

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Minutes from the Meeting of Thursday, April 23, 2015**

Attendance	
Commissioners	Senator Bill Beagle Ms. Kara Bertke-Wente Ms. Carri Brown Director Susan Brown Mr. Cedric Collins Mr. Jamoya Cox Representative Bill Hayes Mr. Chad Hibbs Representative Stephen Huffman Dr. Randy Leite Mr. Scott Neely Mr. John Silverman Mr. Socrates Tuch Mr. Luis Vazquez
Presenters	Commissioner Susan Brown Carlos Christian Kim Toler Commissioner Socrates Tuch Maggie Toll
Guests	Steve Killpack William Macchione
OCF Staff	Director Kimberly Dent Ms. Monica Mahoney

I. Call to Order & Welcome New Commissioners	
10:00 to 10:10	Senator Bill Beagle
Senator Beagle welcomed our guests and called the meeting to order.	
II. Human Trafficking Training	
10:15-11:00	Margaret Toll
Margaret Toll from Governor Kasich’s office presented information about the statewide Taskforce to Combat Human Trafficking. Her Power Point presentation can be found on the OCF website.	
Her presentation covered:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding the crime of Human Trafficking - Definitions and Stats 2. How trafficking occurs - Elements of the crime of trafficking; Signs and Indicators 3. Key state policy initiatives – Laws; Governor’s Task Force; Rescue and Restore Coalitions; Law Enforcement Task Forces. 	
III. Connections with a Purpose	
11:00-11:20	Commissioner Susan Brown, Carlos Christian and Kim Toler
Kim Toler, Assistant Deputy Director, Franklin County Children Services, Carlos Christian, CEO & Founder, The Starts Within Organization and Susan Brown, Director, Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency provided information about Franklin County’s initiative, “Connections With Purpose.” The Power Point presentation can be found on the OCF website.	
<p>“Connections With Purpose” is an initiative to connect foster care youth to their incarcerated fathers. The inspiration was the OCF Pilot Project with Summit County Children Services. Summit provided training and assistance to other counties, including Franklin to help them identify and engage fathers on family case plans and provide support services to fathers.</p> <p>Franklin County began a pilot program tailored to the needs of foster care youth and their incarcerated fathers. Partners work together to prepare the fathers and children for the visits to ensure healthy and meaningful time is spent together (not “just a visit”). Children and fathers spend time on relationship building activities.</p> <p>Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency (FCSEA) also created the DEUCE Program – Dads Empowered by Utilizing Community Education. FCSEA partners with Columbus Urban League, Action for Children and Starts Within to provide direct services to fathers. The goals of DEUCE are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of fathers engaged in agency case plans; 2. Redress case worker bias against fathers by educating staff on the benefits to children from fatherhood involvement; 3. Improve the agency culture on fatherhood engagement; and 4. Identify culturally competent programs that encourage family stability in their fatherhood programs. 	

IV. Ohio Youth Risky Behavior Survey	
11:20-11:22	Socrates Tuch
<p>Commissioner Socrates Tuch shared the Ohio Department of Health’s 2015 “Ohio Youth Risky Behavior Survey” and optional questions list. The Optional Questions is a list of tested and vetted questions that can be included in future surveys. He requested suggestions from commissioners on questions to include in future surveys that would help identify the impact of father involvement on youth decision making and behaviors.</p>	
V. Approval of Minutes	
11:22-11:35	
<p>The minutes from February 12, 2014 were approved as submitted.</p>	
VI. Report from the Director	
11:40-11:47	Director Kimberly Dent
<p>Director Dent shared her report of the work accomplished by OCF staff since the last OCF meeting in February. The Director’s Report is posted on the OCF website.</p> <p>Items of note that Director Dent spoke about include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Six programs were selected for funding for the second annual “June is Responsible fatherhood Month”: Passages – Portage County; 3rd Development Inc. – Middletown; Richland County Children’s Service; Montgomery County Children’s Service; Urban Light Ministries- Clark County; and Stark County Children’s Services. 2. ODJFS Office of Contracts will post the next Request for Grant Application (RFGA) Responsible Fatherhood Grants in the very near future. Funded will be provided at two levels for the first time - \$100,000 for established programs serving multiple counties and \$40,000 for emerging programs that require more guidance and assistance. OCF anticipates funding up to 8 programs throughout Ohio. 3. Domestic Violence Training: OCF staff worked with staff from the Center for Family Safety and Healing to provide Part II of Domestic Violence Training to the OCF funded Responsible Fatherhood grantees. OCF and the Center for Family Safety and Healing plan to continue to work together to ensure that all of the grantees are provided the tools to develop and implement a Domestic Violence Plan for their respective organizations. 4. International Fatherhood Conference: The Director attended the International Fatherhood Conference, which was hosted in Memphis, TN. The conference focus was on the past 20 years of Responsible Fatherhood Policy. The next International Fatherhood Conference will be held in Philadelphia. 	
VII. Adjournment	
12:00	The meeting adjourned and followed by thanks and recognition of Steve Killpack, a former OCF commissioner.