



National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

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NASMHPD

June 1, 2010

King E. Davis, Ph.D.
Robert Lee Sutherland Chair in Mental Health and Social Policy
School of Social Work
The University of Texas at Austin
1 University Station
Austin, Texas 78712-0358

RE: Central Lunatic Asylum for Colored Insane

Dear King:

I am writing in support of your efforts to digitize and preserve the important archival collection from the Central Lunatic Asylum for Colored Insane. As I am sure is true for many people in our field, I was unaware of the extensiveness and richness of the collection maintained by the hospital. It is remarkable how the hospital was able to maintain such an extensive collection in such good condition for close to a century. It would indeed be tragic if this collection was allowed to deteriorate further or that we were unable to scan the materials to insure access to them by a broad cross section of interested persons. Your project is the immediate solution to at least part of this problem. We will have to discuss how to resolve the longer term issue of permanently preserving such materials in Virginia and the other states as well.

My staff and I have read your proposal and agree to offer our verbal and financial resources to you to help insure that the requisite planning, indexing, and scanning takes place of these important materials. I like the interdisciplinary team that you have assembled since this will help insure a variety of perspectives on the data and how to make the digital library as user friendly and accessible as possible. Our funding will be available as soon as the contracts can be signed in June.

Our association would like to have you and members of your team share your preliminary findings at our winter meeting in October 2010. We'd also like a final report in May 2011 that offers suggestions and implications for our members related to the linkage between race, public policy, and mental health care. As you know these remain important issues for the states.

We are hopeful that the National Endowment will match our financial commitment to the project so that the important goals that you have identified can be attained.

Please keep the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Inc. aware of your efforts. Our staff remains interested in the digitization project and will collaborate with you in every way to help insure its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Glover", with a stylized, flowing script.

Robert W. Glover, Ph.D.
Executive Director