



Joint Committee on Appropriations
SENATOR JOHN WIIK, CO-CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS KARR, CO-CHAIR

May 22, 2019

Ms. Kim Malsam-Rysdon, Secretary
Department of Health
Robert Hayes Building
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding use of Telemedicine within Correctional Health

Dear Secretary Malsam-Rysdon:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations (JCA) in approving your appropriation in the 2019 Legislative session. As such, this Letter of Intent seeks to supplement that legislation with specific policy guidance as approved on May 22, 2019.

While the guidance does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

It is the intent of the JCA that the Department of Health provide a report by November 1, 2019 detailing the following items regarding telemedicine within correctional health:

- Where is telemedicine being used and how often;
- Describe the services of eCare being used by the State, the annual cost of eCare services, a breakout of outsourced services, and an explanation for eCare services not utilized;
- Areas where telemedicine could be implemented to reduce costs per patient and an analysis of potential cost savings per patient for these areas;
- Report on the cost and frequency of hospital trips and how telemedicine could be used to further reduce the frequency and cost of hospital trips; and
- Explain how and when a patient's insurance is involved in the billing of services.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Senator John Wiik
Lead Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

Representative Chris Karr
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Liza Clark, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management