



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53**

**Affiliated with the AFL - CIO
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

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| Oscar L. Williams Jr., Chair 2 nd Exec. V-President 29 Lake Street Danville, IL 61832-6101 | Bill Wetmore, Member 3 rd Exec. V-President 2319 Alava Court Waldorf, MD 20603 | Willie Haywood, Member 6 th Dist. Rep., NVAC 17705 Garden Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44128 | Jeff Sladek, Member 13 th Dist. Rep., NVAC VAMC 3601 S. 6 th Ave. Tucson, AZ 85723 | Stephanie Starks, Member National Rep., NVAC VAMC Philadelphia Philadelphia, PA 19104 |
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October 22, 2013

Lawrence H. Carroll, Director
VISN 20 Northwest Network
1601 4th Plain Boulevard
Building 17, Suite B440
Vancouver, WA 98661

Subject: VISN 20 Home Based Telemental Health Provider Questionnaire (Pre-Treatment)

Dear Mr. Carroll:

The National VA Council #53 is approving the VISN 20 questionnaire cited above within the Department for bargaining unit employees. Please provide the NVAC and AFGE VISN 20 Locals with the results once completed.

If you have any questions please contact me at (217) 554-4866.

Sincerely,

Oscar L. Williams, Jr.
Chairperson, Mid-Term Bargaining Committee
2nd Executive Vice President
National VA Council #53

cc: Alma L. Lee, President National VA Council #53
Timothy L. Strako, 11th District Representative NVAC

AFGE: Good Government We Are Ready



VISN 20 NORHTWEST NETWORK
1601 4th Plain Boulevard
Building 17, Suite B440
Vancouver, Washington, 98661

October 10, 2013

Oscar L. Williams Jr., 2nd Executive Vice President AFGE
29 Lake Street
Danville, IL 61832

Dear Mr. Williams,

VHA Innovation Program is funding Home-Based Telemental Health (HBTMH) pilot throughout VISN 20. The goal of this pilot is to expand an existing Portland VA Medical Center (VAMC) HBTMH Pilot to all Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 20 sites and collect data on outcomes for one year. This expansion would not only include seeing Veterans throughout VISN 20, but would also include an expansion and trial of different technologies (hardware, software, method of connection) used to reach these Veterans. The goal is to meet Veterans where they're at and create a truly Veteran-centric/provider empowered VISN 20 wide expansion aimed at serving the mental health needs to Veterans whose access to care is restricted by geography, limited resources or who are home bound due to psychiatric and/medical conditions.

As part of the data collection portion of this pilot, there is a need to collect feedback from VA providers that participate in the pilot. Data will be collected through questionnaires administered via a web-based tool called Survey Monkey. Questions are related to each VA provider's experience with the home-based telemental health modality of care.

The employees that participate in this pilot will be a group of approximately 30 VA providers (more could be added as pilot progresses) at various facilities throughout VISN 20. Providers will all have volunteered to participate. Enrollment in the program will follow introduction to the VHA Innovation Program by various Innovation team members, including discussions with site Behavioral Health Leads and Facility Telehealth Coordinators. The role of data collection, specifically collection of VA provider feedback, has been made explicit during this introduction process. Responses to the questionnaires sent to these VA providers will be confidential, voluntary, and anonymous.

Please let me know if you have any questions.


Timothy McGuigan
VISN 20 Human Resources Officer
(360) 567-4673

