

Public Health Service National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities 6707 Democracy Boulevard Suite 800 MSC 5465 Bethesda, Maryland 20892-5465

July 1, 2015

Antonio F. Knox, Sr. Grand Basileus Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Dear Grand Basileus Knox:

The purpose of this letter of agreement is to outline the scope of the partnership between The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated (OMEGA). NIMHD and OMEGA will work jointly to develop an educational outreach initiative entitled, **Brother, You're On My Mind: Changing the National Dialogue Regarding Mental Health Among African American Men.** The focus of the initiative is to raise awareness about the mental health challenges associated with stress and depression that affect African American men and their families.

The goals of the Brother, You're On My Mind: Changing the National Dialogue Regarding Mental Health Among African American Men Initiative are:

- 1. To collaborate on efforts to educate OMEGA membership, their families, and related communities about the targeted areas of mental health: depression and stress
- 2. To communicate the importance of seeking help for mental health problems and to encourage affected individuals to gather information or to talk with their health care provider in order to obtain appropriate treatment

The NIMHD, in consultation with other Institutes at the National Institutes of Health (e.g., the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Mental Health), will provide research-based information on mental health that will be used by OMEGA to disseminate through this initiative. Specifically, NIMHD will seek the expertise of other NIH Institutes and Centers and other federal agencies, as needed and appropriate, to develop materials containing evidence-based information concerning the mental health challenges associated with stress and depression.

The NIMHD, in partnership with other NIH Institutes and Centers, will first provide OMEGA with written materials on the basic understanding and cause/s of stress and depression for the general population. Using these materials, OMEGA will have the necessary information to begin to educate its members and community about basic mental health problems. NIMHD also will develop specifically tailored written materials on mental health in African American men for the use of the OMEGAs to disseminate. The use of well-trained mental health professionals will be an important factor to consider throughout the Initiative; therefore, NIMHD will provide access to experts within the mental health field who could serve as speakers at the OMEGA's National, Regional, and Chapter meetings or other developed and planned workshops around the *Brother, You're On My Mind: Changing the National Dialogue Regarding Mental Health Among African*

American Men Initiative. NIMHD has agreed to assist OMEGA in developing and providing resources to help prepare them to effectively disseminate the information on mental health across their membership. Evaluation of the Initiative and its impact on the health literacy (regarding the mental health of African American men) of OMEGA's membership will be planned, developed, and conducted by OMEGA with the support of NIMHD.

Given the collaborative nature of the *Brother You are on My Mind Initiative*, all logos including those of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated or those of any of the 27 NIH Centers or Institutes can only be used with written permission. Furthermore, OMEGA agrees to cite NIMHD and its respective partners on any communications or publications it develops related to this Initiative. If OMEGA makes inferences or draws conclusions that are not evident from the reading of original documents provided by NIMHD or its partners, this fact must be clearly stated in the publication. All such information and materials developed or created by OMEGA for or in connection with the Initiative must be reviewed by NIMHD and include the following disclaimer:

"The views expressed in these materials [or by participants at this event] do not necessarily reflect the official policies or opinions of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, or its components; nor does the inclusion of logos of outside entities constitute or imply an endorsement by any Federal entity."

Nothing in this letter of agreement may be interpreted to imply that the United States, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or the National Institutes of Health endorses OMEGA, its products, or services. OMEGA will not take any action or make any statements that state, suggest, or imply such an endorsement. In addition, this agreement does not commit or obligate the use of either Federal or OMEGA funds or resources throughout the duration of the Initiative. However, activities undertaken pursuant to this agreement may make use of contributions from all participants subject to, in each case, and contingent upon, the availability of funds for the purpose of the Initiative. Each participant will bear its own expenses incurred in performing under this agreement, including but not limited to, its own administration, administrative printing/production costs, and any travel expenses.

This agreement will remain in effect until July 28, 2016 or the end of any term of Office for Mr. Antonio F. Knox from the date in which all participants have signed. The participants may modify or renew this agreement by mutual written consent of all participants. Any participant may terminate its involvement upon thirty (30) days prior written notice. All notices shall be delivered by electronic mail to the designated point of contact. Both parties would like to recognize Dr. Yvonne T. Maddox's leadership in establishing the partnership between NIMHD and OMEGA. She continues to be a strong champion for health equity and educational outreach among all populations.

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Antonio F. Knox, Sr.

Grand Basileus

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Date: 7/9/15

Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD

Principal Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health

Acting Director, National Institute on Minority Health and

Health Disparities

Date: 7215