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Vice Minister Hyun Sooyeob Visits Daegu to Review Lonely Death Prevention Policies

“People and AI Working Together to Protect Our Neighbors”

- Encourages community volunteers supporting socially isolated at-risk households in Daegu -
- Visits a household receiving AI- and ICT-based check-in services -

Vice Minister Hyun Sooyeob of the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) visited Daegu Metropolitan City on Thursday, June 11, at 1 p.m. to **review the city’s policies to prevent lonely deaths** and hear firsthand from frontline workers.

The visit was organized to **examine local government-led efforts to prevent lonely deaths using** senior employment programs and artificial intelligence (AI), and to **commend community members working to identify and support households at risk.**

To **prevent lonely deaths**, Daegu Metropolitan City **operates a range of community safety nets**, including the Joyful Everyday Support Group and the Health Care Group. The city has also established AI-based check-in and monitoring systems, such as the AI Care Call and the 24-hour AI Caregiver, to help detect and **respond to signs of crisis.**

During the visit, Vice Minister Hyun first visited Daegu City Hall, where she was briefed on the city’s overall lonely death prevention programs. She then visited a household receiving related services.

The **resident lives alone, has no family member legally obligated to provide support**, and

has **spinal stenosis** and **knee osteoarthritis**. The resident **receives a range of support services**, including **AI check-in calls** twice a month, **monitoring for warning signs and health management information through a mobile app**, and **fall detection and heart-rate monitoring through a smartwatch**.

In addition, the Joyful Everyday Support Group, a community safety net operated by Daegu Metropolitan City, visits the household to **check on the resident's well-being, provide information on available welfare services, and deliver donated items**.

Vice Minister Hyun **observed the Joyful Everyday Support Group's activities and reviewed the support being provided to the resident**. She expressed her appreciation for the members' **dedication** and heard about their experiences and challenges they face in the field.

"I am **grateful to the private-sector partners** who work with local governments to help people in crisis," Vice Minister Hyun said. "The **central government, local governments, and communities must work together to build a seamless social safety net** so that no one in need is left behind."

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