

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Minutes from the Meeting of Thursday, April 21, 2016**

Attendance	
Commissioners	<p> Senator Bill Beagle Representative Michael Ashford Director Susan Brown Representative Nicholas Celebrezze Representative Bill Hayes Mr. Joseph Hill Representative Stephen Huffman Mr. Scott Neely Director Ann Ream Mr. Socrates Tuch Mr. Tarik White </p>
Presenters	<p> Elizabeth Ellis – No Kidding Ohio Artis Gains – Centers for Families & Children Angela Harris – No Kidding Ohio Brandy Smurr – No Kidding Ohio </p>
Guests	<p> Vida Cannon Pam Bradford Matthew Cunningham Elizabeth Ellis Dan Fitzpatrick Artis Gains Angela Harris Lori Painter Pastor Eugene Norris Brandy Smurr Diana Spurgus </p>
OCF Staff	<p> Director Kimberly Dent Ms. Terena Arnold </p>

I. Call to Order & Welcome New Commissioners	
10:00-10:10	Senator Bill Beagle, Scott Neely
Senator Beagle called the meeting to order, welcomed our guests, and invited all attending to introduce themselves.	
II. Approval of February 11, 2016 Minutes	
10:10-10:11	
The minutes from February 11, 2016 were approved as submitted.	
III. Bylaws Revisions	
10:11-10:15	
According to the bylaws:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners are required to complete the Ohio Ethics Law training annually. • Only Executive sessions can be closed to the public. • The standing committees of the commission shall be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Executive Committee -The Fiscal/Funding Committee -The Summit Committee 	
Senator Beagle motioned that the bylaw revisions be accepted.	
Representative Celebrezze seconded the motion.	
Revisions were unanimously accepted by the commissioners present.	
Kimberly Dent, in regards to the Fiscal Committee, raised questions as to what the committee would be able and expected to do, i.e. draft RFGA(s). However, once the RFGA is drafted commissioners should not be involved. The existence of the Fiscal Committee has already been voted on and approved; responsibilities of the committee and manner by which one becomes a member of the committee has been determined.	
IV. No Kidding Ohio	
10:15-10:45	Elizabeth Ellis, Angela Harris, Brandy Smurr
Angela Harris, Elizabeth Ellis, and Brandi Smurr talked about their No Kidding Ohio program which includes “Straight Talk from Teen Parents”, to prevent premature pregnancy in middle and high school teens. No Kidding Ohio now has a fatherhood component. The program has premature fatherhood prevention potential and this type of programming is not taking place anywhere else in the state. Topics covered in the presentation include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Kidding Ohio Curriculum • Information about their recruitment process • Program Impact information • Pre and Post Assessment Results for 2013-2015 • Counties served 	
Power Point Presentation can be found on the OCF website.	

V. OCF Grantee, Centers for Families & Children

10:45-11:15 Vita Cannon, Artis Gains, Lori Long, and

Artis Gains, OCF grantee from Centers for Families & Children presented the grantee report for the fatherhood programs at their agency. The Power Point presentation can be found on the OFC website. Topics covered in the presentation include:

- History of Program
- Program Mission
- Target Demographic
- Referrals
- Curriculum
- Program Services

Power Point Presentation can be found on the OCF website.

VI. Julia Carson Bill OCF Letter

11:15-11:30 Kimberly Dent / Susan Brown

Director Susan Brown explained in detail the Response to H.R. 3005: Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Health Families Act of 2015. She opened with the intent of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services county child support programs and their strengths.

Director Brown explained the criteria for using imputed income in determining child support, and that defaulting to minimum wage automatically, may not be a realistic expectation in some situations. Director Brown highlighted several factors that the court and other agencies must consider when determining a child support order:

- Parent's prior employment experience
- Parent's education
- Physical / mental disabilities
- Availability of employment in geographic area
- Where the child resides
- Parent's special skills and training
- Whether there is evidence that the parent can impute income
- Age and special needs of the child
- Parent's increased earning capacity because of experience
- Parent's decreased earning capacity because of a felony conviction or any other relevant factor

All of which may vary by county.

In accordance with division (I) of section 3119.05 of the Revised Code, unless it is not in the best interest of the child, a CSEA shall not determine a parent to be voluntarily unemployed or under employed and shall not impute income to that parent if the parent is receiving recurring monetary income from means-tested public assistance benefits or the parent is incarcerated or institutionalized for a period of twelve months or more with no other available assets, unless the parent is incarcerated for an offense relating to the abuse or neglect of a child who is the subject of the support order.

Director Brown explained the importance of “right sizing” child support orders and that the process of modifying obligations is inhibited due to lack of parental involvement and often times parents do not complete and return paper work.

Other points Director Brown discussed in detail:

- The consideration of income and employment status, including efforts to identify unreported income
- The benefits to utilizing behavioral economics
- The consideration of incarceration and disability
- The treatment of arrearages, forgiveness, adjustment, waiver, or compromise of arrears owed to the State by low-income noncustodial parents.
- The procedures related to retroactive support
- State pass-through and disregard policies for recipients of means-tested public benefits

Director Kimberly Dent summarized Director Cynthia Dungy’s report in response to the Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2015. Key points in Director Dungy’s report:

- How \$10 million grant addresses employment
 - Helps with self sufficiency
 - Addresses the hard to employ population
- Barriers
 - No high school diploma
 - Co-parenting relationships
 - Financial literacy
- Waiver & Compromise
 - Administrative Code
 - Counties and State look more towards the compromise option as opposed to the waiver
- “Right Sizing” Child Support
 - Guidelines bill 262
 - “Right sizing” child support orders allow the orders to become manageable for the non-custodial parent
 - On the front end, child support orders are more realistic.

VI. Executive Director Report	
11:30-11:50	Kimberly Dent
<p>Director Dent’s report is posted on the OCF website. The main item the Director highlighted was actions related to the New Pathways for Fathers & Families Federal Grant. OCF is one of two recipients in Ohio of a federal fatherhood grant from HHS/AFC. The OCF project is called “New Beginnings for New Fathers” (NBNF). OCF will partner with four fatherhood programs (Action for Children, Passages, Talbert House and Urban Light Ministries) to provide services in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Clark, Montgomery, and Hamilton counties. Services will focus on economic stability, responsible parenting and healthy marriage and relationships. The grant is scheduled to be funded for 5 years with OCF to receive approximately \$2 million per year. OCF continues to make progress during the planning phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCF continues to work with Contracts and Acquisition to obtain agreements and purchase orders for Ohio University and The Ohio State University Extension Financial Literacy program. • OFA/Commission on Fatherhood scheduled interviews for the Project Manager and Researcher 2 positions. • OCF staff provided a presentation to ODRC staff regarding potential referrals and connections between the ODRC facilities and the NBNF fatherhood programs. • Subsequent meetings will be scheduled to ensure that the re-entering fathers who meet the criteria under the grant requirements are connected to the fatherhood program serving their areas. <p>Other items from the Director’s Report that Director Dent highlighted include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCF staff has been participating in ODRC-sponsored “community conversations”. • Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality (OCPIM): OCF staff participated in monthly Steering Committee conference call. Recommendations from the seven strategy groups were draft to be sent to Senator Jones. • OCF staff participated in a site visit at the Columbus Urban League (CUL) to discuss ongoing services provided by CUL and Moms2B participants • CUL will be presenting at the next OCF Commissioners meeting • OCF Facebook Page Launch – please “Like” us on Facebook and if ever you post about OCF, the Commission, fathers in Ohio and Fatherhood activities please post #OhioFatherhood 	
VII. Action Items	
11:50-11:55	Scott Neely
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commissioners’ responses to Julia Carson Bill 2. Kim follow up on Infant Mortality piece 3. Terena will send out June Responsible Fatherhood event dates to all commissioners 	

VIII. Announcements and New Business	
11:55-12:00	Kimberly Dent
<p>May 25 & 26 State Fatherhood Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -General Admission only a few registration slots left -Program at a Glance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -FRPN Workshop Temple University May 25th -Networking opportunity on May 25th -May 26th programming and Workshops <p>-June is Responsible Fatherhood Month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mini Grant Awarded programs -Appeal to commissioners to attend the events <p>Request for Commissioners' bios for OCF website</p>	
IX. Adjourn	
12:00	Meeting Adjourned