

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES

AND

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY,
INCORPORATED

**Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for
Children and Families and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Memorandum of Understanding**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) includes two programs of the Administration of Children and Families (ACF), the Head Start Bureau (HSB) and the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, (Fraternity).

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) is to establish a collaborative relationship among the Administration for Children and Families' programs noted above the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and other partners. These agencies will work together to encourage, promote and support strengthening the roles of fathers in families, and the lives of their children.

The focus of this Partnership is to do the following:

- Promote responsible fatherhood by improving the work opportunities for low-income fathers.
- Enhance parenting skills and increase the participation of fathers and others significant males in ACF programs; e.g., Head Start, Child Support and other programs, and in the lives of their children.
- Encourage child support collections, support access and visitation by non-custodial parents; job training and employment opportunities.
- Work with agencies to reduce substance abuse, domestic violence and child abuse and neglect.
- Assist agencies to develop effective strategies for increasing the resiliency in males through the development of intervention and prevention programs.
- Work with groups to provide sessions to alleviate some of the stereotypical views toward males, provide support and mentoring services and facilitate local level communications and coordination.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families (DHHS/ACF), specifically HSB and OCSE are promoting responsible fatherhood by improving work opportunities for low-income fathers and increasing child support collections.

They are working with agencies to enhance parenting skills, support access and visitation by non-custodial parents, reduce domestic violence, and involve boys and young men in the preventing teenage pregnancy and early parenthood to ensure that both fathers and mother are fully involved in raising their children.

Since 1995, the agency has coordinated efforts at the national level to focus policy, funding and program attention on fathers. These programs have undertaken activities that recognize and support the roles of fathers in families, encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families and activities to indicate that fathers have always been important to their children.

The work of federal staff, organizations, practitioners and researchers suggests that most fathers are a vital source of caring, nurturing, and empowering, as well as financial supporters to their children. Fathers provide childcare and role models; they set expectations; and they help children navigate sometimes-complex relationships, including family relationships.

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, has been working to increase the quality of life for children and assist fathers to become self sufficient in order to achieve some of their desired goals in life. The Fraternity is providing mentoring, counseling services to facilitate grassroots communication and coordination on issues related to male involvement.

Also, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity has worked in Region IV with Head Start programs to increase the participation of fathers and other significant males in Head Start and have provided financial assistance, activities, support services, mentoring, counseling and other activities.

ACTIVITIES

Through this MOU, the Head Start Bureau, the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and other partners with join forces to promote and provide continuity for the development of increased fatherhood/male participation in Head Start, Child Support Services, and other programs and provide support and resources and training for males to enhance their capabilities to be more effectively involved in the lives of their children.

JOINT ACTIONS

The parties of this MOU will promote the establishment of liaisons at the local, State and Federal levels to improve the coordination and delivery of services to families. They will also facilitate sharing of fatherhood/male involvement materials, training, services and information to enhance the economic and social well being of families.

DESCRIPTION OF TASKS:

1. ACF

OCSE and HSB will encourage programs to do the following:

- Provide supportive assistance and mentoring services and encourage the local programs to become involved in fatherhood/male involvement programs.
- Encourage regional and local programs to designate staff to be responsible for administering all aspects of this agreement. The Federal designees will meet regularly to

1) review the progress of this Partnership Agreement and 2) identify future joint initiatives and other areas of collaboration.

- As appropriate, issue, regulations, policy statement, resource listings, program information memoranda, directives to technical assistance providers, examples of best practices, demonstration grant opportunities and public information to foster the implementation of this effort at the State, regional and local levels.
- Provide manpower resources on other issues to be addressed as we collaboratively link community mobilization strategies with ACF and Alpha Phi Alpha and other community-based organizations.
- Assist other agencies to encourage non-custodial fathers' involvement with their children as part of the child support efforts.
- Establish a mechanism to receive suggestions, concerns, and recommendations from the State and local agency policies, processes, and procedures, which may affect the efforts covered under this agreement.
- Designate a staff person in each Region to work with the local programs.
- Work with local agencies to encourage the development of activities for two hundred fifty selected pilot programs for the Partnership Agreement with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- Assist local programs to develop strategies for increasing the resiliency in males through the development of intervention and prevention programs.
- Develop supplementary resources that build on the Alpha/ACF curriculum, emphasizing activities that will help fathers and/or significant males increase their leadership and job skills.
- Work with Federal, state and local agencies to provide supportive assistance and mentoring services.
- Explore with other agencies' ways to empower at-risk communities to provide community-based programs to enhance the quality of family life.

II. ALPHA PHI ALPHA

- Provide training and orientation in the use of the Alpha/ACF Model Partnership Agreement which will be delivered through workshops scheduled at national and Regional DHHS ACF Conferences, meetings and at scheduled Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Regional and General Conventions.

- Conduct one training and orientation workshop in each of the 5 Hubs/Regions and one training and orientation workshop in each of the 5 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Regions, one training and orientation workshop at the National Head Start Conference; and at the National Child Support Enforcement Training Conference.
- Work in conjunction with ACF to promote the workshops to Regional Hub Directors, the State, Regional and National Head Start Associations.
- Provide quarterly reports to ACF Central Office.
- Promote the positive role of Greek letter organizations in the performance of community service.
- Work with the local programs to select two hundred and fifty sites for piloting the Partnership Agreement.
- Encourage the creative participation of community-based advisory groups to develop and implement best practices in working with fathers and significant others.
- Assist local programs with development and evaluation of management information and tracking systems.
- Assist local agencies to encourage non-custodial fathers' involvement with their children as part of the child support effort.
- Assist agencies to coordinate and communicate with other programs to address male issues and develop solutions.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The parties hereto shall promote the Alpha Phi Alpha/ACF Partnership of Male Involvement/Fatherhood Program to the local chapters/agencies of each of their respective organizations.

ACF and the Fraternity agree to make all reasonable efforts to ensure fulfillment of Alpha Phi Alpha/ACF Partnership of Male Involvement/Fatherhood Program goals by working cooperatively with one another for the establishment of various programs, conferences, workshops and other events in support of those goals.

ACF and Fraternity agree that in the event any Regional DHHS (Hub Director), local ACF agencies and Fraternity chapters shall enter into agreements with one another in connections with the local Alpha Phi Alpha/ACF Partnership Male Involvement/Fatherhood Program activities, this MOU shall be the basis and foundation for any such agreement between those chapters and local agencies. Also, the terms of this MOU shall prevail, and ACF and the Fraternity shall use all reasonable efforts to ensure that their respective chapters and local agencies comply with the terms of this MOU.

The Agreement may be amended by mutual consent or terminated by either party within 30 days with written notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

_____/S/
Douglas Klafehn
Acting Associate Commissioner
Head Start Bureau

_____/S/
Frank Fuentes
Action Director
Office of Child Support Enforcement

DATE: 7/31/01

DATE: 7/31/01

_____/S/
Harry E. Johnson, Sr.
General President
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

DATE: 7/31/01

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

_____/S/
Mary Ann Higgins
Hub Director
Northeast Hub - New York

DATE: 8/13/01

_____/S/
Linda Lewis
Regional Administrator
Region VI - Kansas

DATE: 8/22/01

_____/S/
Hugh Galligan
Regional Administrator
Region II - Boston

DATE: _____

_____/S/
Leon R. McCowan
Hub Director
West-Central Hub - Dallas

DATE: 8/13/01

_____/S/
David Lett
Regional Administrator
Region III - Philadelphia

DATE: 8/13/01

_____/S/
Beverly Turnbo
Regional Administrator
Region VIII - Denver

DATE: 8/13/01

_____/S/
Carlis Williams
Hub Director
Southeast Hub - Atlanta

DATE: 9/04/01

_____/S/
Sharon Fujii
Hub Director
Pacific Hub - San Francisco

DATE: 8/27/01

_____/S/
Joyce Thomas
Hub Director
Midwest Hub - Chicago

DATE: 8/13/01

_____/S/
Steve Henigson
Regional Administrator
Region X - Seattle

DATE: 8/29/01