

# *COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*

## *DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES*

Post Office Box 1797  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Telephone (804) 786-3921  
Fax: 804-371-6638  
[www.dbhds.virginia.gov](http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov)

JAMES W. STEWART, III  
COMMISSIONER

August 12, 2011

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 (now Central State Hospital). As I am sure is true for many people in the Commonwealth, 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.

My staff and I have read your proposal and want support this project by making available \$25,000 to help insure that the remaining scanning of these important materials takes place. 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 on September 1, 2011.

We are hopeful that the National Endowment will match the funds provided by the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services so that the important goals that you have identified can be attained.

Please keep me 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 "JWS", written in a cursive style.

James W. Stewart, III