Memorandum of Understanding

The following constitute an agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, National Veterans Affairs Council #53 (NVAC) concerning the VHA T21 Initiatives Network Implementation within the Department.

1. The national parties have MOUs on Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) and VA Point of Service (VPS) kiosks which are not affected by VHA T21 Initiatives.

2. This MOU applies to Virtual Medicine Non-Telehealth, Virtual Medicine Telehealth, Specialty Care, Women's Health, Rural Health, Enhancing Telephone Service (Fix-the-Phones) and Veteran's Transportation Service.

3. NVAC's may appoint a representative on VISNs committees or workgroups involved with VHA T21 implementation plans to bring about the transformational changes associated with VHA's major initiatives, that affects working conditions. The appointment of representatives to such committees or workgroups does not waive any rights of the exclusive representative.

4. Local unions may appoint a representative to local committees or workgroups in paragraph #2 or any other local committees and/or workgroup that result from VHA T21 initiatives, that affects working conditions.

5. The following shall apply to Virtual Medicine Non-Telehealth rollout of Secure Messing (SM) through My Health Vet.

   - All training related to SM will be on duty time.

   - Bargaining unit health care providers shall be provided with the procedures to follow when SM is not working properly and no other means of communication is available for use.

6. The following shall apply to Virtual Non-Medicine Telehealth and Virtual Medicine Telehealth:

   - Bargaining unit health care providers shall be provided with the procedures to be followed when in their professional opinion virtual medicine is not the best treatment option for the veteran. .

   - Training related to Virtual Non-Medicine Telehealth and Virtual Medicine Teleheath shall be on duty time.

   - Bargaining on the subjects named in this paragraph, shall be at the appropriate level of implementation.

i. VISN level or where two (2) or more AFGE locals are within an integrated facility and/or duty station shall require notice to the NVAC designee.

ii Where one AFGE local is at a facility and/or duty station shall require notice to the local union President prior to any implementation of the about subjects.

7. NVAC reserves its rights to address issues related to the VHA T21 initiatives as they occur that have not been covered by this MOU.

8. The appropriate management official shall provide the Local Union President with a copy of this MOU upon their receipt.

Larry Bennett, VA HR Consultant
For the Department (VA)

4/13/2012
Date

Oscar L. Williams Jr. 2nd EVP
For the National VA Council #53

04/13/2012
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4/13/2012.
Date