

# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## REDEFINE ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITALIZATION LEGISLATIVE INTERIM TASK FORCE TO MEET

**PIERRE** – Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, passed during the 2019 Legislative Session, included a task force to redefine acute mental health hospitalizations in the areas of short, intermediate, and long-term placement, with emphasis on keeping individuals needing placement in the community whenever possible. The task force will hold its first meeting Monday, October 7, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. (CT) in Room 413 of the State Capitol in Pierre, South Dakota.

The Task Force will begin by reviewing the mental health services currently available in South Dakota as well as behavioral health community care options as alternatives to hospitalization. Discussion will also focus on the community mental health care system in the state and use of a regionalization approach to address treatment needs. The meeting is open to the public, and public testimony will be taken in the afternoon. The agenda is available [online](#).

The Task Force members are Representative Michael Diedrich (R-Rapid City), Chair; Senator Kris Langer (R-Dell Rapids), Vice Chair; Representative Tim Johns (R-Lead) and Senator Craig Kennedy (D-Yankton); and public members Greg Barnier (Rapid City), Terrance Dosch (Pierre), Amy Iversen-Pollreis (Pierre), Jeremy Johnson (Yankton), Kari Johnston (Watertown), Gary Marx (Aberdeen), Amber Reints (Sioux Falls), and Katherine Sullivan (Rapid City).

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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.*