



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53
Affiliated with the AFL - CIO
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

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Philadelphia, PA 19104

August 30, 2013

Susan Bowers, Network Director
Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 18)
6950 East Williams Field Road
Mesa, AZ 85212

Subject: VISN 18 – Implementation of AcuStaf Scheduling Software for Nursing Staff

Dear Ms. Bowers:

In accordance with Article 47, Section 2 C, of the Master Agreement, the National VA Council #53 formally demanding to bargain on VISN 18 implementation of AcuStaf as cited above within the Department. Ms. Alma L. Lee will be naming the Union's chief negotiator and negotiating team. Please provide the named bargaining team with any information and/or data concerning the cited subject. The negotiations of this matter should normally begin no later than twenty (20) workdays after the Management's chief negotiator in this matter receives our demand to bargain.

Please cease and desist any implementation until the bargaining obligation has been met. The named bargaining team may 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
Jeff Sladek, 13th District Representative NVAC

AFGE: Good Government We Are Ready

Memorandum

Department of Veterans Affairs

Date: August 29, 2013

From: Network Director, VA Southwest Health Care Network (10N18/494)

Subj: VISN 18 AFGE Notification to Implement AcuStaf Scheduling Software

To: Oscar Williams, 2nd Vice President, AFGE, NVAC Council # 53, Chairman
NVAC Midterm Bargaining Committee

1. In accordance with Article 47 of the VA/AFGE Master Agreement and VHA/ NVAC Council #53 Memorandum of Understanding "VHA Facilities Implementation of the Employee Self Scheduling Software Systems," paragraph 5, this is to inform you of the VISN 18 plan to implement the above system. The new program to be used is AcuStaf Software.
2. The purpose of the change is to comply with VHA Directive 2010-034, Staffing Methodology, which mandates implementing an evidenced-based staffing methodology for nursing and reporting. AcuStaf will provide real-time data that will permit more flexibility in scheduling staff, altering those schedules, and properly recording the last minute changes such as unplanned overtime and early releases from duty.
3. The training implementation schedule for VISN 18 staff will be established on a facility by facility basis. We anticipate starting in early Fiscal Year 2014.
4. Questions/proposals regarding this project may be directed to Stephanie Peshlakai-Carrillo, VISN 18 Human Resources Employee Relation Liaison at 480-325-3115 or Stephanie.Peshlakai-Carrillo@va.gov.
5. If no response is received by the close of business on September 27, 2013, we will assume concurrence with this software deployment.


Susan P. Bowers

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BY: 
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