

To: david.philipps@nytimes.com

June 21, 2018

Dear David,

I hope this e-mail finds you in the best of health.

I'm writing you today to inform you of egregious activities which took place Tuesday morning (Jun. 19.th) at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center, Gainesville, FL in which a previously filed VA Physician Official Document of Record was purposefully altered by non-physicians, and substituted with a newly created report. The newly crafted document was to be provided to me in place of the original Doctor's correspondence. This fact, provided to me by VA Advocate Mr. Willy White (who was himself present in the office during the alteration session) was told to me in the presence of the VA Advocates Office Receptionist Ms. Donna Lilly just moments after the alterations occurred. After being informed of what had just occurred, I immediately reported this fact to Malcom Randall VA Medical Center's Information Officer Mr. Patric Cheek in a Formal Complaint Report and F.O.I. Request to be provided copies of both documents; The Doctor's Original Correspondence and The Re-crafted Correspondence **created (by non-Physician Administrators) to stand as replacement for the previously filed Physician's Document of Record. I would think such activity, clearly obstructing a Veteran's pursuit of legal entitlements would be most likely illegal.**

Shortly after 10:00 a.m. June 19, 2018 I received a call-back from the Veteran Advocate, Mr. Willie White responding to my 8:15 Voice Mail regarding The Veterans Choice Program (VCP) which he discussed previously during the afternoon of May 14, 2018.

Our June 19th. conversation regarding our previous Choice Program discussion was reinitiated with me providing the VA Advocate (Mr. White) with a brief synopsis reminder of our prior conversation of May 14th in which he had informed me that my options to see my local Physician via the VA's Choice Program would not be available to me "for quite some time", but that he would schedule to contact me should he hear of any changes as to my opportunity to see my Local Primary Care Physician (of 12 years), Dr. Catherine Blackband (at UF Shands) through the Choice Program.

After receiving his acknowledgement and him concurring with my assessment of what had transpired during our last conversation, I read to him the following statement I located on VA's website during my Fact Checking Research on the subject:

“ Exhaustion of Choice Funds Notice — *The Veterans Choice Program (VCP) will have exhausted all of its funding as early as May 31, 2018, and possibly as late as June 15, 2018, due to the unique nature of health care and the variability in health care costs. Once the funds are exhausted, VA will no longer be able to provide services under VCP.*”

Mr. White stated: “Even with that being the case, you would not qualify.”

In response I reminded Mr. White that the first VA assigned Doctor (Dr. Gene-Charles) informed me that **“Writing Diagnoses were over her pay grade”** (which was the cause and reason as to why I demanded to be reassigned a new Physician.) I further reminded Mr. White of my first visit to the newly assigned Physician, **Dr. Samuel Adhami**, in which after specifically informing the newly assigned doctor of the **extremely time sensitive nature of my circumstances and clearly articulated my critically urgent need to receive his timely assistance**, in the form of a full and accurate diagnosis delineating with specificity an accurate assessment of the true nature of my Progressively Degenerative Lumbar Disease and associated (V.A. Diagnosed) secondary maladies. **Instead of the doctor assisting me to meet the VA imposed deadline, he scheduled my next assessment visit to take place a full year from that date**, May 12, 20**19**, **an action which clearly made a timely filing** of my Disagreement Documents with all relative supportive documentation, i.e. **“The Requested Doctor’s Diagnosis” impossible.**

Under the Choice Program’s eligibility guidelines, the 20**19** scheduling entitled me to see my local Physician; who would (within the course of **one** visit) be able to bring my 34-year pursuit of my full entitlements to a swift and satisfactory resolve.

What followed next led to the above noted egregious activity.

During the course of the above conversation Mr. White read a communique of record from the newly assigned doctor who had scheduled the 2019 appointment, which I had no previous knowledge. With this information being new to me, I immediately paused the conversation, informing the Advocate that I had never been made privy to the existence of that particular correspondence which should have been included in my most recent document request. Promptly asking to be provided a copy of the document, Mr. White said he would be pleased to provide me with a copy, adding: "Just stop by anytime. I can make you a copy." Inquiring as to the best time, Mr. White reiterated, "any time would be fine". After thanking Mr. White for the information, I immediately proceeded to his office.

I arrived at Mr. White's Office within twenty-five minutes, and waited after being announced as his only visitor for close to an hour and a half. I could overhear muffled conversations regarding me and my case coming from the adjacent room. Mr. White came out and provided me with a copy of a telephone intake sheet containing a brief note regarding our earlier phone conversation (which made no mention of the Physician's correspondence). Mr. White then informed me I would need to obtain any other required documents from the Records Information Window.

I reminded Mr. White of him having no more than a half our before my arrival stating that he personally would provide me a copy whenever I could make it by, and that's

why I'd been waiting in the adjacent reception area for the last hour and a half, after him having been made aware of my arrival.

Mr. White then informed me (in the presence of the VA Advocate's Office's Volunteer Receptionist, Ms. Donna Lilly) that his Supervisor (who evidently was one of the other voices I was hearing during my wait) instructed him to tell me that I would need to pick-up the copy from the Records and Information Window, but that if it were up to him, he would have just printed me out a copy. He then added that his "Chief" saw the communicate and said: "Oh, umm umm, No way, We can't let him have a copy of that."

I informed Mr. White that I understood but needed to ask him directly before proceeding to get the document if he would first, please take a moment, and before answering, think and tell me *honestly* whether or not the document I was now being directed to pick up from the Records Information Window had "In Any Manner" been changed, altered or re-crafted in any way from the document's original form as he had read it to me no more than a little over an hour ago?

His response was in the affirmative, with further explanation that: After "they" reviewed the correspondence (I was there to pick-up) **"they" said "Oh no, we can't give him a copy of that." It was at that point evidently that the non-Physician Administrators took it upon themselves to re-Craft the document to replace the Physician's original document of record.** These statements were again repeated in the presence of the VA Advocate Office Receptionist, Ms. Donna Lilly.

It was at that point that I informed Mr. White (again in the presence of Ms. Donna Lilly) that I would now in light of him having given me an honest answer to my question, which I informed him I very much appreciated; I would now need a copy of both documents; a copy of the Physician's original document which he said I could have earlier, as well as a copy of the **document created by the Administrators as I was waiting to see him.**

Mr. White, said ok and asked me to hold on for a moment as he went to communicate with his "Chief" (Supervisor.) Upon his return **he stated that his Supervisor said "for that you'll need to file a Formal F.O.I. Request.** I responded by asking whether there was an office, within their facility in which I could file such a request, or would I need to send my F.O.I. Request to the VA's Regional Records. He again asked that I wait a moment as he went to question his Supervisor. Returning he stated: "My Supervisor said: "You can file a F.O.I. Request at the Information Office." and voluntarily added (again in the presence of Ms. Donna Lilly) "My Supervisor is in the process of writing up a Report on everything." Not commenting on his statement, I asked for and was provided the Information Officer's Name, Room Number and Location, where I immediately went and filed the Formal Request.

After filing my request, and lodging my complaint of what had just occurred, the Information Officer informed me that there were legal procedures that would need to be followed, so I should not expect to be able to get the documents right away. But, as

soon as that process was completed, I would be receiving a copy of the documents with accompanying report.

So, as you can clearly see from the above, much has been going on to prevent me from receiving my full entitlements. Such blatant obstructive behavior can only be stopped through public pressure. Nothing else seems to work other than bringing such malicious activities into the light of public scrutiny.

I now have a **New Phone Number: (352) 283-3023.**

So, please do call me should you have any questions or interest in the above.

And thank you again for all of your past efforts which finally forced the VA to acknowledge that they had been (for over 33 years) always in possession of the empirical proof and truth regarding my Service Connected Disability.

If The New York Times would afford you opportunity to do a short follow-up type of “where does it all stand now” quick blurb on the above, just keeping the public and the VA aware that your relevant institution is still watching what’s going on, I’m certain it would make a big difference, as it did before; and I may see final closure yet!

Warmest regards,

Jonathan Bey