSCC HIE!

Want to learn more? Want to meet the BSCC HIE Outreach Team? Please go to our website at **www.mtbscc.org** or email us at **information@mtbscc.org** or simply call us at 406-422-1078.

Contact Us

Fundraising - 501(c)3

Carolyn Radakovich, Development Director

Did you know Big Sky Care Connect is a non-profit? Yep! Which, among other things, means your support for our work is tax-deductible. The team at BSCC is working diligently to not only stand up a complex, statewide, healthcare technology solution but also provide connection and onboarding for providers at no cost until 2022. Any philanthropic support provided moves us one step closer to an even more robust and high-quality healthcare system for generations to come in Montana.

*****Time-limited opportunity***** Did you know that if you route your gifts through the Montana Medical Association Foundation in support of "healthcare interoperability" for Montana they have the potential to be matched at the federal level tenfold? That means $100 becomes $1,000, $500 becomes $5,000, $1,000 becomes $10,000 and so on. Talk about the power of philanthropy!

Donate here

BSCC in the News

Big Sky Care Connect improves health information exchange

Big Sky Care Connect recently announced its partnership with healthcare IT firm DrFirst to provide clinicians throughout Montana access to DrFirst's extensive medication history information database. Through the partnership with DrFirst, healthcare providers in Montana can search BSCC for a patient they are treating to view a concise, yet comprehensive health record that will now include medication history information. This partnership fills a critical gap in the data compiled from other participating organizations.

On Friday, January 8, 2021, BSCC was highlighted on NBC affiliate KULR-8's 6PM and 10PM broadcast. Click the link below to watch the feature including BSCC Board members Randy Thompson, MD and David Mark, MD.

To learn more or to sign up contact BSCC at information@mtbscc.org or call **406-422-1078**.

Watch KULR 8 News Feature

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Providers Are Planning a Post-Pandemic Future with Deviceless Remote Patient Monitoring

This article by CareSignal lists five strategies for provider organizations to improve clinical and financial outcomes during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. **Identify the rising risk population to determine who would benefit from additional touchpoints.**
During the pandemic – define a set of criteria, such as older patients with one or two chronic conditions that may worsen if left unchecked, and remotely monitor giving clinicians earlier insight to help patients maintain or improve their health. After the pandemic – by proactively monitoring the rising risk population during the pandemic, these patients are less likely to have uncontrolled conditions when they return to healthcare facilities.
Utilizing the BSCC HIE, you can use your My List function to monitor your rising risk patients.

2. **Expand the scope of care teams to rising risk patients.**
During the pandemic – Expand the scope of virtual care to include text messages or automated phone calls to increase clinician's capacity to care for additional patients. After the pandemic – With caseload growth five to ten times larger (estimated), healthcare organizations need to pair care management with automated technology.

3. Leverage automation to unlock care team capacity.

During the pandemic – with remote monitoring and automatic data collection, targeted outreach to rising risk patients is more efficient and feasible. After the pandemic – without adding to a clinician's busy workload, automated phone calls and text messages can improve quality of care. Did you know? "Automated patient monitoring helped care managers reach 15x more patients."

Leverage Patient Event Notifications (ADT alerts) and other functions of the HIE can help Primary Care Providers reach rising risk patients efficiently for follow up.

4. Empower patients to self-manage their chronic conditions.

During the pandemic – using technology patients already have, such as smart phones, allows them to self-manage and improves engagement to help build patient-provider relationships. After the pandemic – technology will continue to empower patients and enhance real-time visibility.

The HIE enables real-time access to patient information allowing provider to spend more time with the patient and less time with administrative burdens.

5. Extend care management capacity by allowing medical assistants to support sub-clinical activities.

During the pandemic – with fewer staff resources, medical assistants can monitor the technology freeing up clinicians. After the pandemic – medical assistants continue to monitor technology for rising risk patients and report to the clinicians.

As a Clinician Clerk role in the HIE, medical assistants, care managers, and other supportive staff can monitor patients and alerts for proactive follow up.

Click **here** to read the whitepaper.

HIE Industry News

ONC Releases US Core Data for Interoperability Draft...

Source: Getty Images - The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has released the Draft United States Core Data for Interoperability Version 2 (USCDI v2) to enhance interoperability and patient data exchange...

Read more
ehrintelligence.com

How CMS has made progress on healthcare interoperability

This article was coauthored with Alexandra Mugge, deputy chief health informatics officer at CMS, and Shannon Sartin, chief technology officer at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.

Read more
www.healthcareitnews.com

Reducing Provider and Patient Burden by Improving Prior...

Just Announced: Building on the CMS Interoperability and Patient Access final rule (CMS-9115-F), this proposed rule would place new requirements on Medicaid and CHIP managed care plans, state Medicaid and CHIP fee-for-service programs, and...

Read more
www.cms.gov

HHS to Award Funding to Boost Immunization Information...

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services - The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced it will distribute funds across the country to enhance patient data sharing between health information exchanges (HIEs) and...

Read more
ehrintelligence.com

Interested in Partnering with BSCC?

Health Facilities & Providers

Interested in participating in Montana's HIE to gain access to comprehensive patient information collected from payors and health care organizations across the State? Harness the power of health information by joining BSCC, Montana's premier statewide HIE. Contact BSCC today at (406) 422-1078 or email us at **information@mtbscc.org**. BSCC was created through 90/10 grant funding and championed by leaders within Montana's healthcare community.

Patients

Become a part of the BSCC Network today by talking to your provider. If your provider's facility participates in the BSCC Network, then you are already in! Being in the network allows providers who are unfamiliar with your history to access to your health information – like during an emergency or when you change or are referred to another provider. Your participation is voluntary, and you can opt out at any time by requesting an opt out from your provider. If you do choose to opt out, first speak with your provider about the benefits or check out our website at **mtbscc.org** for more information. Montana's statewide HIE enhances the quality of care while empowering patients to play an active role in their healthcare.

"
Patient care will improve with access to vital data when it is needed.

–RANDY THOMPSON, MD
CHIEF HEALTH ANALYTICS OFFICER
BILLINGS CLINIC

Contact BSCC

Harnessing the power of healthcare information to create healthy Montana communities.

Big Sky Care Connect