



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

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

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August 26, 2022

Denise A. Biaggi-Ayer, Executive Director  
Office of Labor Management Relations (LMR)  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: VHA Directive 0999 dated March 29, 2009 "*VHA Policy Management*"

Dear Ms. Biaggi-Ayer:

In accordance with Article 47, Section 2, C, of the Master Agreement, the National VA Council #53 is formally demanding to bargain on the VHA Directive 0999 dated March 29, 2009, "VHA Policy Management as cited above within the Department. Please provide the NVAC's Mid-Term Bargaining Committee with any/all information/data concerning the cited subject above. The negotiations of this subject should normally begin no later than twenty (20) workdays after the Management's Chief Negotiator in this matter receives NVAC's demand to bargain.

Please cease and desist any implementation until the bargaining obligation has been met. The above named NVAC's Mid-Term Bargaining Committee may requesting a briefing over the cited subject above, before sending any proposals. If you have any questions, please call me at (217) 554-4979.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Alma L. Lee, President National VA Council #53  
NVAC Executive Committee

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## VHA POLICY MANAGEMENT

**1. SUMMARY OF CONTENT:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) directive states policy and responsibilities for developing, distributing, communicating and managing VHA national and local policy within a comprehensive policy management program. This directive replaces VHA Directive 6330(4), National Controlled Policy/Directives Management System, dated June 24, 2016. Major changes include:

- a. Replacing the term “responsible program office” with “policy owner.”
- b. Adding roles and responsibilities for VHA upper-level leadership; Executive Policy Committee; and Senior Advisor, Office of Regulations, Appeals and Policy (RAP).
- c. Adding a mandatory Oversight and Accountability paragraph in VHA directives.  
**NOTE:** See paragraph 5 for more information.
- d. Referencing VHA Notice 2022-01, Waivers to VHA National Policy, dated February 10, 2022, which establishes a mandatory process for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities and Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) to request waivers from policy compliance.
- e. Integrating and thereby rescinding Under Secretary for Health Memo 10-2016-01, Validity of VHA Policy Documents, dated June 29, 2016, which mandated the continued use and adherence to VHA policy beyond its recertification date until the policy is rescinded, recertified or superseded by a more recent policy.
- f. Modifying the format of VHA directives to align with the standardized format for medical center policies (MCPs), including:
  - (1) Eliminating Reason for Issue and Purpose paragraphs from the transmittal sheet and body of directives respectively, and moving any necessary material to the Policy or Background paragraphs.
  - (2) Relocating Policy and Responsibilities paragraphs to paragraphs 1 and 2 of directives, respectively, and relocating Definitions and Background paragraphs further in the directive.
  - (3) Adding Implementation Schedule to the transmittal sheet.
- g. Integrating and thereby rescinding VHA Notice 2021-22, Mandatory Business Rules for Local Policy Development, dated December 13, 2021, and VHA Notice 2021-23, Mandatory Business Rules for VHA Program Offices, dated December 13, 2021, which established mandatory business rules that each VA medical facility and VISN must implement throughout their local policy development process, and established