

**State of Wisconsin  
Department of Safety & Professional Services**

**AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

<b>1) Name and Title of Person Submitting the Request:</b>  Nifty Lynn Dio, Bureau Assistant On behalf of Tom Ryan, Executive Director		<b>2) Date When Request Submitted:</b>  07/17/2017  Items will be considered late if submitted after 12:00 p.m. on the deadline date which is 8 business days before the meeting	
<b>3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections:</b>  Medical Examining Board			
<b>4) Meeting Date:</b>  07/19/2017	<b>5) Attachments:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page?</b> FSMB Matters 2) Department of Veterans Affairs Request for Feedback Regarding a Forthcoming Rule Pertaining to the VA Telehealth Program	
<b>7) Place Item in:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Session <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session	<b>8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled?</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes ( <a href="#">Fill out Board Appearance Request</a> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if required:</b>  N/A	
<b>10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed:</b>  Dear Executive Directors,  The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has requested that the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) distribute the attached letter and solicit feedback from you for a forthcoming rule pertaining to the VA telehealth program.  As the utilization of telehealth has grown within the VA in recent years, the FSMB has sought to ensure that such care is delivered in a safe and accountable manner to the nation's veterans. The FSMB supports the VA in its efforts to expand access to care for veterans via telehealth, especially in rural and underserved communities.  After several years of constructive dialogue between the FSMB and the VA on this matter, the VA is considering amending its medical regulations to authorize VA employed health care providers, acting in the scope of their VA employment, to practice their profession through telehealth irrespective of the location of the provider or the beneficiary in any state. It is important to note that this rule would apply solely to VA employed health care providers, accountable to the VA health system, and NOT personal services contractors for the VA.  While the FSMB has not taken an official position, the VA has requested feedback from the nation's state medical boards on this proposal. <b>Please submit comments (formal or informal) to Dr. Kevin Galpin, Director of Telehealth Services at <a href="mailto:Kevin.Galpin@va.gov">Kevin.Galpin@va.gov</a> by <b>Friday, July 21, 2017</b>. Please also copy Jonathan Jagoda, FSMB Director of Federal Government Relations at <a href="mailto:jjagoda@fsmb.org">jjagoda@fsmb.org</a>.</b> Should you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Jagoda directly.  Should there be significant interest or concern, the VA has offered to host a conference call with the FSMB and its member boards. We would be pleased to facilitate a call with the VA if you believe it to be necessary.  Thank you in advance.			

**State of Wisconsin  
Department of Safety & Professional Services**

Sincerely,

Hank

**Humayun J. Chaudhry, D.O., M.S., MACP, MACOI**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

11)

Authorization

**Nifty Lynn Dio**

**07/17/2017**

Signature of person making this request

Date

Supervisor (if required)

Date

Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda) Date

Directions for including supporting documents:

1. This form should be attached to any documents submitted to the agenda.
2. Post Agenda Deadline items must be authorized by a Supervisor and the Policy Development Executive Director.
3. If necessary, provide original documents needing Board Chairperson signature to the Bureau Assistant prior to the start of a meeting.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Under Secretary for Health  
Washington DC 20420

July 12, 2017

Dr. Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP  
President and CEO  
Federation of State Medical Boards  
1300 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Chaudhry:

On behalf of the millions of Veterans who rely on VA for their health care, I want to thank you for the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) shared commitment to serving our Nation's military personnel and Veterans. I am writing to seek your feedback and support in communicating to state licensing boards our intent to amend regulations to remove barriers and accelerate access to telehealth for our Veterans—a goal I know you share.

As you know, preventing Veteran suicide is the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) number one clinical priority, and increasing access to high quality mental health care for all Veterans is critical to achieving this goal. VA believes that expansion of care delivered by telehealth will immediately enhance access to critical VA services that can help address Veteran suicide, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

In recent years, many states have introduced and enacted legislation related to telehealth. Because in some cases state legislation restricts the practice of telehealth, some VA health care providers are reluctant to serve beneficiaries by telehealth when delivering VA health care across State lines or into a Veteran's home for fear of potential adverse actions against their licensure. Therefore, VA is considering amendments to its medical regulations to authorize VA employed health care providers, acting in the scope of their VA employment and in the service of a beneficiary, to practice their profession through telehealth irrespective of the location of the provider or beneficiary in any State, regardless of State telehealth restrictions. This is necessary to ensure VA can continue effectively using and expanding its telehealth program. It would apply only to VA employed health care providers and not contract VA employees. VA health care providers would provide telehealth services only within their current scope of VA practice and would adhere to VA's national telehealth quality standards and requirements that ensure the safe and effective delivery of care through telehealth.

VA recognizes that States have an important interest in the health and well-being of their residents. VA national and regional officials will continue to work closely with individual States boards to ensure there is clear communication of VA's policy and

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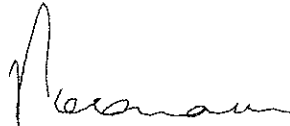
Dr. Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP

practice, and to follow through on VA's commitment to cooperation and collaboration with State Boards as official licensing bodies. At the same time, VA believes that telehealth expansion is needed expeditiously to immediately enhance access to critical VA services that can help address Veteran suicide.

VA is seeking your input and would be happy to discuss this matter further with you or your member boards. Please provide questions or comments by July 21, 2017, to Dr. Kevin Galpin, Director of Telehealth Services at (404) 771-8794 or by email at [Kevin.Galpin@va.gov](mailto:Kevin.Galpin@va.gov)

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I have also sent a copy of this letter to Jonathan Jagoda, Director of Federal Government Relations, FSMB, as I know we all share a deep commitment to the health and well-being of America's Veterans.

Sincerely,



Poonam Alaigh, M.D.  
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