

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood  
Executive Director Report Summary  
September- November 2009 Meeting**

**Outreach:**

**Executive Director made presentations at the following:**

Fiscal Fitness for Fathers Conference with Treasurer's Office, Columbus, Ohio. (September 18, 2009).

Summit County Advance Fatherhood Initiative, Akron, Ohio. Summit County regional meeting addressed policy and best practices. (September 24, 2009).

Family Stability Conference, Columbus, Ohio. Master of Ceremony and co-sponsor. (October 8, 2009).

CDC Head Start of Franklin County, Columbus, Ohio. Tools For Success, introduced essential components of successful fathering including time management and leadership. (October 15, 2009).

Reynoldsburg High School, Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Facilitated panel of fathers for 11<sup>th</sup> grade English students in seven classes. Students generated questions to gain insights on the fatherhood. (November 6, 2009).

Columbus Urban League Head Start, Columbus, Ohio. Co-sponsored National Motivational Speaker Les Brown to discover the source of success and personal power. (November 10, 2009).

Summit on Children, Columbus, Ohio. Sponsored by Governor Strickland and Chief Justice Thomas Moyer. Facilitated round table discussions regarding father inclusion. (November 13, 2009).

**Briefings:**

Attended Engaging Fathers: Successful Models of Parent Leadership, Columbus, Ohio. (September 24, 2009).

Briefed Troy Lindsay, Director of Outreach, Children Services, Columbus, Ohio. (October 6, 2006).

Briefed Larry Wolpert, former state legislator on the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood purpose. Discussed issues of father absence and the economic impact. (October 14, 2009).

Briefed Joan Van Hull on the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood purpose and discussed implementing father engagement strategies and training for child welfare staff. (October 19, 2009).

Attended Raising the African-American Potential (RAAP) Leadership Advisory Committee at Columbus Public Health Department, Columbus, Ohio. Brainstorming on planning Black Family Conference for 2010. (November 5, 2009).

**Legislators:**

State Representative Derickson (R- 53rd District) Columbus (first term)  
Briefed Rep. Derickson on the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood purpose. Requested Representative Derickson to attend the OCF November meeting. (October 7, 2009).

White House Office on Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships meeting, Washington DC. Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, Ben Odell, Ruth Berry, Al Grimes and Tracy Robinson. Discussed national and Ohio fatherhood Initiatives. (November 9, 2009).

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood**

**Minutes from the Meeting of**

**Tuesday, September 15, 2009**

<p><b>Commissioners Present:</b></p> <p>Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman</p> <p>Mr. David Kontur, Vice Chairman</p> <p>Senator David Goodman</p> <p>Senator Ray Miller</p> <p>Mr. Robert Boykins</p> <p>Mr. Robert “Bo” Chilton</p> <p>Mr. Cedric Collins</p> <p>Director Angela Cornelius Dawson</p> <p>Ms. Rose Handon</p> <p>Eddie Joyce</p> <p>Dr. Diane Karther</p> <p>Mr. Steven Killpack</p> <p>Mr. Greg Landsman</p> <p>Mr. Joseph Maiorano</p> <p>Mr. Scott Neely</p>	<p><b>OCF Staff Present:</b></p> <p>Mr. J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director</p> <p>Ms. Monica Mahoney</p>
<p><b>Commissioners Represented by Designee:</b></p> <p>Representative Marian Harris (by Kelsey Woolard, Legislative Aide)</p> <p>Representative Ron Magg (by Michael Evans, Legislative Aide)</p> <p>Representative Carlton Weddington (by Amy Williams, Legislative Aide)</p>	<p><b>Guests:</b></p> <p>Senator Bill Seitz</p> <p>Mr. Jeffrey Coulter, Senator Miller’s Aide</p> <p>Ms. Erika Cybulskis, Senator Seitz’s Legislative Aide</p> <p>Mr. Derek Farmer, Esq.</p> <p>Mr. Aldonis Grimes, Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative</p> <p>Ms. Irene Lyons, Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections</p> <p>Mr. Patrick Maloney, Representative Derickson’s Legislative Aide</p>

**I. Call to Order & Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 am by Executive Director, Tracy Robinson. Chairman Peter Lawson Jones was en route and arrived shortly thereafter. A quorum was achieved.

**II. Introduction of New Commissioners**

Executive Director Tracy Robinson introduced our new commissioners, Senator David Goodman (R-3) and Director Angela Cornelius Dawson of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. Representative Ron Magg (R-35) could not attend because the House of Representatives was in session but he was represented by Michael Evans, his legislative aide. Executive Director Robinson thanked them for agreeing to serve on the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood.

**III. Approval of July 21, 2009 Minutes**

Commissioner Robert Boykins moved, with Commissioner Steve Killpack seconding, that the minutes from the meeting of July 21, 2009, be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Robinson provided a written summary of his activities in August and September, a synopsis of which is incorporated into these minutes.

Regarding the Request for Grant Applications ("RFGA"), Executive Director Robinson plans to fund nine programs at \$100,000 each over the state biennium. The RFGA review team will include Anthony Norwood from the Department of Jobs and Family Services' Contracts Office, Mathew Cunningham from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF"), Executive Director Robinson and one or two additional people selected by the JFS Contracts Office. At the

end of September, the team will meet to compare scores and rank the grant applicants. The Director would like to fund a mix of rural and urban programs in regions throughout the state. Grantees that are funded must collaborate with other organizations and provide direct services to at least twenty fathers a month. Grant money should be used primarily to provide direct services to fathers, not for the purchase of equipment.

#### **V. Overview of Senate Bill 22**

State Senator Bill Seitz (R-8) made a presentation on Senate Bill (SB) 22, a measure he has sponsored to address sentencing reform. One of our new commissioners, Senator Goodman, is a co-sponsor of the proposal. The OCF invited Senator Seitz to speak about the bill because one of the main provisions creates new sentencing alternatives for felony non-payment of child support, an issue that affects many fathers.

Senator Seitz explained that SB 22 contains four provisions designed to reduce dangerous overcrowding at Ohio's correctional facilities and ease the tremendous strain of incarceration on the state's budget and Ohio taxpayers. Democrats and Republicans can support the goals of SB22 which are to promote rehabilitation while saving money.

There are four main provisions of SB 22:

First, the measure would, if enacted, increase the threshold for felony theft from \$500 to \$750.

This threshold has not been raised since 1996, when it was increased from \$300 to \$500 pursuant to SB 2 from the 121<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. The increase from \$500 to \$750 is in line with inflation since 1996. This change will allow more low-level offenders to be placed in community correction programs, freeing hundreds of beds in the state's prisons for truly violent,

dangerous criminals. The Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (“DRC”) estimates this provision will empty 300 beds a year, which translates into annual dollar savings of \$1,294,290.

Secondly, if passed, SB 22 would increase from one to five days the amount of time an inmate can reduce his sentence for each month of completion of education courses, job training initiatives, treatment for substance abuse and other DRC-approved programs. Studies have shown that participation in earned credit programs reduces the likelihood of recidivism, thus resulting in future cost savings. Moreover, the ability to reduce one’s sentence provides a strong incentive for inmates to enroll in these valuable programs.

Senator Seitz stressed that this earned credit provision is not merely “good time.” Rather, the credit is earned only if the inmate successfully completes specific coursework and training in DRC-approved programs for each month that the credit is claimed. Sex offenders are not eligible for earned credit under current law nor would they be under SB 22. Also, most F-1 and F-2 offenders would not qualify for the earned credit; the program is targeted to F-3, F-4 and F-5 offenders. Increasing the potential earned credit from one to five days is estimated by DRC to empty 2,080 beds per year, which translates into an annual dollar savings of \$8,973,744.

Thirdly, SB 22 would provide the Adult Parole Authority (“APA”) more options in determining penalties for parolees who fail to report to their parole officers. By giving the APA more flexibility in such instances, we can keep offenders out of prison and ultimately reduce Ohio’s prison population. DRC estimates this provision will empty approximately 591 beds a year which will save the state \$2,549,751 annually.

Finally, SB 22 creates new sentencing alternatives for people who fail to pay child and other forms of support. In fiscal year 2008, 781 people were incarcerated solely for failure to pay

child support. Senate Bill 22 would divert these offenders from prison and into structured programs that focus on securing employment, building good behavioral skills and responsible parenting, and, most importantly, paying child support. The court will retain the authority to sentence the offender to prison. DRC estimates this provision of SB 22 will empty 527 beds annually and generate \$2,273,636 per year in cost savings.

Senator Seitz also distributed two July 2009 articles titled “Cutting Corrections Costs” from *State Legislatures*, the National Conference of State Legislatures magazine, and “The Fiscal Crisis in Corrections” from the Vera Institute of Justice. Both reports show that states are expanding the use of earned time policies and that these programs reduce recidivism while saving money.

Ohio state prisons are at 132% of capacity. In California where prisons are at 137% of capacity, the courts ordered a mass release of prisoners. While it is important for the legislature to continue to pass strong laws to help keep our communities safe, this effort must be balanced with policies that work to responsibly reduce Ohio’s prison population and its financial impact on taxpayers across the state. In total, the provisions of SB 22 are estimated by DRC to empty 3,498 beds a year and provide \$15,091,421 in annual cost savings.

The only steadfast opposition to SB 22 is from county prosecutors because of the earned credit expansion. Senator Seitz pointed out that this is not however, a return to “Good Time.” The measure requires prisoners to earn the credit by participating in DRC programs that have been shown to lower recidivism. The earned credit provision will only apply prospectively and will not be available to violent or sex offenders. Michael Evans, Representative Maag’s legislative

aide said that he would share this information with the representative, who has been concerned that the earned credit provision was a return to good time.

Senator Miller said that the Senate Democratic Caucus is supportive of SB22. Senator Seitz met with House Democrats in the Governor's office but they were reluctant to support SB 22 because Democrats do not want to be perceived as soft on crime. Senator Goodman said the bill includes many of the Governor's proposals, yet the House Democrats will not support it; he believes Speaker Budish has advised House Democrats to oppose SB 22. Chairman Jones said he will speak to Speaker Budish who also happens to be his state representative.

## **VI. Discussion and Decision**

### **A. Meeting of Legislative Subcommittee**

Commissioner Scott Neely reported on the first meeting of the OCF Legislative Subcommittee which took place on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The members of the subcommittee include our six legislators as well as Commissioners Collins, Killpack and Neely. The following action items resulted from the first meeting:

- OCF's legislative members will review proposed amendments to the OCF statute (O.R.C. 5101.34 et seq.) which were adopted unanimously at our meeting on March 24, 2009, prior to them being appointed to the OCF.
- They will introduce a bill codifying the amendments to O.R.C. 5101.34.
- They will add their OCF affiliation to their online profile.
- All subcommittee members will review Senate Bill 22 in preparation for Senator Seitz's presentation at our next OCF meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- A subcommittee calendar will be established with meetings occurring two weeks prior to the full commission sessions.

Chairman Jones asked if the Legislative Subcommittee has made recommendations as to whether the OCF should support SB 22. Senator Miller expressed his concern that OCF not become overtly political by endorsing specific bills. Commissioner Killpack said that OPNF formally endorsed SB22 at their meeting last week. Commissioner Rose Handon felt it was valuable to hear from speakers like Senator Seitz to educate the commissioners on important public policy issues that impact fathers. Senator Goodman said that the OCF can always testify and be involved in how a bill evolves. Regarding SB22, Commissioner Greg Landsman believes that, because the issues addressed by the bill speak to the mission of the OCF, the commission must support and advocate on behalf of fathers. Commissioner David Kontur agrees with Senator Miller that OCF should not take a specific position regarding legislation but should submit a written statement on how the bill will impact fathers. Chairman Jones agreed that the OCF not endorse specific legislation but that we express our position through interested party testimony.

Chairman Jones entertained a motion to draft a document on how SB 22 will positively impact fathers and families. Commissioner Cornelius Dawson so moved and Commissioner Handon seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Members of the Legislative Subcommittee will complete a draft prior to the next OCF meeting on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Federal Bill HR 2979/S 1309 Funding Responsible Fatherhood**

Commissioners Neely and Killpack provided a one page summary of the bills' highlights including funding job training programs for low income and non-custodial fathers. Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN) and Representative Danny Davis (D-IL) introduced similar measures in June. There are no Ohio co-sponsors in the U.S. House or Senate. Chairman Jones suggested that if the OCF is supportive of the legislation, we should draft a letter to our Ohio Congressional delegation urging them to co-sponsor the

legislation. Commissioner Maiorano moved, and Commissioner Killpack seconded that such a letter be drafted for joint signature by Chairman Jones and Executive Director Robinson.

## **VII. Announcements & New Business**

### **A. Ethics Training**

According to Executive Director Robinson, Governor Strickland's Executive Order 2007-01S requires all commissioners to complete ethics training once every two years. Commissioner Diane Karther suggested that we conduct the ethics training following an upcoming commission meeting. Monica Mahoney will obtain the training DVD from the Ohio Ethics Commission for viewing immediately following our next commission meeting on November 17.

### **B. Family Stability Conference**

Senator Ray Miller is convening a Family Stability Conference in Columbus on October 8th which will focus on reducing non-marital births and divorce rates, strengthening child welfare, increasing support for families and eliminating domestic violence. Senator Miller will invite practitioners and community leaders who are working on these social issues to attend. All OCF Commissioners will also be invited to participate. Senator Miller requested that commissioners forward to his office the contact information for people who should be invited to the conference. He hopes to have 250 attendees.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

**-DRAFT-**

November 17, 2009

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
Ohio Senate  
Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Senate Bill 22

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_ :

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF) was established by the General Assembly in 1999 to enhance the well being of Ohio's children by inspiring and supporting diverse groups and communities to improve the quality of fatherhood. One of the important statutory duties of the Commission is to provide services to incarcerated fathers, or who have just been released from imprisonment, so that these fathers are able to maintain or reestablish their relationships with their families.

There are currently over 51,000 offenders incarcerated in Ohio's prisons, and many more in Ohio's jails, and other detention facilities. The state's prison population is projected to continue to grow to nearly 56,000 offenders by July of 2018. There are already over 50,000 children in Ohio that have a parent behind bars. As policymakers you are aware of the tremendous fiscal and human costs associated with incarceration, especially the impact on children and families. Without changes to Ohio's sentencing laws, the state will eventually be forced to spend hundreds of millions of dollars of new tax dollars to build and operate more prisons, diverting scarce state resources from education and other vital social services, and adversely impacting Ohio's children of incarcerated parents.

The OCF has recently reviewed legislation sponsored by Senator Bill Seitz **Senate Bill 22**, which contains a number of "common sense sentencing reforms" which we believe can have a positive impact in slowing and eventually reducing the growth in Ohio's prison population. The bill would modify sentencing laws to provide Ohio's courts with enhanced sentencing options designed to allow additional low level offenders (ie. drug, theft, non support) to receive punishments and treatment in their local communities, while remaining employed, paying taxes, and staying connected to their children and families. The bill encourages judges to sentence non support offenders to innovative local programs funded by the state, which have been proven to increase employment and support payments, while reducing prison commitments.

The legislation also contains important provisions to incentivize participation in educational, substance abuse, and employment training prison programming, through a modest expansion of earned credit from the existing one day per month to a maximum of five days per month. These programs are documented to reduce the rate of return to prison, and reduce future victimization. Serious and assaultive offenders are restricted from receiving these credits. The bill also establishes a judicial sentence review provision for offenders who have served at least 85% of their sentences who have followed prison rules and have undertaken positive rehabilitative efforts.

Please find attached a more thorough analysis of Senate Bill 22 which outlines many of the positive benefits of the legislation. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Governor Strickland, and a diverse group of stakeholders support the bill's enactment. The bill was passed in June by the Senate Judiciary Committee by a bipartisan vote, and has recently begun hearings in the House Criminal Justice Committee.

The Commission would respectfully urge your strong consideration of Senate Bill 22 in the current legislative session.

Sincerely,

Peter Lawson Jones  
Chairman, OCF

J. Tracy Robinson  
Executive Director, OCF

State Senator Ray Miller  
Commissioner, OCF

State Senator David Goodman  
Commissioner, OCF

Representative Ron Maag  
Commissioner, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Representative Marian Harris  
Commissioner, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Representative Kevin Bacon  
Commissioner, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Representative Carlton Weddington  
Commissioner, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood



# Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

770 West Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43222

Ted Strickland, Governor

[www.drc.ohio.gov](http://www.drc.ohio.gov)

Terry Collins, Director

## Summary of Major Provisions and Impact Substitute Senate Bill 22 as reported by Senate Judiciary Committee November 17, 2009

### I. Provisions contained in Introduced Version:

#### Earned Credit

##### **Impact to fathers and families**

- An increase from one to five days earned credit per month for certain offenders will provide additional incentives to participate in educational, substance abuse, and job skills training.
- Studies have shown that participation in these programs increases employment, and lowers the likelihood of return to prison, thereby keeping offenders in the local community and preventing disruptions to families and children.

##### **Enhance Public Safety**

- Earned credit program participation lowers future crime rates and victimization.
- Frees up law enforcement staff to focus on preventing criminal behavior, community policing, etc.

##### **Cost and Population Impact**

- Projected annual prison bed savings of 1,270.
- Projected annual marginal cost savings of \$5.5 million.
- Increased employment enables more fathers to pay taxes, and reduces burden on other social services.
- Savings to criminal justice system for fewer arrests, trial costs, cost of criminal justice sanctions, etc.

#### Increase in theft threshold

##### **Impact to fathers and families**

- Increase in theft thresholds will result in more offenders being sentenced as misdemeanants rather than as felons.
- Will enable more offenders to be sentenced to alternative community sanctions, to remain employed, receive treatment and to continue to support and stay unified with their families.

##### **Enhance Public Safety**

- Fewer offenders sentenced to prison will reserve expensive beds for violent and predatory offenders ensuring lengthy prison stays for those persons.

##### **Cost and Population Impact**

- Projected annual prison bed savings of 440.
- Projected annual marginal cost savings of \$1.9 million.
- Increased employment enables more fathers to pay taxes, and reduces burden on other social services.

## **Non Payment of Support**

### **Impact to fathers and families**

- Authorizes judges to give preference to sentencing non support offenders to alternative community sanctions if they exist.
- Placement in successful DRC Community Correction Act pilot programs has resulted in increased support payments to children, decreased prison commitments, and improved parenting skills thereby strengthening families and communities.

### ***Enhance Public Safety***

- Parents who are employed, supporting their children, and provided appropriate treatment and counseling programs will reoffend less, making their and our communities safer.

### ***Cost and Population Impact***

- Projected annual prison bed savings of 263.
- Projected annual marginal cost savings of \$1.1 million.
- Savings to criminal justice system for fewer arrests, trial costs, cost of criminal justice sanctions, etc.

## **Absconding Supervision**

### **Impact to fathers and families**

- Authorizes Adult Parole Authority to utilize existing sanctioning authority including potential return to prison for offenders who fail to comply with their terms of supervision.
- Reduction in return rates to prison will allow more offenders to remain in the community, retain employment, pay taxes, and stay connected to their families.

### ***Enhance Public Safety***

- The Adult Parole Authority has a number of sanctioning options up to and including return to prison on existing charges that can hold offenders accountable and ensure public safety.

### ***Cost and Population Impact***

- Projected annual prison bed savings of 480.
- Projected annual marginal cost savings of \$2 million.

## **II. New Provisions Added in Substitute Bill:**

### **DRC Petition for 85% Release**

#### **Impact to fathers and families**

- Allows Director of DRC to petition sentencing court for judicial release of inmate who has a stated prison term longer than one year who has served at least 85% of their sentence.
- Provides hope to some longer sentenced inmates and a positive incentive for good behavior and productive programming.
- Inmates who courts determine are appropriate for release will be reintegrated sooner with their families and children.

#### ***Enhance Public Safety***

- Judges will release appropriate offenders who have exhibited positive achievements in prison, and who they deem to not be at risk of reoffending. Requires all Felony 1 and 2 offenders to be supervised on GPS monitoring for the remainder of their sentences.

#### **Cost and Population Impact**

- Projected annual prison bed savings of 500.

- Projected annual marginal cost savings of over \$700,000. Assumes deduction of \$1.4 million for annual costs of GPS supervision for Felony 1 and 2 offenders.

### **Equalization of Crack and Powder Penalties**

#### **Impact to fathers and families**

- Eliminates the distinction between criminal penalties for drug offenses involving crack and powder cocaine, which disproportionately affects African American fathers and families.

#### **Enhance Public Safety**

- Increases powder cocaine penalties up to the level of crack cocaine for the worst traffickers (Felony 1 major drug offenders). Utilizes a blended approach at other levels (lowering most crack cocaine penalties, and raising most powder cocaine penalties.)

#### **Cost and Population Impact**

- Projected annual prison bed savings of 345.
- Projected annual marginal cost savings of \$1.5 million.

### **Treatment in Lieu of Conviction**

#### **Impact to fathers and families**

- Expands eligibility for repeat offenders without prior felony offense and persons charged with specified theft and other offenses. Makes low level drug traffickers and felony 4 drug possession offenses eligible for TIL.
- Provides additional chances for treatment for those who are drug addicted. Research shows that many offenders relapse multiple times in treatment prior to success.
- Will allow more offenders to remain in the community, retain employment, pay taxes, and stay connected to their families while receiving treatment for their addictions.

#### **Enhance Public Safety**

- Fewer low level offenders sentenced to prison will free up expensive beds for violent and predatory offenders ensuring lengthy prison stays for those persons.

#### **Cost and Population Impact**

- Projected annual prison bed savings of 40.
- Projected annual marginal cost savings of over \$170,000.

### **Mandatory Drug Provisions**

#### **Impact to fathers and families**

- Potentially shorter mandatory terms for trafficking in marijuana and hashish, and possession of hashish and marijuana.
- Provides additional chances for community treatment for those who are drug addicted.
- Will allow more offenders to remain in the community, retain employment, pay taxes, and stay connected to their families while receiving treatment for their addictions.

#### **Enhance Public Safety**

- Fewer low level offenders sentenced to prison will free up expensive beds for violent and predatory offenders ensuring lengthy prison stays for those persons.
- Will enable more offenders to be sentenced to alternative community sanctions, to remain employed, receive treatment and to continue to support and stay unified with their families

#### **Cost and Population Impact**

- Projected annual prison bed savings of 190.
- Projected annual marginal cost savings of over \$800,000.

## **The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition**

Ohio is committed to assisting offenders as they reenter the state's communities in an effort to become law-abiding and productive citizens. In December 2008, the Ohio General Assembly passed a historic piece of reentry legislation, *House Bill 130*. HB130 offers a framework for a long-term investment in the state's economy by addressing legal and other barriers to employment for people released from prison. A key component of the legislation is the formation of an Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (hereafter the "Reentry Coalition") that will serve as a guiding hub for expanding and improving reentry efforts across state and local agencies and communities.

The mission of the Reentry Coalition is to ensure successful offender reentry, reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. The Coalition will achieve these goals through collaborative partnerships with government entities, faith and community-based organizations, and other stakeholders. It will utilize a holistic, evidence-based approach that starts at the point of contact with the criminal justice system and is inclusive of an emphasis on education, families, health services, alcohol and drug treatment, employment, mentorship and housing.

The membership of the Reentry Coalition is comprised of the following agencies: the Departments of Rehabilitation and Correction, Aging, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Commerce, Development, Education, Health, Job and Family Services, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Public Safety, Youth Services, and the Ohio Board of Regents, the Governor's Office of Faith-Based Community Initiatives, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, and a representative from the Ohio Health Care Licensing Board. Community and faith-based organizations, service providers, local governments, and individuals interested or involved in the reentry of offenders will be invited to participate in the mission of the Coalition.

The member agencies of the Reentry Coalition are uniquely positioned to draw on human and social capital from many sources, as well as target the impact of incarceration now and on future generations of Ohio citizens and families. The collaborations established with its support will enable state and local agencies to become proactive rather than reactive in their approach to offender treatment, service delivery, and public safety. These investments made at all levels of government and through vibrant community partnerships will create opportunities and dividends for offenders, families, victims, and neighborhoods across the state.

For more information, go to the following website: [www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov/](http://www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov/).

# WinWin Academy

A new Response-able Reintegration model community school  
to serve students from prison to community reintegration

## Summary

### Problem:

Thousands of youthful, short term offenders (age 18-22), who have dropped out of high school are released into the community annually. These offenders do not have the critical thinking skills or the education to be successful and will likely continue a life of crime.

### WinWin Academy high school:

1. Offers educational continuity from prison through community reentry.
2. Infuses innovative, evidence-based curricula into traditional high school curricula
3. Instructional approach pairs licensed teachers with (formerly incarcerated) restored citizens called, "Thinking-Aides"

### Summary:

One school: **The WinWin Academy**

Three campuses: (1) Men's Prison, (1) Women's Prison, (1) Columbus Community

The WinWin Academy provides a researched-based non-traditional educational model for criminal justice in a drop-out recovery and reentry high school context for short-term youthful offenders. Inmate-students earn high school credits in prison and complete their high school diploma after release in the (Columbus) community.

The school's innovative instructional approach pairs licensed teachers with "Thinking-Aides", formerly incarcerated graduates of WinWin Inc.'s educational model. These Thinking-Aides have demonstrated their new thinking, behaviors and skills and they use their personal experiences as authentic and effective interventions.

This model will be the first of its kind in this country.

### Student Eligibility

- 18-22 years old, working toward achieving High School Diploma
- 6 months or more remaining on prison sentence
- a minimum of 10 previously earned high school credits
- Previously enrolled in an Ohio school system
- Self-selected student choice for *WinWin Academy* enrollment
- Willing to reside in Franklin County until diploma is earned
- Men: Incarcerated at the Pickaway Correctional Institution
- Women: Incarcerated at the Ohio Reformatory for Women Correctional Institution

### Student Benefits

Earn high school diploma (college prep. and career tech.)

Learn new ways of thinking and the skills to apply new constructive behaviors

**From:** MONICA MAHONEY  
**To:** Legislative Subcommittee  
**Date:** 11/4/2009 12:15 PM  
**Subject:** Follow up from Legislative Subcommittee Meeting today  
**Attachments:** Fed legislation Repsonible Fatherhood. house version.doc; Fed legislation Repsonible Fatherhood. senate.doc; Agenda Nov. 4, 2009.doc; Legislative - Meetings.xls

Thank you for coming to the meeting this morning. We accomplished a lot. The Action Items that came out of today's meeting are:

1) Letter to Ohio Congressional Delegation

- > Review draft (attached below)
- > Let me know if your Representative or Senator is willing to sign.
- > I will print on letterhead and Amy Williams will get signatures of House Members
- > Nicole Harper will get Senator Miller and Goodman's signatures

2) ORC statute changes

- > Michael Evans and Amy Williams dropped the bill in the clerk's office this morning
- > They will email Subcommittee bill number once assigned and keep us posted of committee assignments and hearings as bill progresses
- > Senator Miller will speak with Senator Goodman and other Republican Senators to see if willing to co-sponsor Senate version of the bill

3) SB 22 Position Paper

- > Scott Neely has drafted a position paper on how SB 22 impacts fathers and families
- > Scott will email Tracy a draft - Director Collins will present it at our Nov. 17 meeting
- > Scott drafting cover letter for the Commission to approve and sign at the Nov. 17 meeting

4) Media Strategy for RFGA award announcement

- > Senator Miller will reach out to Angela Pace to find out best time of day for press conference
- > Tracy will invite Director Lumpkin to attend all grant announcements
- > OCF staff will identify legislators, mayors, commissioners, community leaders such as pastors, Urban League, Community Action Agency) where grant recipients located
- > OCF staff will contact media outlets and JFS communications office

5) Agency Directors to speak at future OCF Meetings

- > Cedric Collins will ask Director Strickrath to speak at our Feb. 4 OCF meeting
- > Invite Directors of all State Departments represented on the OCF to speak at future meetings:
  - ODADAS: Cornelius Dawson - serves on OCF
  - ODRC: Collins - speaking on Nov. 17
  - ODYS: Strickrath - Cedric will invite for Feb. 4
  - ODH: Jackson - Tracy meeting with him Dec. 8 - invite for April 1
  - ODJFS: Lumpkin - Tracy will speak with him re grant announcements
  - CFF: Francis Strickland ?

Please let me know if I left anything out.

Thank you.