



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

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

Oscar L. Williams Jr., Chair
2nd Exec. V-President
29 Lake Street
Danville, IL 61832-6101

Bill Wetmore, Member
3rd Exec. V-President
2319 Alava Court
Waldorf, MD 20603

Willie Haywood, Member
6th Dist. Rep., NVAC
17705 Garden Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44128

Jeff Sladek, Member
13th Dist. Rep., NVAC
VAMC 3601 S. 6th Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85723

Terrence J. Watts, Member
5th Dist., Rep., NVAC
VAMC Orlando
Orlando, FL 32803

April 15, 2015

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

Subject: VISN 20 – Cancer Care Navigation Team (CCNT) Pilot Program

Dear Mr. Carroll:

In accordance with Article 47 Section 2 C., of the Master Agreement the National VA Council #53 is formally demanding to bargain on VISN 20 Cancer Care Navigation Team Pilot Program 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



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

April 14, 2015

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


Dear Mr. Williams,

VISN 20 is funding a three year Cancer Care Navigation Team (CCNT) pilot program throughout VISN 20. The CCNT program was charged and supported by the VISN 20 leadership as a priority VISN strategic initiative. The goal of this pilot is to improve the coordination of cancer care by implementing multidisciplinary CCNTs throughout VISN 20. Delivery of timely, efficient, patient-centered cancer care in VISN 20 is challenged by the very large geographic region covered, the concentration of specialized cancer resources, and technological barriers to system wide patient tracking and communication essential to coordination of care. To address these challenges, specialized expertise is required to efficiently navigate patients and guide providers in initiating timely and appropriate diagnostic work-ups, support education, medical and psychosocial concerns during treatment, and coordinate proactive management and support throughout the continuum of care within and between facilities to assure optimal outcomes, efficient use of VA resources, and align with VHA's strategic initiative for Patient-Centered Care. Provider satisfaction with CCNT services and improved satisfaction with cancer-related care is an important objective of this pilot program.

As part of the evaluation portion of this pilot, there is a need to collect feedback from VA providers that participate in the pilot through interaction with CCNT services and/or have exposure to cancer-related care in VISN 20. 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 CCNT program and cancer-related care.

The employees that are asked to participate in this questionnaire will be a group of approximately 400 VA providers that work with or provide direct care for Veterans with cancer (we are expecting around 400 to participate but more could be added as the pilot progresses) at various facilities throughout VISN 20. Providers will all have volunteered to participate. The role of data collection for the program evaluation, specifically collection of VA provider feedback, has been made explicit during the program proposal and implementation plan. 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

RECEIVED

APR 14 2015

AFGE National VA Council #53
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee