MENTAL HEALTH OF FIRST RESPONDERS TASK FORCE TO MEET

PIERRE — The Mental Health of First Responders Task Force, chaired by Representative Rhonda Milstead (R-Hartford), will hold its first meeting of the 2020 Interim on Thursday, August 20 at 1:00 p.m. (CT). The meeting will be conducted via electronic conference with limited physical access in Room 414 of the State Capitol in Pierre, South Dakota. In accordance with COVID-19 guidance, in-person attendees are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings and remain at least six feet apart.

The task force was created through the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 6023 by the 2020 Legislature, and will study the mental health needs and challenges facing first responders. At the meeting, the task force will consider these needs and challenges from the perspectives of first responders, spouses of first responders, psychologists, and chaplains. Members of the public wishing to provide comments to the committee may do so by emailing: firstresponders@sdlegislature.gov. The agenda is available online.

In addition to Representative Milstead, task force members include Representative Ryan Cwach (D-Yankton), Vice Chair; Representatives Doug Barthel (R-Sioux Falls), Tina Mullally (R-Rapid City), Tamara St. John (R-Sisseton), and Larry Zikmund (R-Sioux Falls); Senators Troy Heinert (D-Mission), and V.J. Smith (R-Brookings); and public members Roger Belisle (Rapid City), Nick Carlson (Rapid City), Connie Johnson (Brandt), Anne Kelly, (Mitchell), Maynard Konechne (Kimbball), Tom Ward (Sioux Falls), and Brad Wilson (Sioux Falls).

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