

# Optimizing Virtual Health in the Military Health System

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Chair, Health Care Delivery Subcommittee  
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## Overview



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## Membership



CHAIR  
Brigid McCaw, MD, MPH, MS\*



Greg Ator, MD



RADM (Ret.) Wanda Barfield,  
MD, MPH



Rosemary Gibson, MS



Reshma Gupta, MD, MS



COL (Ret.) Lee Norman,  
MD, MHS, MBA



Col (Ret.) Michael Parkinson,  
MD, MPH\*

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## Tasking



On May 2, 2022, the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs directed the Defense Health Board (“the Board”) to **review the current state of virtual health from a strategic and tactical perspective and provide recommendations on optimizing virtual health decision making and implementation.**

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## Background



- Targeted use of VH capabilities expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Research suggests VH can enhance MHS medical force optimization.
- MHS strategic plans will guide future investment and implementation of VH throughout the system

## Objectives and Scope



- Review current state of VH from a strategic and tactical perspective.
- Provide recommendations to guide decision making, strategy and implementation of VH across the MHS.

## Summary of Activities to Date



Meeting Date	Discussion Topics
Mar 30, 2022: DHB Meeting	VH Background in the MHS
Jun 29, 2022: HCD Subcommittee Kickoff Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on VH</li> <li>Digital Health as an enabler of health services delivery</li> </ul>
Jul 13, 2022: HCD Meeting	Optimizing VH from the American Telemedicine Association
Aug 10, 2022: DHB Meeting	The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Telemedicine Overview
Aug 17, 2022: HCD Meeting	Decision making for telehealth services in the VHA
Sep 7, 2022: HCD Meeting	Value-based care and strategic decision making in VH
Oct 5, 2022: HCD Meeting	Operational VH
Oct 19, 2022: HCD Meeting	MHS Video Connect
Nov 2, 2022: HCD Meeting	Report development discussion
Nov 16, 2022: NBH Meeting	The VHA's VH research priorities

## Emerging Themes



- Virtual Health is a "force multiplier" that can have significant impact on health care delivery and outcomes
- VH services in deployed and non-deployed environments offer unique challenges and opportunities
- The impact of clear and coordinated leadership and governance cannot be underestimated
- A VH implementation and sustainment strategy is essential
- Process and outcome measures are necessary to assess VH effectiveness

# Way Ahead



- December 12, 2022 briefing by Deputy Assistant

# Questions

