



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

November 15, 2010

**MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, OTHER
KEY OFFICIALS, AND FIELD FACILITY DIRECTORS**

SUBJECT: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Partnership Agreement

I am pleased to inform you that the VA National Partnership Council (NPC) has revised its Agreement (attached) and has created a Strategic Plan (attached) in order to support and promote the implementation of Executive Order 13522, *Creating Labor-Management Forums to Improve Delivery of Government Services*. Furthermore, it has created the attached document titled *Guidance for the Implementation of the Executive Order*.

The NPC has been in effect for over 10 years, and will continue its important function as the VA forum at the national level. The NPC will promote cooperative labor-management relations that will certainly result in improved services to Veterans and a positive workplace environment for our employees.

Leadership, communication and effective partnerships are key to our efforts. As you know, pre-decisional involvement and collaboration between management and our labor partners are necessary for success. We must develop forums at the local, intermediate and national levels to set the conditions for transparency, foster trust and allow decisions and resolution at the lowest level possible.

I want to thank the NPC for its hard work and ask you to support its efforts. By maintaining cooperative labor-management relations we will be able to provide the very best health care and most timely benefits that our Nation's Veterans deserve.

Please contact the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Labor-Management Relations, Leslie B. Wiggins at 202-461-4122 or Leslie.Wiggins2@va.gov if you have any questions about these documents.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Scott Gould", is positioned above the printed name.

W. Scott Gould

Attachments