

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

CASE NO. 17-CR-20388-MARTINEZ

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

SAMUEL KONELL,

Defendant.

PLEA AGREEMENT

The United States of America, by and through the Fraud Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida (hereinafter referred to as the "United States"), and Samuel Konell (hereinafter referred to as the "Defendant"), enter into the following agreement:

1. The Defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count 2 of the Indictment. Count 2 charges the Defendant with knowingly and willfully conspiring with others to: (a) defraud the United States by impairing, impeding, obstructing, and defeating, through deceitful and dishonest means, the lawful government functions of the United States Department of Health and Human Services in its administration and oversight of the Medicare program, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371; and (b) violate Title 42, United States Code, Section 1320a-7b(b)(1)(A), by knowingly and willfully soliciting and receiving remuneration, including kickbacks and bribes, directly and indirectly, overtly and covertly, in cash and in kind, in return for referring an individual to a person for the furnishing and arranging for the furnishing of an item and service for which payment may be made in whole and in part under a federal health care program, that is, Medicare. The Defendant acknowledges that he has read the charges against him contained in the

Court Exhibit #2

Indictment and that those charges have been fully explained to him by his attorney. The United States agrees to seek dismissal of Counts 1, 3, and 4 of the Indictment at the time of sentencing.

2. The Defendant is aware that the sentence will be imposed by the Court. The Defendant understands and agrees that federal sentencing law requires the Court to impose a sentence that is reasonable and that the Court must consider the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements (hereinafter referred to as the "Sentencing Guidelines") in effect at the time of the sentencing in determining that reasonable sentence. The Defendant acknowledges and understands that the Court will compute an advisory sentence under the Sentencing Guidelines and that the applicable guidelines will be determined by the Court relying in part on the results of a pre-sentence investigation by the Court's Probation Office, which investigation will commence after the guilty plea has been entered. The Defendant is also aware that, under certain circumstances, the Court may depart from the advisory sentencing guidelines range that it has computed, and may raise or lower that advisory sentence under the Sentencing Guidelines. The Defendant is further aware and understands that while the Court is required to consider the advisory guidelines range determined under the Sentencing Guidelines, it is not bound to impose that sentence. The Defendant understands that the facts that determine the offense level will be found by the Court at the time of sentencing and that in making those determinations the Court may consider any reliable evidence, including hearsay, as well as the provisions or stipulations in this agreement. The United States and the Defendant agree to recommend that the Sentencing Guidelines should apply pursuant to *United States v. Booker*, that the Sentencing Guidelines provide a fair and just resolution based on the facts of this case, and that no upward or downward departures are appropriate other than the reductions for acceptance of responsibility. The Court is permitted to tailor the ultimate sentence in light of other statutory concerns, and such sentence may

be either more severe or less severe than the Sentencing Guidelines' advisory sentence. Knowing these facts, the Defendant understands and acknowledges that the Court has the authority to impose any sentence within and up to the statutory maximum authorized by law for the offenses identified in paragraph 1 above and that the Defendant may not withdraw the plea solely as a result of the sentence imposed.

3. The Defendant also understands and acknowledges that as to Count 2, the Court may impose a statutory maximum term of imprisonment of up to five (5) years. In addition to any period of imprisonment, the Court may also impose a period of supervised release of up to three (3) years to commence at the conclusion of the period of imprisonment. In addition to a term of imprisonment and supervised release, the Court may impose a fine of up to the greater of \$250,000, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3571(a)(3), or twice the pecuniary gain from the offense, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3571(d).

4. The Defendant further understands and acknowledges that in addition to any sentence imposed under paragraph 3 above, a special assessment in the total amount of \$100 will be imposed on the Defendant. The Defendant agrees that any special assessment imposed shall be paid at the time of sentencing.

5. The Defendant understands and acknowledges that as a result of this plea, the Defendant will be excluded from Medicare, Medicaid, and all federal health care programs. The Defendant agrees to complete and execute all necessary documents provided by any department or agency of the federal government, including but not limited to, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, to effectuate this exclusion within sixty (60) days of receiving the documents. This exclusion will not affect the Defendant's right to apply for and receive benefits as a beneficiary under any federal health care program, including Medicare and Medicaid.

6. The Defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to the Defendant's immigration status if the Defendant is not a natural-born citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses, including the offense to which the Defendant is pleading guilty. In addition, under certain circumstances, denaturalization may also be a consequence of pleading guilty to a crime. Removal, denaturalization, and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and the Defendant understands that no one, including the Defendant's attorney or the Court, can predict to a certainty the effect of the Defendant's conviction on the Defendant's immigration status. The Defendant nevertheless affirms that the Defendant chooses to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that the Defendant's plea may entail, even if the consequence is the Defendant's denaturalization and automatic removal from the United States.

7. The Defendant shall cooperate with law enforcement officials, attorneys with the United States Department of Justice and United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida, and with federal regulatory officials charged with regulating or overseeing the Medicare program by providing full, complete, and truthful information regarding the Defendant's knowledge, conduct, and actions while involved in health care and by providing active cooperation in ongoing investigations if requested to do so. If called upon to do so, the Defendant shall provide complete and truthful testimony before any grand jury or trial jury in any criminal case, in any civil proceeding or trial, and in any administrative proceeding or hearing. In carrying out his obligations under this paragraph, the Defendant shall neither minimize his own involvement nor fabricate, minimize, or exaggerate the involvement of others. If the Defendant intentionally provides any incomplete or untruthful statements or testimony, his actions shall be deemed a material breach of this agreement and the United States shall be free to pursue all appropriate

charges against him notwithstanding any agreements to forbear from bringing additional charges as may be otherwise set forth in this agreement.

8. The Defendant shall provide the Probation Office and counsel for the United States with a full, complete, and accurate personal financial statement. If the Defendant provides incomplete or untruthful statements in his personal financial statement, his action shall be deemed a material breach of this agreement and the United States shall be free to pursue all appropriate charges against him notwithstanding any agreements to forbear from bringing additional charges as may be otherwise set forth in this agreement.

9. Provided that the Defendant commits no new criminal offenses and provided he continues to demonstrate an affirmative recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for his criminal conduct, the United States agrees that it will recommend at sentencing that the Defendant receive a three (3) level reduction for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Section 3E1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines, based upon the Defendant's recognition and affirmative and timely acceptance of personal responsibility. The United States, however, will not be required to make this sentencing recommendation if the Defendant: (1) fails or refuses to make a full, accurate, and complete disclosure to the United States and the Probation Office of the circumstances surrounding the relevant offense conduct and his present financial condition; (2) is found to have misrepresented facts to the United States prior to entering this agreement; or (3) commits any misconduct after entering into this agreement, including but not limited to, committing a state or federal offense, violating any term of release, or making false statements or *misrepresentations to any governmental entity or official.*

10. The United States reserves the right to inform the Court and the Probation Office of all facts pertinent to the sentencing process, including all relevant information concerning the

offenses committed, whether charged or not, as well as concerning the Defendant and the Defendant's background. Subject only to the express terms of any agreed-upon sentencing recommendations contained in this agreement, the United States further reserves the right to make any recommendation as to the quality and quantity of punishment.

11. The United States reserves the right to evaluate the nature and extent of the Defendant's cooperation and to make the Defendant's cooperation, or lack thereof, known to the Court at the time of sentencing. If in the sole and unreviewable judgment of the United States the Defendant's cooperation is of such quality and significance to the investigation or prosecution of other criminal matters as to warrant the Court's downward departure from the sentence advised by the Sentencing Guidelines, the United States may, at or before sentencing, make a motion pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(e), Section 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines, or subsequent to sentencing by motion pursuant to Rule 35 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, reflecting that the Defendant has provided substantial assistance and recommending a sentence reduction. The Defendant acknowledges and agrees, however, that nothing in this agreement may be construed to require the United States to file such a motion and that the United States' assessment of the nature, value, truthfulness, completeness, and accuracy of the Defendant's cooperation shall be binding on the Defendant.

12. The Defendant understands and acknowledges that the Court is under no obligation to grant a motion by the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(e), 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines, or Rule 35 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, as referred to in paragraph 11 above, should the United States exercise its discretion to file such a motion.

13. Based on the foregoing, the United States and the Defendant agree that, although not binding on the Probation Office or the Court, they will jointly recommend that the Court impose a sentence within the advisory sentencing guidelines range produced by application of the Sentencing Guidelines. Although not binding on the Probation Office or the Court, the United States and the Defendant further agree that, except as otherwise expressly contemplated in this agreement, they will jointly recommend that the Court neither depart upward nor depart downward under the Sentencing Guidelines when determining the advisory Sentencing Guidelines range in this case. Although not binding on the Probation Office or the Court, the United States and the Defendant also agree that there are no factors or circumstances which would support or otherwise suggest the propriety of the Court's finding of any variance under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a).

14. The United States and the Defendant agree that, although not binding on the Probation Office or the Court, they will jointly recommend that the Court make the following findings and conclusions as to the sentence to be imposed:

- (a) Base Offense Level: That the base offense level is eight (8), pursuant to Section 2B4.1(a) of the Sentencing Guidelines.
- (b) Improper Benefit/Loss: That the Defendant's offense level shall be increased by twenty (20) levels pursuant to Sections 2B4.1(b)(1)(B) and 2B1.1(b)(1)(K) of the Sentencing Guidelines because the value of the improper benefit conferred (and/or actual or intended loss) related to the Defendant's role in the scheme was more than \$9,500,000 but less than \$25,000,000. The value of the improper benefit conferred (and/or actual or intended loss) reflects the fraudulent billings for health care items and services, known as of the date of this agreement, that were submitted to the

Medicare program by Greater Miami Behavioral Healthcare Center, Inc., as a result of the Defendant's conduct.

- (c) Abuse of Position of Trust: That the Defendant's offense level shall be increased by two (2) levels pursuant to Section 3B1.3 of the Sentencing Guidelines to reflect the Defendant's conduct in this case.

TOTAL OFFENSE LEVEL – UNADJUSTED 30

- (d) Acceptance of Responsibility: That the Defendant's offense level shall be decreased by three (3) levels pursuant to Sections 3E1.1(a) and 3E1.1(b) because the Defendant has clearly demonstrated acceptance of responsibility for his offense and assisted authorities in the investigation and prosecution of his own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of his intention to enter a plea of guilty.

TOTAL OFFENSE LEVEL – ADJUSTED 27

- (e) The sentence produced by application of the Sentencing Guidelines is 60 months, pursuant to Section 5G1.1(a) of the Sentencing Guidelines.

15. The Defendant acknowledges and understands that additional or different enhancements or guidelines provisions might be applicable, and that neither the Court nor the Probation Office is bound by the parties' joint recommendations.

16. The Defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees to the entry of a forfeiture money judgment against him in the amount of \$432,829, which amount equals the value of gross proceeds traceable to the commission of the violation to which he agrees to plead guilty herein.

17. The Defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees to waive his right to a hearing, pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(1)(A) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, to determine the amount of the forfeiture judgment. Furthermore, the Defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees

that he shall not, in any manner, act in opposition to the United States in seeking entry and full satisfaction of the forfeiture judgment.

18. The United States agrees that it will not seek to liquidate the Defendant's interest in the real property located at 22838 Barrister Drive, Boca Raton, Florida 33433 (hereinafter referred to as the "Subject Property") to satisfy the forfeiture and/or restitution judgment as long as the Subject Property is owned by the Defendant and his wife. However, the United States will retain a lien on the Subject Property and when title to the Subject Property is transferred, the United States will seek to enforce forfeiture of the Defendant's interest to satisfy the amount remaining on the judgments.

19. The Defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees to waive the following rights with respect to the entry of a money judgment: (a) all constitutional, legal, and equitable defenses to such forfeiture; (b) any constitutional or statutory double jeopardy defense or claim regarding such forfeiture; (c) any claim or defense to such forfeiture brought or raised under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution, including but not limited to, any claim or defense of excessive fine; and (d) any right he may have to an appeal of any resulting order of forfeiture regarding the forfeiture judgment.

20. The Defendant also agrees to assist the United States in all proceedings, administrative or judicial, involving forfeiture to the United States of any property, including substitute property, regardless of its nature or form, real or personal, which the Defendant or others known to the Defendant have accumulated as a result of illegal activities. The assistance shall include: identification of any property subject to forfeiture, agreement to the entry of an order enjoining the transfer or encumbrance of such property, and the transfer of such property to the United States by delivery to the United States upon the United States' request, any necessary and

appropriate documentation, including consents to forfeiture and quit claim deeds, to deliver good and marketable title to such property.

21. In furtherance of the collection of the forfeiture judgment and/or the restitution judgment, the Defendant agrees to the following:

(a) The Defendant agrees to make full and accurate disclosure of his financial affairs to the United States and the Probation Office. Specifically, the Defendant agrees that within fourteen (14) calendar days of the signing of this agreement, the Defendant shall submit a completed financial disclosure statement (form provided by the United States), and shall fully disclose and identify all assets in which he has any interest and/or over which the Defendant exercises control, directly or indirectly, including those held by a spouse, nominee, or other third party. The Defendant agrees to provide, in a timely manner, all financial information requested by the United States and the Probation Office, and upon request, to meet in person to identify assets/monies which can be used to satisfy the forfeiture judgment and/or the restitution judgment. In addition, the Defendant expressly authorizes the United States to obtain a credit report.

(b) The Defendant agrees that he will not sell, hide, waste, encumber, destroy, or otherwise devalue any asset until the forfeiture judgment and the restitution judgment are paid in full without prior approval of the United States. The Defendant shall also identify any transfer of assets valued in excess of \$5,000 since the date of his Indictment or when he became aware of the criminal investigation, including the identity of the asset, the value of the asset, the identity of the third party to whom the asset was transferred, and the current location of the asset.

(c) The Defendant agrees to cooperate fully in the investigation and the identification of assets to be applied toward forfeiture and/or restitution. The Defendant agrees that providing false or incomplete information about his financial assets, or hiding, selling, transferring, or

devaluing assets and/or failing to cooperate fully in the investigation and identification of assets may be used as a basis for: (i) separate prosecution, including under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001; or (ii) recommendation of a denial of a reduction for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Section 3E1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines.

22. The Defendant further agrees to liquidate assets, or complete any other tasks which will result in immediate payment of the forfeiture judgment and/or the restitution judgment in full, or full payment in the shortest amount of time, as requested by the United States. The Defendant shall notify, within thirty (30) days, the Clerk of the Court and the United States of: (i) any change of name, residence, or mailing address; and (ii) any material change in economic circumstances that affects the ability to pay the forfeiture judgment.

23. The Defendant acknowledges that because the offenses of conviction occurred after April 24, 1996, restitution is mandatory without regard to the Defendant's ability to pay and that the Court must order the Defendant to pay restitution for the full loss caused by his criminal conduct pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3663A.

24. The Defendant is aware that the sentence has not yet been determined by the Court. The Defendant is also aware that any estimate of the probable sentencing range or sentence that the Defendant may receive, whether that estimate comes from the Defendant's attorney, the United States, or the Probation Office, is a prediction, not a promise, and is not binding on the United States, the Probation Office, or the Court. The Defendant understands further that any recommendation that the United States makes to the Court as to sentencing, whether pursuant to this agreement or otherwise, is not binding on the Court and the Court may disregard the recommendation in its entirety. The Defendant understands and acknowledges, as previously acknowledged in paragraph 2 above, that the Defendant may not withdraw his plea based upon the

Court's decision not to accept a sentencing recommendation made by the Defendant, the United States, or a recommendation made jointly by both the Defendant and the United States.

25. The Defendant is aware that Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 affords the Defendant the right to appeal the sentence imposed in this case. Acknowledging this, in exchange for the undertakings made by the United States in this agreement, the Defendant hereby waives all rights conferred by Section 3742 to appeal any sentence imposed, including any forfeiture or restitution ordered, or to appeal the manner in which the sentence was imposed, unless the sentence exceeds the maximum permitted by statute or is the result of an upward departure and/or a variance from the guidelines range that the Court establishes at sentencing. The Defendant further understands that nothing in this agreement shall affect the right of the United States and/or its duty to appeal as set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742(b). However, if the United States appeals the Defendant's sentence pursuant to Section 3742(b), the Defendant shall be released from the above waiver of appellate rights. By signing this agreement, the Defendant acknowledges that he has discussed the appeal waiver set forth in this agreement with his attorney. The Defendant further agrees, together with the United States, to request that the Court enter a specific finding that the Defendant's waiver of his right to appeal the sentence to be imposed in this case was knowing and voluntary.

26. For purposes of criminal prosecution, this agreement shall be binding and enforceable upon the Fraud Section of the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida. The United States does not release the Defendant from any claims under Title 26, United States Code. Further, this agreement in no way limits, binds, or otherwise affects the rights, powers, or duties of any state or local law enforcement agency or any administrative or regulatory authority.

27. The Defendant agrees that if he fails to comply with any of the provisions of this agreement, including the failure to tender such agreement to the Court, makes false or misleading statements before the Court or to any agents of the United States, commits any further crimes, or attempts to withdraw the plea (prior to or after pleading guilty to the charges identified in paragraph one (1) above), the United States will have the right to characterize such conduct as a breach of this agreement. In the event of such a breach: (a) the United States will be free from its obligations under the agreement and further may take whatever position it believes appropriate as to the sentence and the conditions of the Defendant's release (for example, should the Defendant commit any conduct after the date of this agreement that would form the basis for an increase in the Defendant's offense level or justify an upward departure – examples of which include but are not limited to, obstruction of justice, failure to appear for a court proceeding, criminal conduct while pending sentencing, and false statements to law enforcement agents, the Probation Office, or the Court – the United States is free under this agreement to seek an increase in the offense level based on that post-agreement conduct); (b) the Defendant will not have the right to withdraw the guilty plea; (c) the Defendant shall be fully subject to criminal prosecution for any other crimes which he has committed or might commit, if any, including perjury and obstruction of justice; and (d) the Defendant waives any protections afforded by Section 1B1.8(a) of the Sentencing Guidelines, Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, and the United States will be free to use against the Defendant, directly and indirectly, in any criminal or civil proceeding, any of the information, statements, and materials provided by him pursuant to this agreement, including offering into evidence or otherwise using the attached Stipulated Factual Basis in Support of Guilty Plea.

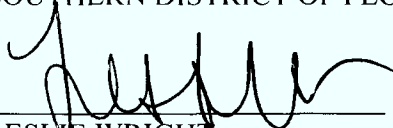
28. This is the entire agreement and understanding between the United States and the Defendant. There are no other agreements, promises, representations, or understandings.

SANDRA MOSER
ACTING CHIEF
CRIMINAL DIVISION, FRAUD SECTION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BENJAMIN G. GREENBERG
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Date: 11/8/2017

By:



LESLIE WRIGHT
TRIAL ATTORNEY
CRIMINAL DIVISION, FRAUD SECTION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Date: 11/6/17

By:



SAMUEL KONELL
DEFENDANT

Date: 11-6-17

By:



LANE ABRAHAM, ESQ.
COUNSEL FOR SAMUEL KONELL