

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Executive Director Report Sept. – Oct. 2018

Funding

Call with Fatherhood Research and Practice Network (FRPN), from Harrisburg, PA (Strong Families): OCF Executive Director participated in a phone conference with representatives from the Pennsylvania Strong Families Coalition regarding the logistics and flow of the presentations during the Strong Families Conference in Mechanicsburg, PA on October 17th and 18th. OCF Executive Director will provide a presentation on the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (structure and activities) as well as participate on a panel and facilitate an afternoon of brainstorming and reporting.

Phone Conference with Fatherhood Research and Practice Network (FRPN) and Ohio University (OU): OCF Director participated in a “check-in” conference call with FRPN, the organization funding Ohio University to implement a secondary research analysis of the data collected in ETO (Efforts to Outcomes) in the seven OCF funded grantee organizations.

OU/FRPN Evaluation Check-in Conference Call: OCF staff participated on the Ohio University/Fatherhood Research Practice Network monthly phone conference. The group discussed the status of the evaluation process regarding the OCF TANF funded grantee programs. FRPN is funding Ohio University to provide a second analysis of data provided by fathers enrolled in the OCF grantee programs. Portions of the data will be provided in the upcoming Annual Report.

OH (FRPN) Fatherhood Research and Practice Network Check-in Call: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with Ohio University and FRPN to discuss the progress of the funded evaluation project. FRPN is in contract with Ohio University to provide a secondary evaluation of the data collected by the seven OCF grantees.

Phone Conference with OCS Policy Bureau Chief, David Fleischman and Dr. Jessica Pearson, Director of Fatherhood Research and Practice Network (FRPN): OCF Executive Director participated on a phone conference with the State Office of Child Support and FRPN regarding a more comprehensive evaluation of child support activities/behaviors of fathers enrolled in the OCF TANF funded programs. OCS Bureau Chief will discuss the possibility of this more detailed evaluation with Deputy Director Jeff Aldridge after Dr. Pearson presents a formal request.

(FRPN) Fatherhood Research and Practice Network and NCSEA Web-Talk Test Run (GoTo Webinar) on Tues. Oct. 30: OCF Executive Director participated in the NCSEA Webinar “dress rehearsal”. The panelists discussed the structure and order of the webinar while going over the slide deck developed by Jessica Pearson of FRPN.

(FRPN) Fatherhood Research and Practice Network and NCSEA Webinar – Thurs. Nov. 1: OCF Executive Director participated in a webinar with South Carolina’s IV-D director and Fatherhood program as well as Ohio’s Stark and Franklin County IV-D Directors and staff from FRPN. The “Including Fathers in State Programs” webinar was well attended by IV-D

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programs, non-profits and Fatherhood organizations nationwide. OCF Executive Director provided information on the structure and funding of bi-partisan Ohio Commission on Fatherhood as well as the purpose of the office.

Ohio County Fatherhood Mobilization Initiative Conference Call: OCF Executive Director participated on a phone conference with staff from Family and Children First Council in Ross County. OCF Executive Director clarified additional components of the Ohio County Fatherhood Mobilization project. Ross County is ready to move forward with the contract and purchase order.

General Fatherhood Outreach, Meetings and Phone Conferences

Meeting with Ms. Haneen Khalaf (Reading Program XPrize.org): OCF Executive Director met with a representative from xPrize Reading program where organizations are being asked to assist with testing mobile applications designed to help with reading deficiencies nationwide. Three companies have been chosen to design the mobile reading applications, and Executive Director linked Ms. Khalaf with Fatherhood Programs in Franklin and Cuyahoga Counties to discuss testing the applications with the populations they serve.

Phone Conference with OSU Extension in Scioto County: OCF Executive Director participated on a phone conference with Mr. Dennis DeCamp and his supervisor Ms. Treva Williams from the Ohio State University Extension Office regarding their interest in the Ohio County Fatherhood Mobilization project during SFY 2019. The goal of OCF is to plant Fatherhood funding (\$10,000 seed dollars) in more counties in the Southern Ohio (Appalachian Counties) during the upcoming iteration of the project.

Phone Conference with Mr. Rick Santangelo(Cuyahoga County): OCF Executive Director participated on a phone call with Mr. Rick Santangelo. Mr. Santangelo is interested in researching and writing about the effects of father absence. OCF Executive Director guided Mr. Santangelo to various research articles, data and a connection to OPNFF (Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families) member, Steve Killpack, who also resides in Cleveland.

Phone Conference with Jennifer Irwin Vasquez -Aramark Food Services: OCF Executive Director participated on a call with Aramark. Aramark stated they have 750 jobs available in Ohio (Delaware and Franklin County) and would like to partner with the OCF Executive Director to get the fathers employed quicker by getting referrals from the ODJFS Fatherhood Grantees or OWD Office. Aramark conducts their own criminal background checks before sending them to any employer. OCF Executive Director forwarded the information to Fatherhood Grantees and to Tom Hutter in OWD.

Phone Conference with Ms. Gloria Parks (Sandusky County): OCF Executive Director participated in a phone conference with Ms. Gloria Parks program manager of "Planting Seeds of Hope," which is a community-based program that meets every fourth Saturday at Pontifex in Fremont, Ohio. The group focuses on mental health and drug/alcohol addiction programs and resources in the community.

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Commission on Fatherhood – Ms. LaToyia Jones from “Alive on Purpose” Phone

Conference: OCF Executive Director participated on a phone conference with Ms. LaToyia Jones of “Alive on Purpose”. Ms. Jones works with young females who have expressed having suicidal thoughts. Ms. Jones advised that 75% of the females contributed their feelings of suicide to father absence. This assessment falls in line with the national statistics correlating suicide to the lack of father involvement. Executive Director referred Ms. Jones to Fatherhood organizations in Cuyahoga County.

Phone Conference with Ms. Gloria Parks (Sandusky County): OCF Executive Director participated in a phone conference with Ms. Gloria Parks program manager of “Planting Seeds of Hope,” which is a community-based program that meets every fourth Saturday at Pontifex in Fremont, Ohio. The group focuses on mental health and drug/alcohol addiction programs and resources in the community.

Phone Conference – Mr. Jarrod Bolte and Ms. Emma Simpson from Improving Education: OCF Executive Director participated on a phone conference with Mr. Jarrod Bolte and Ms. Emma Simpson from “Improving Education regarding their product “Bedtime in a Box”. The “Bedtime in a Box” is a structured and nurturing way to put children ages 0 to 5 to bed. An example box was sent to the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood to discuss with grantees. The idea is to provide a box to a father who may have obtained overnight parenting time with his child/ren who are ages 0-5 years of age. The box contains items to assist parents with ensuring their children are kindergarten ready.

Fatherhood Activities People for People Phone Conference: OCF Executive Director participated in a phone conference with Mr. Kirk Berry of People for People located in Philadelphia, PA. Mr. Berry provided information on some of the mentorship activities that he provides along with the Fatherhood services in Philadelphia, PA. The conversation was helpful to preparation for the Harrisburg, PA Strong Families Fatherhood Convening.

State Agency Collaboration

OERC (Ohio Ex-Offender Re-entry Coalition) Meeting: OCF Executive Director attended the Quarterly OERC meeting in Dayton, Ohio. Various state department, restored citizens and their families as well as stakeholders and partners provided presentations regarding various activities under the Montgomery County Office of Reentry, Justice involved youth adults and statutory member report outs. The meeting focused on Family Engagement.

Meeting with Tom Hutter: OCF Executive Director met with Tom Hutter from OWD and shared OCF activities regarding Family Engagement with ODRC as well as changes in Child Support guideline calculations as reflected in H.B 366. Tom Hutter shared information regarding employment and job readiness programming in ODRC facilities.

OCF Commission Meeting: OCF staff attended the quarterly OCF commission meeting. Coleman Professional Services staff and Allen County IV-D (Child Support) Director provided a

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presentation on services provided to fathers and families under the OCF TANF funding. Ohio University researchers provided a presentation on the secondary data analysis research project funded by FRPN (Fatherhood Research and Practice Network). Copies of handouts can be found on the OCF website at www.fatherhood.ohio.gov.

Conference call to set Agenda for upcoming OCF commissioner meeting: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with Commissioners regarding the upcoming OCF Commissioner Meeting which will be held on November 15, 2018. The Commissioners approved the Agenda. Senator Bill Beagle will be honored with an award for his dedication and leadership role with the OCF Commissioners.

Lorain County Correctional Fatherhood Conference in Partnership with Passages Fatherhood Program: OCF Executive Director participated in the first ODRC/Fatherhood Conference. The Conference was held at Lorain Correctional Facility with the opening panel discussion on Friday (Cuyahoga County Judge Floyd guest speaker), six workshops on Saturday and a Father-Daughter Dance on Sunday. The Lorain Correctional Facility Warden, Kimberly Clipper and Passages Director, Dr. Brian Moore are planning a second conference.

ODRC Family Engagement Debrief: OCF Executive Director attended a meeting at ODRC to debrief the Family Engagement event held at Madison Corrections, Zones A and B. ODRC Regional Re-entry Director is interested in replicating the Family Engagement event in other facilities. A family support person is identified by the inmate and is invited to commit and participate in programming both inside and outside of the facility to assist with a more successful re-entry for the inmate.

Harrisburg PA-Strong Families Fatherhood Convening (Dr. Sylvester Rufus Lynch): OCF Executive Director participated in the Pennsylvania's Strong Families Two-day Fatherhood Convening. Executive Director participated in discussions and provided a presentation regarding how Ohio's Commission on Fatherhood was formed and sustains activities as part of the ODJFS/Office of Family Assistance TANF budget. The Strong Families Commission is interested in replicating a statewide model.

Chillicothe Annual Fall Re-entry Fair: OCF staff attended the Annual Fall Re-entry Fair at the Chillicothe Correctional Facility and discussed the fatherhood programs and distributed fatherhood brochures and handouts. Inmates were encouraged to connect with Fatherhood programs and resources in their respective counties upon re-entry.

Fathers – Families – The Arts Phone Conference: OCF Executive Director participated on a phone conference with Ms. Tobi Furman who operates the Art Mobile and works closely with Franklin County Children's Service to infuse art into programming. She also designed an after-school arts program. Ms. Furman is interested in introducing arts into the Linden and Southside areas of Columbus. Executive Director will connect Ms. Furman to the Fatherhood programs at Action for Children and the Columbus Urban League.

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Commission on Fatherhood Meeting with OFC (Office of Families and Children): OCF staff met with OFC staff to discuss strategies to improve father engagement with the goal of fulfilling the requirements of the state performance improvement plan. Executive Director reintroduced the guideline toolkit on engaging fathers in Child Protective Services, developed for social workers. The two offices will continue to meet to find ways to include and empower fathers in case planning activities as well as assist local social workers with engaging fathers in case plans.

Commission on Fatherhood Meeting with OFC (Office of Families and Children and Representatives from HHS/ACF to discuss PIP (Performance Improvement Plan): OCF staff participated in a meeting with OFC and representatives from HHS/ACF to discuss the PIP issued to the Office of Families and Children as it relates to family engagement, specifically father inclusion in case Child Protective Services case plans. The “Engaging Fathers in Child Protective Services” Toolkit was re-introduced as well as the possibility of engaging fathers at the local Fatherhood program as an option to meeting at the home.

Region V Fatherhood Planning Calls with Lois Rakov: OCF Executive Director participated on a phone conference with Ms. Lois Rakov. Ms. Rakov works with HHS Administration for Children and Families on the quarterly Region V Fatherhood Phone Conferences. Ms. Rakov and Ms. Geraldine Franco are interested in featuring OCF funded grantees during the January 2019 quarterly conference call.

Follow-up with Franklin and Stark County CSEA Participation on Webinar: OCF Executive Director participated on a phone conference with FRPN’s Jessica Pearson and IV-D directors, Rob Pierson (Stark County) and Susan Brown (Franklin County). Director Brown and Director Pierson agreed to participate in the NCSEA’s (National Child Support Enforcement Association’s) webinar, Child Support and Fatherhood, and Jessica Pearson provided the structure and goals of the webinar.

Conversation about job developer and community class locations with (GLCAP) Great Lakes Community Action Partnership: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with leadership from GLCAP, formerly WSOS, regarding the decrease in recorded job placements in the ETO system as well as the requirement to provide an employment specialist under the terms of the RFGA. The former employment specialist is no longer employed with GLCAP. Additionally, OCF staff confirmed with GLCAP leadership that services are provided to community fathers as well as incarcerated fathers per the RFGA.

TANF Grantee Meetings, Events and Conference Calls

TANF Fatherhood Grantee Meeting OCF Executive Director and staff attended an all-day meeting with TANF grantees. The meeting was hosted and facilitated by ForeverDads staff. OCF staff updated grantees about changes to ETO and year 2 protocol.

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Monthly Conference Call with Program Managers: OCF staff facilitated the monthly conference call with the TANF funded program managers to clarify and discuss ETO data collection (incarcerated fathers vs. community fathers), program protocol, successes and challenges.

Region V Fatherhood Conference Call: OCF staff attended the Region V Fatherhood Conference Call facilitated by HHS/ACF. Presenters focused on the history of Fatherhood and fathers' involvement in Home Visiting programs as it relates to Hispanic communities.

Meeting with Action for Children: OCF staff met with staff from Action for Children to discuss the infusion of providing services to fathers who recently established paternity at the Franklin County Child Support Agency. The project will be funded by Franklin County JFS, Office of Child Support and include services from Action for Children, Goodwill and Jewish Family Services.

Healthy Beginnings at Home and David Fluellen at OSU Dads2Be Meeting: OCF Executive Director facilitated a meeting between David Fluellen and Celebrate One's Healthy Beginnings at Home staff. The staff from Celebrate One were interested in Fatherhood programming as it relates to expectant fathers and fathers of infants. David will continue to connect with Celebrate One staff to ensure they are effectively serving and providing resources to fathers during home visits.

Meeting with Cleveland's All-Pro Dads (3 Schools): OCF Executive Director met with the principal of New Day Academy Charter School and visited both the K-7 school building and 8-12 school building. Youth receive various types of programming. OCF Executive Director also met with the superintendent from the Warrensville Public Schools and visited the Clement Boys Academy in Cleveland. All-Pro Dads programming is implemented in the various facilities.

Meeting with Talbert House's Fatherhood Manager, Harold Howard: OCF Executive Director met with Harold Howard, Director of Community Care Services at Talbert House. The meeting focused on services to expectant and new fathers post New Beginnings for New Fathers as well as changes in Talbert House's policy and procedure regarding timeframes and expectations for fathers in Talbert House programming.

Action for Children's Fatherhood Graduation at the ODRC Franklin Medical Center: OCF Executive Director attended the Action for Children Father Factor graduation at Franklin Medical Center. Mr. Carlos Christian completed a cohort of 25 fathers who participated in the Father Factor program. Each father received a certificate of completion. Executive Director provided well-wishes and words of congratulations.

Phone Conference with Ms. Lisa Davidson (Zanesville-Muskingum Public Health): OCF Executive Director participated on a phone conference with Ms. Davidson regarding a quote for the OCF Annual Report. Ms. Davidson partners with Executive Director Burl Lemon of ForeverDads to provide Boot Camp for Dads and Boot Camp for Moms. A joint quote from both organizations was provided for the report.

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Call to discuss Job Placements at (AFC) Action for Children: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with ACF leadership regarding the concern of decreased job placements for fathers in the ETO system. ACF leadership advised that a follow-up with staff will be conducted to ensure they understand the importance of updating the system with all services, most importantly job placements. OCF staff attended a follow-up on-site meeting regarding the ETO System data entry and to discuss the services for a hearing-impaired father interested in participating in the Father Factor Fatherhood cohort. Per the RFGA, programs must follow all ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) laws. ODJFS is unable to provide a sign-language interpreter during the entire class cohort.

Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality (OCPIM) and other OCF Infant Mortality Initiatives

OCPIM Quarterly Meeting: OCF Executive Director attended the quarterly OCPIM meeting at the Department of Transportation. The OCPIM members and guests heard presentations from the new OCPIM co-chairs, ODH/ODM staff regarding Optimization of Relevant Data Collection, Celebrate One staff regarding Community Engagement and Participation as well as Non-Traditional Interventions and Practices, Ohio Public Health Associates regarding Senate Bill 302 and OCPIM Summit Chair from the March of Dimes regarding the OCPIM Summit.

OCPIM Fatherhood Action Group Conference Call: OCF Executive Director co-facilitated the OCPIM Fatherhood Action Group Conference call. The group discussed the upcoming OCPIM State Summit and the four Fatherhood workshop sessions. The group also discussed the Home Visiting rules as they apply to ODH vs. ODM with a request to follow-up, in the future, with ODM and mirroring the ODH Home Visiting rules as they apply to fathers and caretakers.

OCPIM Executive Steering Committee Meeting: OCF Executive Director participated in the OCPIM Executive Steering Committee meeting with other state and community partners and stakeholders. The Executive Steering Committee discussed the upcoming OCPIM State Summit, the re-organization rather than dissolving of the action groups and the structure of the last OCPIM quarterly meeting.

Healthy Beginnings at Home and Action for Children (AFC) Meeting: OCF Executive Director facilitated a meeting between Action for Children and Celebrate One's Healthy Beginnings at Home staff. The staff from Celebrate One were interested in Fatherhood programming as it relates to expectant fathers and fathers of infants. AFC staff will continue to connect with Celebrate One staff to ensure they are effectively serving and providing resources to fathers during home visits.

Breastfeeding WIC Summit: OCF Executive Director participated in the WIC Breastfeeding Summit held at the Department of Health. Various stakeholders discussed ways to continue to promote breastfeeding in high risk Infant Mortality communities. OCF Executive Director and Mr. Calvin Williams, Hamilton County's JFS Fatherhood Coordinator, provided information on how to better engage, support and empower fathers in breastfeeding.

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Bi-weekly Infant Mortality Call: OCF Executive Director participated in the bi-weekly Infant Mortality Call with the ODH, ODM and the Governor’s Office. Each program had an opportunity to provide updates and discuss successes and challenges.

Fatherhood Meeting Infant Vitality Toolkit: OCF hosted the final Infant Vitality Toolkit meeting. The team was provided an opportunity to review a draft of the website/online toolkit. Recommendations were made by various people on the team, to include the Columbus Urban League, Action for Children, Celebrate One and Columbus Public Health Department. The toolkit will be introduced at the OCPIM State Summit.

Fatherhood and Breastfeeding Conference Call: OCF Executive Director participated in a conference call with Ms. Janelle Richardson from BOOBS (Breastfeeding Outreach for our Beautiful Sisters). The organization is in Cincinnati, and Ms. Richardson is interested in becoming better connected with the Fatherhood programs in her respective county.