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**AHCA Announces Applications Available for Telehealth Advisory Council**  
*~ Council will Examine Practical Uses of Technology for Healthcare in Florida ~*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Today, the Agency for Healthcare Administration (Agency) announced that it will begin accepting applications for the newly-created Telehealth Advisory Council (Council). The Council will fulfill the responsibilities outlined in HB 7087, which was signed into law by Governor Rick Scott on April 14, 2016. The Council is tasked with examining the types of telehealth services that are available in Florida, who uses them and how they are covered by health plans. The members will then make recommendations about how to increase access to telehealth services for Floridians in a final report to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 31, 2017.

Agency Secretary Elizabeth Dudek, who will serve as the Chair of the Advisory Council said, “I look forward to working with the members of the Telehealth Advisory Council to bring better healthcare to all Floridians. Together we will look at the most practical ways available technology can be used to provide healthcare services to more Florida communities.”

The Council will consist of 14 additional members, nine of which will be appointed by Secretary Dudek. Florida’s Surgeon General, will also serve on the Council and appoint four members.

Surgeon General Dr. Celeste Philip said, “The Department of Health looks forward to working with the Agency for Healthcare Administration to provide input on the advancement of telehealth in Florida. We are constantly looking for innovative ways to ensure services are reaching Florida residents and telehealth is a new approach we are excited to add to our system of care.”

The Agency has launched a dedicated webpage at [www.AHCA.myflorida.com/Telehealth](http://www.AHCA.myflorida.com/Telehealth) to publish information about the Council and the member appointment process. Members of the public can also submit questions to the Council and provide comments through the website. The Agency, in coordination with the Florida Department of Health and the Office of Insurance Regulation, will also conduct a survey of health care facilities, professionals and health plans in order to collect up-to-date information about the services that are currently available in Florida and examine any challenges that may inhibit the use of this type of technology in some areas of the state. The findings of the survey will be analyzed and compiled into a report for the Governor, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House by the end of 2016.

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*The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 48,500 health care facilities and 43 health plans, and publishes health care data and statistics at [www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov). Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA\\_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).*