

PRESS RELEASE



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For further information contact:

Clare Charlson, Principal Research Analyst
SD Legislative Research Council
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-3251

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LEVERAGE TELEHEALTH AND TELEMEDICINE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO MEET

PIERRE – Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, passed during the 2019 Legislation Session, included a task force to leverage telehealth and telemedicine to the full appropriate extent, with focus on the areas of acute assessment and crisis supports, along with mental health assessments and counseling. This task force will meet for the third time on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. (CT) in Room 413 of the State Capitol in Pierre, South Dakota.

The Task Force will receive follow up information on the use of telemental health services in other states and will continue to examine the mental health staff shortages that currently exist in South Dakota. Public testimony will be taken before lunch, and the group will spend the afternoon in discussions. The discussions will focus on defining what the task force wants to accomplish, developing assumptions, identifying any gap areas that need development, and looking at statutes that may need to be revised in order to expand the use of telemental health services.

The Task Force members are Senator Deb Soholt (R-Sioux Falls), Chair; Representative Herman Otten (R-Lennox), Vice Chair; Senator Jim Stalzer (R-Sioux Falls); Representatives Linda Duba (D-Sioux Falls) and Tamara St. John (R-Sisseton); and public members Mr. Brian Erickson (Sioux Falls), Ms. Amy Hartman (Sioux Falls), Ms. Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen (Sioux Falls), Ms. Susan Kornder (Aberdeen), Dr. Melita Rank (Fort Thompson), Mr. Kelly Serr (Bison), and Ms. Tiffany Wolfgang (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, minutes, and audio are available on the LRC website: <http://www.sdlegislature.gov/>. Live committee audio is provided by South Dakota Public Broadcasting and is also available at <http://www.sd.net>. You may subscribe to electronic delivery of agendas and minutes at My LRC on the LRC website.