



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

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January 22, 2009

Meghan Flanz, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Office of Labor Management Relations (LMR)  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: Demand to Bargain -- The Planetree Model for Enhancing Health Care

Dear Ms. Flanz:

National VA Council #53 formally demanding to bargain over the Planetree Model for enhancing health care within VHA in the Department. NVAC cannot fully its representational duties without being provided the names of VISNs and VHA facilities that have begun to adopting the Planetree Model. Please provide NVAC with a list of names. Those VISNs that have begun discussions with AFGE Locals need to inform the NVAC (Exclusive Representative) of this matter. Any VHA facility were local management is engaged with one AFGE local can continue with their arrangement on implementation.

NVAC is not waiving its right to address the implementation of Planetree in VHA facilities and other related matters as they occur. If you have any questions please contact me at (217) 554-4866.

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  
Executive Committee, NVAC

**AFGE: The Future Is Ours  
Creating A Shared Vision For The 21<sup>st</sup> Century**