

**STATEMENT FROM THE
VA NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
ENDORISING EXPANSION OF THE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PILOT**

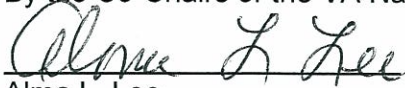
The National Partnership Council (NPC) is aware of a longstanding interest within VHA in preventing violence in the workplace, and each union has representation on the VHA National Violence Prevention Committee. The Committee was convened in 2000 and advises the Agency on violence prevention strategies. The Committee also recently supported a pilot project in Bedford to examine how "community meetings" of staff and patients within a mental health unit may reduce the frequency of violent incidents. The NPC is aware that that pilot project led to a substantial reduction in violent incidents, from both patients and staff. VHA plans to roll that project out in additional mental health units in parallel to Civility, Respect and Engagement in the Workplace (CREW) activities.

The leaders of the Bedford project have aligned with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to conduct a systematic evaluation of how effective this specific intervention is in Mental Health settings. A formal research evaluation has been designed to examine whether the reduction in incidents resulting from community meetings exceeds the reduction in incidents when attention is focused only on actual violent incidents.

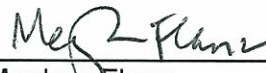
The project leaders presented their plans to the NPC on January 31, 2007. The NPC believes this project has potential for reducing violence toward staff, and strongly supports expansion of the pilot to other VA facilities. There may be specific implementation questions at each facility, as well as potential bargaining obligations which must be appropriately addressed.

Dated: 9/12/07

By the Co-Chairs of the VA National Partnership Council



Alma L. Lee
President, AFGE National VA Council
(Labor Co-Chair)



Meghan Flanz
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
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