

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Minutes from the Meeting of Thursday, April 20, 2017

Attendance	
Commissioners	Senator Bill Beagle Director Susan Brown Representative Hearcel Craig Mr. Mike Davis Mr. David Frash Mr. Ron George Mr. Joseph Hill Mr. Scott Neely Director Ann Ream Mr. John Silverman Senator Cecil Thomas Mr. Socrates Tuch Mr. Tarik White Senator Cecil Thomas
Presenters	Dr. Brian Moore, Passages Mr. Steve Killpack, OPNFF Harold Howard-Talbert House
Guests	Ms. Allison Glasgow, GOFBCI Mr. Ruben Hernandez, LA Senator Thomas Ms. Damita Perry, ODYS Ms. Traci Bell-Thomas, Medicaid (IM Project Lead) Mr. Mark Dodley, Columbus Urban League (CUL) Mr. Oletha Waugh, CUL
OCF Staff	Director Kimberly Dent Ms. Monica Mahoney

I.	
10:00-10:05	Senator Bill Beagle

Sen. Bill Beagle called the meeting to order, welcomed our guests, and invited all attending to introduce themselves. Newly appointed members attending for the first time were Senator Cecil Thomas and Representative Hearcel Craig.

II. Approval of February 16, 2017 Minutes	
10:05-10:10	Senator Bill Beagle

The minutes from February 16th were approved as submitted.

III. Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative	
10:10-11:10	Dr. Brian Moore and Steve Killpack

Director Kimberly Dent, Dr. Brian Moore and Mr. Steve Killpack spoke about the Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative. Staff from the Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families are serving as coaches for the four counties currently being trained on how to create a sustainable fatherhood initiative (Butler, Clinton, Delaware and Portage). Dr. Moore is both the county lead and coach for Portage County.

The PowerPoint Presentation can be found on the OCF website.

Senator Beagle asked if it is difficult to identify a local fatherhood champion. Mr. Killpack responded that this is a critical piece for sustainability; once the training is completed and seed money is spent counties that successfully identify a fatherhood champion are able to continue the work of promoting responsible fatherhood. Director Dent mentioned that a positive development from the County Initiative trainings is that a few counties have created a new position for “fatherhood specialists” in their county JFS offices (Michael Patton in Hamilton, Mike Newsome in Montgomery and Scott Barwick in Stark County).

Senator Thomas suggested that the counties who leverage the seed money should be seeking matching funds from local businesses and foundations. He recommended Cincinnati’s Asset Forfeiture Fund and Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Both have in excess of \$1 million and are required to reinvest 15-20% of their funds in the community. Senator Thomas also recommended that counties consider paying fatherhood champions a stipend to assist in keeping them involved. Many of these men have “been there and done that” and while they may not have financial resources they have the life experience and passion that allows them to connect to the young disengaged fathers many counties are trying to reach. He also mentioned that local football and baseball coaches as potential fatherhood champions.

Mr. John Silverman said that a fatherhood champion who is compensated for his efforts is not as effective as a man who volunteers his time and money. This type of leadership is more compelling to community foundations in Mr. Silverman's opinion. Mr. Socrates Tuch believes that a nonpaid volunteer is not always the best advocate for the program and may not have access to complementary resources.

Mr. Ron George stated that from the faith-based perspective, religious organizations can play a vital role in sustainability because they act as a bridge between government and the community. Faith-based groups could pay a stipend to community fatherhood champions.

IV. NBNF Grantee Talbert House	
11:10-11:40	Harold Howard

Mr. Harold Howard of Talbert House spoke about Talbert's role in the New Beginnings for New Fathers (NBNF) federal project. According to Mr. Howard, one of the unique aspects of Talbert's services compared to the other three fatherhood programs working on NBNF is that Talbert offers services to mothers through a contract with Beech Acres. They have had difficulty recruiting mothers but hopes that will change as Talbert receives referrals from home-visiting agencies like Help Me Grow.

Senator Thomas asked how many of the fathers enrolled in NBNF are employed with a job that provides a livable wage. Mr. Howard responded that he estimates that 85% of the fathers they serve are unemployed. One of the aspects of NBNF is that fathers can be enrolled in a 12 week paid internship in which OCF pays \$4 an hour towards the father's wage.

Senator Thomas suggested that Talbert partner with the building trades because they are looking for apprentices that they can train for skilled, long-term employment. Senator Beagle said he also has contacts with local trades in the Dayton area. Mr. Tarik White suggested that NBNF partner with local community colleges that can train fathers in high demand sectors and that many of the Workforce Development offices have relationships with local community colleges to do this. Representative Hearcel Craig stated that the trades are an entry point to ladders of success that can allow fathers to contribute to their families' long-term economic stability.

Mr. Mike Davis said that ODRC was recently awarded a three year federal grant to assist men ages 18-24 who are being released from prison and returning to Cuyahoga, Franklin and Hamilton counties to find long-term employment. Mr. Davis said he will contact Director Dent about partnering with the NBNF fatherhood programs.

The PowerPoint Presentation can be found on the OCF website.

V. June is Responsible OCF Fatherhood Month	
11:40- 11:50	Kimberly Dent

Director Dent updated commissioners on applicants selected for funding “June is Responsible Fatherhood Month “in June 2017. Thirty-five organizations applied and eleven were selected for funding. Director Dent requested that commissioners volunteer to speak during these events. The following commissioners agreed to represent the commission at one of the June events:

APPLICANT	EVENT DATE / TIME	COUNTY	COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE
West Ohio Community Action Partnership	June 3 / 1PM-3PM	Auglaize	Bill Beagle
CSEA Columbiana County	June 11 / 12PM-3PM	Columbiana	
Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland	June 3 / 11AM-4PM	Cuyahoga	Joseph Hill
NAAM Wellness Walk Initiative	June 15 / 5PM-8PM	Franklin	Tarik White and Ron George
ForeverDads	June 11 / 2PM-5PM	Guernsey	Chad Hibbs
Eye of the Artists Foundation	June 9 / 7PM-9PM	Hamilton	Cecil Thomas
United Returning Citizens, Inc. (URC)	June 17 / 10AM-6PM	Mahoning	Mike Davis
Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.	June 23 / 10AM-3PM	Montgomery	Bill Beagle
Montgomery County Dept. of Job & Family Services	June 17 / 11AM-4PM	Montgomery	Ron George
Passages Connecting Fathers & Sons	June 17 / 12PM-4PM	Portage	Scott Neely
CASA Board Volunteer Association	June 10 / 1PM-4PM	Summit	Ann Ream

VI. OCF Director’s Report	
11:50- 11:59	Kimberly Dent

Director Dent updated commissioners all OCF activities since the previous meeting. Some of the highlights include:

1. RFGA – 14 proposals received. Thanks to OCF commissioners review team

2. June is Responsible Fatherhood Month – waiting for resolution. Dry erase boards will be at each event and will take photos and post on OCF website
3. Star CJC – pilot project to work with fathers releasing into Scioto and Lawrence Counties to help them reintegrate
4. Working with Medicaid, ODH and Governor’s Office on working to reduce Infant Mortality
5. Building Bridges event in Butler County – Director Susan Brown provided a workshop on history of child support program and how it has evolved beyond traditional enforcement tools. Work with families in a different way. Senator Thomas asked if the office of child support has considered allowing fathers to repay child support arrears through volunteering. Director Brown said many rules child support rules about what is permissible come from the federal office. Waiver and compromise of arrearages is being used in more Ohio county Child Support Enforcement Agencies, especially if dad is involved in a fatherhood program.

Director Dent’s report is posted on the OCF website.

VII. Announcements and New Business	
11:59-12:10	Senator Bill Beagle

Director Dent announced that the June OCF meeting has been canceled to allow commissioners to attend “June is Responsible Fatherhood” events.

Senator Beagle said that he is a primary sponsor for SB125 which seeks to modernize the child support guidelines in Ohio. Director Brown has worked closely with Senator Beagle to address many of the challenges in the current guidelines. The current guidelines are over 25 years old. SB125 would address many of the inequities contained within the current guidelines and would give more flexibility to county CSEAs to work with low income populations. For example, under the current provisions of the Consumer Credit Protection Act (CCPA - federal law), CSEA can garnish up to 65% of a noncustodial parents’ wages which has the effect of driving fathers back to the underground economy. The guidelines bill contains a “self-sufficiency reserve” which would mitigate the impact of the CCPA.

The OCF Executive Committee would like to invite directors of state agencies represented in the commission to attend future commission meetings and to speak for approximately 30 minutes about fatherhood initiatives at their agencies. Scott Neely will be the first to present about the Children’s Hunger Alliance. OCF staff will contact other agency designees to schedule a time for their directors to present at a future commission meeting. III. Adjourn

VIII. Adjourn	
12:10	Meeting Adjourned