

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Minutes from the Meeting of

Thursday, December 1, 2011

<p>Commissioners Present:</p> <p>David Kontur, Vice Chairman</p> <p>Senator Bill Beagle</p> <p>Mr. Robert Boykins</p> <p>Director Susan Brown</p> <p>Mr. Cedric Collins</p> <p>Ms. Kimberly Dent</p> <p>Representative Timothy Derickson</p> <p>Ms. Kimberly Hettel</p> <p>Mr. Thomas Joyce</p> <p>Mr. Steven Killpack</p> <p>Mr. James Lapczynski</p> <p>Dr. Randy Leite</p> <p>Mr. Scott Neely</p> <p>Senator Charleta Tavares</p>	<p>Guests:</p> <p>Councilman Kevin Conwell, Cleveland City Council</p> <p>Mr. Winston Gregg, CEO, M.H.A.F.</p> <p>Ms. Tamara Howard, Legislative Aide for Representative Carlton Weddington</p> <p>Dr. Teresa Julian, Ohio University</p> <p>Mr. Peter Lawson Jones</p> <p>Ms. Jenelle Donovan-Lyle, ODJFS Legislative Liaison</p> <p>Timothy McCanley, Legislative Intern for Senator Charleta Tavares</p> <p>Mr. David Salisbury, Legislative Aide for Representative Jeffrey McClain</p> <p>Dr. Solveis Spjeldness, Ohio University</p>
<p>OCF Staff Present:</p> <p>Ms. Monica Mahoney</p> <p>Ms. Whitney Logan</p>	

I. Call to Order & Welcome

Vice Chairman David Kontur, (“Vice Chairman Kontur”) called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m. Vice Chairman Kontur introduced himself and welcomed our guests.

II. Approval of September 8, 2011 Minutes

Commissioner Kimberly Dent moved, with Commissioner Randy Leite seconding, that the minutes from the meeting of September 8, 2011, be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

III. OCF Fatherhood Grants and RFGA 2011-2013 Update

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (“OCF”) Request for Grant Application (RFGA) 2011-2013 was released November 3, 2011. OCF plans to award a total of \$600,000 among eight programs at \$75,000 per year for two years. Responses to the RFGA are due Friday, December 2, 2011. Matthew Cunningham, TANF Interagency Section Chief, stated that the Office of Contracts and Acquisitions will do a preliminary review of all applications to make sure they meet the required elements of the RFGA. Mr. Cunningham stated that he is assembling the grant review team which will include members of his department and fatherhood staff. He invited commissioners to participate on the review team if their schedules were compatible with the team meeting timetable. Commissioner Kimberly Dent expressed interest in participating. Vice Chairman Kontur asked whether the grants amount awarded will increase during the second year since the first fiscal year of the grant award will end on June 30, 2012. According to Mr. Cunningham, the Office of Contracts and Acquisitions will prorate the award for the first year of funding and cannot increase the award for the second year beyond the \$75,000 promised in the RFGA. Any unused money will be returned to the state and used to fund other TANF programs, primarily cash assistance.

IV. 2011 Grantees Evaluation

Commissioner Randy Leite brought two of his colleagues from Ohio University, Dr. Teresa Julian and Dr. Solveis Spjeldness to the meeting. They are assisting Dr. Leite to analyze the data from the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI) assessments provided by the grantees funded by the last RFGA. Before and after a father participated in an OCF funded program, grantees were required to administer the AAPI which assesses parenting and child-rearing attitudes of adult and adolescent parent and non-parent populations. Based on the known behaviors of abusive parents, responses to the AAPI provide an index of risk for practicing parenting behaviors known to contribute to the maltreatment of children. Responses to the AAPI target five specific parenting and child-rearing behaviors: Inappropriate Expectations of Children; Parental Lack of Empathy; Strong Belief in the Use of Corporal Punishment; Reversing Parent-Child Roles; and Oppressing Children's Power and Independence.

Dr. Julian stated that much of the data obtained is unreliable because the AAPI was not administered uniformly. Moreover, Dr. Leite and Dr. Julian did not think the AAPI was the ideal assessment tool to evaluate fatherhood program effectiveness. Dr. Julian would like to contact the grantees and review the actual AAPI forms they completed if the forms are still available. Monica Mahoney said she would provide the contact information to Dr. Leite following the meeting.

According to Dr. Leite, one of the difficulties moving forward would be to develop a set of questions that would appropriately apply across all programs. This is largely due to the wide diversity of programmatic approaches and target audiences. Dr. Leite suggests the following approach to evaluation across all programs.

First, programs should be required to identify a set of quantitative measures associated with each of the stated program goals as delineated in the grant application. This should include one to four measures for each goal. Reports on these measures may be solicited monthly with the program's final evaluation report also being built around these individually-tailored measures. He suggests that programs be required to meet with evaluation consultants at the start of the funding cycle for assistance in selecting and refining appropriate measures for each goal. This consultation could extend throughout the grant period to assure that programs are collecting information in an appropriate way.

Second, Dr. Leite suggests that a menu of 10-15 instruments be developed by an evaluation consultant that would relate to various areas of interest (i.e., father behaviors, attitudes, relationship quality, involvement with children). Each program should be required to select a specified number of these instruments for inclusion in their evaluation protocol. Again, evaluation consultants should assist agencies in identifying which instruments are most appropriate to their program and to provide training on use of the selected instruments. This approach will allow for some degree of cross-program comparisons among those that select the same instruments.

Finally, Dr. Leite suggests that programs be required to work with evaluation consultants on the development of a qualitative evaluation protocol that would be part of the overall evaluation plan. Again, evaluation consultants would be available to assist with this and to implement evaluation activities.

The OCF staff has been working with Mr. Cunningham in developing a letterhead bid to select an evaluator for the fatherhood programs funded in the future. The suggestions made by Dr. Leite and his colleagues will be incorporated into the letterhead bid.

V. H.B. 145 (OCF Statute Amendment) Update

HB 145 is still pending before the Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee chaired by Senator Scott Oelslager. A hearing for sponsor testimony was scheduled in October but canceled when both sponsors were not available to appear. Steve Killpack asked the legislators in attendance what they believe the next steps should be regarding HB 145. Representative Derickson stated that several members of his caucus questioned the value of continued funding for the OCF during the budget debates this summer. He believes we should be relieved the Commission still exists and that pursuing the bill at this time could cause more harm than good. Senator Bill Beagle agreed with Representative Derickson and said Senate republicans were on the fence about the Commission. Senator Tavares said that she was part of the budget discussions this summer and agreed with the observations of her republican colleagues. Moreover, HB 153, the budget bill, made several significant changes to the OCF statute which would supersede some provisions in HB 145. Senator Tavares suggested that all legislators who are commissioners should meet to discuss how to proceed regarding the remaining provisions of the bill that were not addressed by the budget bill. The OCF Legislative Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on January 19, 2012.

VI. OCF Fatherhood PSA Videos

OCF has been working with an outside video production firm to create informational videos explaining the purpose of the OCF and highlighting success stories of individual fathers who have graduated from OCF-funded programs. Whitney Logan showed three videos about:

- 1.) Overview of Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
- 2.) Purpose of Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative
- 3.) Successful stories of fathers who graduated from OCF-funded fatherhood programs

Mr. Peter Lawson Jones stressed the importance of featuring fathers of diverse ethnicities in the videos to show that father absence is not just an African American inner city problem. Senator Charleta Tavares agrees with Mr. Peter Lawson Jones and suggests that OCF work with the Ohio Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs to identify Hispanic fathers who have benefits from fatherhood programs. Commissioners suggested these videos can be played in child support offices, prisons, government channels and other free media outlets. Ms. Logan responded that the OCF will work with the office of communications to identify the most effective places to run these videos.

VII. Meeting Calendar for 2012

Vice Chair Kontur asked for a vote to confirm the proposed OCF meeting dates projected for 2012. Senator Bill Beagle requested to change last meeting date of November due to elections. Commissioners agreed the second week of November would be preferred. Commissioner Thomas Joyce moved with Commissioner Steve Killpack seconding the proposed meeting dates with the change of the November meeting to the 15th.

VIII. Announcements & New Business

Ms. Monica Mahoney stated Executive Director Tracy Robinson has been on an extended leave and hopes that he will return to the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood office soon.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 11:35am.