

PRESS RELEASE



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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 second meeting of the 2020 interim on Thursday, September 17 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. The group is studying the mental health needs and challenges facing first responders.

At the meeting the task force will hear testimony on how the mental health of first responders affects the public, what is currently being done to respond to trauma, and how these issues affect retention and recruitment of first responders. 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 Mulally (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 (Kimball), Tom Ward (Sioux Falls), and Brad Wilson (Sioux Falls).

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This meeting is being held in a physically accessible location. Any individual needing assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Legislative Research Council (605-773-3251) in advance of the meeting to make further arrangements.

All committee agendas and minutes are available on the LRC website: <http://sdlegislature.gov>. You may subscribe to electronic delivery of agendas and minutes at E-Subscribe on the LRC website.