



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

Affiliated with the AFL - CIO

Mid-Term Bargaining Committee

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 ^h 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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July 14, 2014

Michael P. Davey, Associate Chief of Staff
Research and Developments Service
VA Medical Center Portland
3710 Southwest US Veterans Hospital Road
Portland, OR 97239-2964

Subject: VISN 20 – Research Study involving Portland VA Medical Center Employees
(AFGE Local 2157 and AFGE Local 2583)

Dear Dr. Davey:

In accordance with Article 47 Section 2 C., of the Master Agreement the National VA Council #53 is formally demanding to bargain on the Research Study involving PVAMC staff as cited above in VISN 20 within the Department. Ms. Alma L. Lee, President of the National VA Council#53, will be naming the Union's Chief Negotiator and team members. Please provide the named bargaining team with all information and/or data related to the cited subject. The negotiation of this matter should normally begin no later than twenty (20) workdays after the Management's Chief Negotiator receives our demand to bargain.

Please cease and desist any implementation until the bargaining obligation has been met. The above named bargaining team my request a briefing over the cited subject above, before sending any proposals. 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
Donald Fowler, 11th District Representative NVAC

AFGE: Good Government We Are Ready



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
3710 Southwest US Veterans Hospital Road
Portland OR 97207



In Reply Refer To: 648/P3R&D

June 23, 2014

To: Oscar L. Williams, Jr.
2nd Executive Vice President, NVAC #53
29 Lake Street
Danville, IL 61832

From: Michael P. Davey, MD, PhD
3710 SW U.S. Veterans Hospital Road
Portland, OR 97239-2964

Subject: Research Study Involving Portland VA Medical Center Employees

Mr. Williams,

Steven Dobscha, MD, under Research and Development Service located within the Portland VA Medical Center has a research study entitled "Optimizing Benefits and Reducing Negative Effects of Mental Health Open Notes." Dr. Dobscha has received approval from the Institutional Review Board (the committee charged with the protection of human subjects) to conduct this study.

Research Study Purpose: This study proposes to conduct focus groups with clinicians at the Portland and Vancouver campuses of the Portland VA Medical Center.

Details:

- The focus groups will explore stakeholder perspectives and preferences, and ideas on how to use open notes to enhance Veteran-clinician collaboration and minimize negative effects.
- The study proposes to include registered nurses or licensed practical nurses because they frequently write and review clinic notes.
- The study proposes to conduct a clinician survey for mental health clinicians and nurses, in order to complement the more in-depth qualitative interviews.

Attached, please find the study abstract, which summarizes the study; a copy of the study protocol with the sections of the protocol that discuss audiologist participation highlighted for your convenience; and a copy of the information sheet that has been approved for the recruitment of audiologists.

Aims of the Study: This project is a three and one half year, mixed-methods study incorporating stakeholder participatory and quasi-experimental design elements. Overall

goals are to 1) examine benefits and negative consequences of open notes use as perceived by Veterans receiving VA mental health care and VA mental health clinicians, and 2) develop and evaluate web-based training modules designed to help Veterans and clinicians use open notes in ways that optimize Veteran-clinician collaboration and minimize unintended consequences. Personally identifiable information or even position specific information will be collected.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Sola Whitehead at (503) 402-2885 or via email at Sola.Whitehead@va.gov. The absence of a response on or before July 16, 2014 will be accepted as concurrence.



MICHAEL P. DAVEY, MD, PhD
Associate Chief of Staff, Research and Development Service

Cc:

Jesus Bonilla, Human Resources Management Service, ER/LR
Kimberly Donovan, Acting President AFGE Local 2157
Denise Lieb, President AFGE Local 2583
Donald Fowler, AFGE 498 Helper

Attachments:

Research Study Abstract
Research Study Protocol
Research Informed Consent Form

RECEIVED
JUN 28 2014
BY: 
AFGE NURC MIDTERM