

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)
Executive Director Report
April 2017 – September 2017

Funding:

Selection of New OCF Grantees:

OCF released and closed the request for grant application (RFGA) for the 2017-2019 TANF funding cycle. This grant will provide two levels of funding, designated as Funding Level A, for awards of \$120,000.00 per year for SFYs and 2019 and Funding Level B, for awards of \$50,000.00 per year for the same period. The application review team selected the following 7 programs for funding:

1. Action for Children (Level A)
2. Centers for Families and Children (Level B)
3. Coleman Profession Services (Level B)
4. ForeverDads (Level A)
5. Passages (Level A)
6. Talbert House (Level A)
7. WSOS (Level A)

June Responsible Fatherhood Month: In past years, Governor Kasich declared June to be “Responsible Fatherhood Month. In conjunction with this declaration, for the fourth consecutive year OCF provided funding to nonprofit organizations and government entities up to \$2500 for hosting fatherhood events during the month of June. The eleven events were designed to bring awareness about the importance of father involvement, share information and celebrate responsible fatherhood throughout Ohio. This year each agency also participated in the “That’s My Dad” campaign in which the participating fathers and families took pictures that were posted on the OCF website and Facebook page along with the “That’s My Dad” website and Facebook page.

County Mobilization Project: In a continued effort to address the national crisis of father absence, OCF is working with county leaders to create and implement solutions at the local level, one community at a time. Local leaders have been trained to build collaborations and coordinate services. The counties we served this round included: Butler, Clinton, Delaware and Portage. Ohio Practitioners’ Network for Fathers and Families (OPNFF) worked with the four Ohio counties to create an action plan relevant to each counties specific needs to address father absence in that area. OCF staff attended each counties’ community conversation which incorporated the views and options of the county residents, representatives from various agencies within each county, and other relevant county stakeholders. Each county created an action plan specific to the needs of their county and OCF has either released or is in the process of releasing \$10,000 as seed money to implement the action plan.

State Agency Collaboration

OCF/ODH discuss Fatherhood programs/Crib Distribution: OCF staff met with ODH staff to discuss the New Beginnings for New Fathers Safe Sleep portable crib distribution. OCF Executive Director agreed to participate in documenting crib distributions in an ODH developed database, scheduled to be implemented in SFY 2018. The NBNF Fatherhood Programs currently use ETO (Efforts to Outcomes), which is a system that has the capability of housing crib distribution data.

NBNF Webinar at ODH: OCF staff and Fatherhood grantees presented an NBNF project overview for ODH home visiting programs in Franklin, Cuyahoga, Clark, Montgomery and Hamilton Counties. A draft MOU was reviewed to formalize a referral process that will occur from ODH staff and contractors to refer fathers to our participating programs.

CCMEP / Franklin County Child Support/NBNF Meeting: OCF staff met with Director Lumpkin, Jennifer Demory, Director Susan Brown (FCCSEA) and Keena Smith from Franklin County Board of Commissioners to discuss the implementation of CCMEP with FCCSEA and FCDJFS and how to best include NBNF services in Franklin County by Action for Children. Director Susan Brown has come up with an outlined draft approach that Director Lumpkin will review for implementation purposes.

Conference call Discussing TANF and CCMEP potential overlap for fatherhood grantees: OCF had a conversation with Dennis Nealon and Emily Miran to discuss the newly TANF funded Responsible Fatherhood Programs and how a couple of the programs are currently working with the local JFS agencies in the space of CCMEP. Language for the newly created contracts will address compliance with providing services to fathers and families under the two programs.

Fatherhood & Depression Meeting with Jye Breckenridge / Dr. Kearney: OCF Executive Director and NBNF staff met with Mr. Jye Breckenridge (ODH-Home Visiting) and Dr. Ken Kearney (Guidestone) to discuss Dr. Kearney's recent work on Fatherhood and Depression. Dr. Kearney is working on a screening tool for Home Visitors to implement to explore potential depression traits in fathers served.

OJFSDA Annual Training Conference - NBNF presentations: OCF/NBNF staff and the New Beginnings for New Fathers Fatherhood Program staff presented the NBNF Program during the two-day OJFSDA Annual Training Conference.

DYS - Cuyahoga Hills - NBNF Service Delivery: OCF staff along with Dr. Moore from Passages met with DYS Deputy Superintendent Mark Dobrzynski and Jesse Augenstein program coordinator to discuss providing NBNF services at the DYS facility. Scheduling, meals, incentives, and how NBNF was different from the Just Beginnings program were discussed at the meeting. Dr. Moore held a kick off meeting with young fathers at the facility.

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Deputy Superintendent Mark also wanted to form a steering committee that would include Dr. Moore and Steve Killpack to focus on providing fathers a coordination of service delivery at DYS in Cuyahoga County. How do we best provide delivery of services and look at it from the youth vision? Details on this meeting are to follow programming delivery starting.

Circleville DYS -Establishing NBNF Schedule and Procedures: OCF staff meet with Action for Children management and Passages management to discuss the common service delivery of NBNF at DYS facilities. It was agreed that all core curriculum could be taught, along with case management touch bases. We also want to begin some job development and work on what we can with fathers while they are still incarcerated. Then finalize job development upon release and also work with fathers pre-release to determine who we will coordinate with on service delivery when release occurs.

Meeting with Jennifer Adair of DAS: OCF staff met with Jennifer Adair, EEO Program Manager from DAS regarding how her Department can assist those served by OCF funding with various services from other state agencies. During the meeting, OCF staff advised Ms. Adair that OCF will work with Carolina Thatcher from ODJFS on cultural competence and diversity. Both Jennifer Adair and Carolina provided presentations for OCF staff to consider providing to the funded Responsible Fatherhood programs during orientation in the coming months.

NBNF Meeting with ODRC (Broad Street): OCF/NBNF staff met with representatives from ODRC Human Subjects Research Review committee to discuss the research proposal review application submitted on June 16 requesting referrals from probation and parole officers to the NBNF and B3 programs (Building Bridges and Bonds headed by MDRC). ODRC provided feedback on the research proposal and requested that each program submit a separate proposal application. The concern is that the NBNF/Building Bridges and Bonds (B3) and other OCF funded Fatherhood programs may cross over into the ODRC study and skew the numbers.

General Fatherhood Outreach

Stark County Fatherhood Coalition Meeting: OCF staff attended the Stark County Fatherhood Coalition meeting and provided updates regarding the various OCF activities, including distribution of Daddy's Tool Bag. Stark County Fatherhood Coalition plans to implement the Fishing with Dad event this year during June.

Columbus Urban League (CUL)-OCF: OCF Executive Director met with the new Columbus Urban League's African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) Director. The CUL-Moms2B Project Director also attended the meeting. OCF will provide additional "Committed Father" bracelets for the upcoming June Father2Father and Choose2Change graduations.

Fatherhood luncheon at Talbert House: OCF staff attended Talbert House's annual Fatherhood luncheon. Recognition was given to both a community father and a graduate of the Talbert House Fatherhood program to acknowledge their outstanding commitment being an outstanding dad. OCF Commissioner, John Silverman was in attendance and spoke during the event.

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Be There Marketing Campaign: OCF/NBNF staff participated in a call with the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) to implement the “Be There” Campaign. NBNF Fatherhood programs will brand various marketing material, to include t-shirts with recommended verbiage, “Ask Me How to be a Better Dad, Be There”. OCF/NBNF staff received approval from ODJFS OCOMM to move forward with the “Be There” campaign.

ECMH Conference Opening Plenary Panel Discussion: OCF staff participated on a panel discussion at the opening session of the conference to speak to the value of including fathers and their value to children and families. OCF also presented with Action for Children at plenary sessions about NBNF on both April 19th and April 20th to provide an overview of how having fathers in the home impacts a child’s development and helps to reduce a child’s mental health struggles.

Responsible Fatherhood Month / Red Treehouse Meeting: OCF Executive Director met with Red Treehouse Director to discuss the “June is Responsible Fatherhood Month” banner to be displayed on the Red Treehouse home webpage. The Red Treehouse Executive Director also offered the last two months of May to display New Beginnings for New Fathers as the featured banner on the home webpage. OCF Executive Director advised that there are no plans to move forward with supporting the Red Treehouse in SFY 18.

Meeting with OSU Weinland Park Elementary Parent University: OCF Executive Director met with the OSU Weinland Park Elementary Parent University representatives. The Parent University representatives are interested in local Fatherhood programs assisting with father engagement in the Weinland Park area. The elementary schools is providing a Back-to-School Night and has requested that Action for Children provide a resource table.

Franklin County Fatherhood Coalition Meeting: OCF Executive Director attended the second Franklin County Fatherhood Coalition Meeting at the Center for Urban Solutions. The Fatherhood programs continued discussions related to working together and avoiding silo-operations in Franklin County.

Phone Conference with Mr. Richard Stedman: OCF Executive Director participated in a phone conference with Mr. Stedman from Richland Pregnancy Services. Mr. Stedman participated in the Richland County Fatherhood Initiative (Mobilization) project and was interested in connecting with the leadership team. Mr. Stedman also inquired on referral resources. Mr. Stedman will follow-up with Markeith Hardin at the Community Action Center of Huron, Erie and Richland counties, a previous OCF grantee.

Greater Good Ambassadors/Single Fathers Meeting with Action for Children: OCF Executive Director met with members of the Greater Good Ambassadors. This group focuses services on Central Ohio’s expectant moms struggling with addiction. The Greater Good Ambassadors are exploring Fatherhood programs in Central Ohio; therefore, OCF invited Action for Children (AFC) to the meeting. Subsequent meetings have been scheduled for AFC and the Greater Good Ambassadors to discuss collaboration.

OCF Meetings, Outreach, Calls, Events & Projects

Meeting with Representative Timothy Ginter: OCF Executive met with Representative Timothy Ginter. Representative Ginter is one of the newest commissioners appointed to the Commission. Representative Ginter received his OCF binder, marketing materials as well as the OCF pad folio and lapel pin.

Meeting with Representative Darrell Kick: OCF Executive Director met with Representative Darrell Kick. Representative Kick is one of the newest commissioners appointed to the Commission. Representative Kick received his OCF binder, marketing materials as well as the pad folio and lapel pin.

Delaware County Community Conversation: OCF staff attended the Delaware County Mobilization Project Community Conversation. OPNFF is under contract to facilitate and lead the project leadership through conversation regarding the effects of father absence in their community.

Community Conversation Portage County: OCF staff attended the Portage County Community Conversation, which is one of the deliverables for the County Mobilization Fatherhood Initiative. Representative from various agencies that are necessary to increase father involvement and county awareness were in attendance. OPNFF is under contract to facilitate and lead the project leadership through conversation regarding the effects of father absence in their community.

Butler County Community Conversation: OCF staff attended the Butler County Mobilization Project Community Conversation. OPNFF is under contract to facilitate and lead the project leadership through conversation regarding the effects of father absence in their community. Issues of infant mortality, agency silos and future opportunities for collaboration were heavily discussed.

CUL & Celebrate One Meeting: OCF/NBNF staff participated in a meeting at the Jerry Hammond Building with various Franklin County Fatherhood Programs as well as members from the Celebrate One Coalition. The meeting focused on breaking down silos by all Fatherhood programs working together, learning one another's programs, sharing resources as well as linking fathers to various services offered in the community.

Meeting with Judge Jamison: OCF Executive Director met with Judge Jamison to discuss the Compass Program. Judge Jamison is interested in certifying the Compass Program. The Compass Program is a diversion program for non-custodial parents who owe child support arrears at the contempt phase.

Phone Conference with Torriano Jones / Stark County: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with Reverend Torriano Jones who runs a one week camp. Just Us Boyz Camp counselors provide guidance and programming to youth ages 9-17. OCF Executive Director is exploring a way to implement the programming to the youth over a month and measure the

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impact on premature fatherhood prevention. OCF Executive Director plans to discuss this special project with Legal/OCA. The funding will not be more than \$15,000.

Urban Light Ministries New Location Grand Opening Reception: OCF/NBNF staff attended the new opening of the Urban Light Ministries (ULM) Fatherhood location at the Montgomery County JFS building. ULM will operate NBNF programming to fathers and families in Montgomery County.

OCF Executive Director Atlanta Trip-Fathers and Families Coalition: OCF Executive Director attended the Fathers and Families Coalition of America Southeastern Conference in Atlanta. The topics included Human Trafficking, Fathers in Education and Re-entry. The first day provided Fatherhood Curriculum Credential training. Fatherhood practitioners from various states attended the conference. Homework is due by July 9, 2017 for Executive Director to receive credentials.

Phone Conference with Kimberly Todd-Midwest Fatherhood Institute: OCF Executive Director discussed the upcoming virtual webinar hosted by Fathers and Families Coalition of America. Additional training for Fatherhood credentials will be offered to Ohio's Fatherhood practitioners. Additional meetings are scheduled to discuss additional ways to provide credentials/Conferences to Ohio's Fatherhood practitioners at a minimum cost.

Rethinking Young Fathers - Policy and practice recommendations for Child welfare systems: OCF/NBNF staff attended the Rethinking Young Fathers webinar. Young fathers is one of the three populations of fathers being served under NBNF. Young fathers proves to be one of the most difficult populations of fathers to recruit and retain throughout programming.

Phone Conference with Twinkle Schottke-Moms2B: OCF Executive Director participated in a phone conference with Moms2B Executive Director, Twinkle Schottke, to discuss ways dads connected to Moms2B can continue to receive programming and support after June 30, 2017 when the Columbus Urban League/Moms2B contract terminates.

OCPIM and other OCF Infant Mortality Initiatives

OCPIM Executive Steering Committee Meeting: OCF staff attends the quarterly OCPIM meeting. Updates are given from the various committees regarding future Infant Mortality goals, the OCPIM State Summit (SFY 2018).

OCPIM Fatherhood: OCF staff participated in the OCPIM Fatherhood Involvement workgroup conference call. The committee decided to rename the workgroup, "Embracing and Empowering Fathers in Maternal, Child and Family Health".

ODH IM Data Review: OCF Executive Director attended a meeting at ODH to review the various Infant Mortality data as well as 2020 and 2022 goals. The meeting consisted of a "deep dive" into various trends over the years.

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Weekly Infant Mortality Call: OCF Executive Director participates in the weekly Infant Mortality Call facilitated by ODH, ODM and the Governor's Office. The team discusses the action items listed under the nine hot-spot counties that remain open. All items assigned to ODJFS are discussed with ODJFS leadership prior to providing updates.

IM Follow-up meeting with Butler County: OCF staff attended a strategic planning meeting with ODH staff at the City of Hamilton's Government Building. The meeting agenda included discussions on the structure of the coalition as well as the participants on the coalition. The decision was made to ensure the decision-making team consisted of the City of Middletown, City of Hamilton and Butler County Health Commissioners.

Celebrate One (Infant Mortality Coalition in Columbus) Site Visit: OCF staff attended the Celebrate One Coalition meeting at the Jerry Hammond Building. Staff from ODH, ODM as well as the Governor's Office attended the meeting to hear how the low programs in Franklin County work together in the common mission to tackle Infant Mortality with a focus on various zip code areas of the county. The early (unofficial) 2016 data indicates that the IM rate for Franklin County has increased.

Butler County Infant Mortality: OCF staff participated in the follow-up Butler County Infant Mortality Collaboration Meeting in Middletown, OH. OCF staff joined ODH, ODM and various community stakeholders and partners in Butler County to determine the best collaborative structure to implement in the continued efforts to battle African-American Infant Mortality in the community.

Meeting with Cheryl Vincent (Human Services Innovation): OCF Executive Director met with Ms. Cheryl Vincent (ODJFS Human Service Innovation Office) regarding state and local Infant Mortality prevention measures as well as how CCMEP and Infant Mortality connect.

Call with Doni Miller: OCF Executive Director participated in a phone conference with Lucas County Infant Mortality (IM) Coalition leader, Doni Miller. Ms. Miller requested a conference call to discuss the role of the recent Lucas County JFS staff who joined the local IM Coalition. Ms. Miller posed additional questions regarding her role. The OCF Executive Director referred Ms. Miller to ODH.

Follow-up meeting with Toledo Infant Mortality Coalition: OCF Executive Director attended the State Infant Mortality Meeting in Toledo with leadership from ODH and ODM. The state team provided PowerPoint regarding the unofficial 2016 Infant Mortality rates for Ohio. The Lucas County IM Coalition discussed the silo-operated programming in Lucas County as well as the need for additional stakeholders as the table. The Coalition was happy to welcome both Lucas County Children Services as well as the JFS to the conversation. Both agencies were engaged in the conversation to assist with preventing Infant Mortality in Lucas County. A subsequent meeting has been planned for the near future to assist Lucas County with the foundation to developing an action plan.

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Columbus Urban League Update: OCF Executive Director participated in several meetings to assist in the efforts to develop a contract between Action for Children (New Beginnings for New Fathers in Franklin County) and the Columbus Urban League, who employees Mr. David Fluellen (Moms2B Fatherhood under a previous OCF/ODJFS contract). The final determination focuses on a future contract between AFC and CUL to provide services to fathers connected with Moms2B at four of the eight Moms2B sites. OCF will assist AFC with drafting the contract to pay for a specified number of cohorts.

NBNF Meetings, Presentations, Trainings and Conference Calls

Implementation Team Meeting: NBNF staff hosts monthly Implementation Team Meetings. Staff from the four NBNF fatherhood organizations represent the various NBNF required positions to include case manager, job developer and project manager. OCF staff and sub-grantee staff discuss issues with engagement, retention, appropriate nFORM documentation, etc. in each meeting.

NBNF Bi-weekly Conference Call: NBNF staff participated in the bi-weekly conference call with partners and sub-grantees tied to the grant. The group discussed new activity, successes, challenges as well as recruitment and retention strategies.

Monthly Case Manager Meeting - Teleconference: OCF staff met with NBNF case managers to discuss issues and concerns from the prior month. The team also discussed lessons learned and problems that each had faced. Discussions also included continuous quality improvements and requested each case manager create a list of items to be discussed related to processes that they can improve which would help them with their tasks and assignments.

NBNF Monthly Managers Meeting: OCF / NBNF staff hosted the monthly NBNF managers meeting phone conference. This meeting allows time for the NBNF project managers in the four fatherhood sites to discuss challenges, successes, recruitment and retention.

NBNF Social Media: OCF Staff and Mr. Calvin Williams (CEO of Lucian Family Services) met to discuss Social Media for NBNF programming. Mr. Williams proposed to work with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to promote and market New Beginnings for New Fathers for the four Fatherhood sub-grantee programs. OCF, will explore working with the MBE to provide these services. OCF/NBNF discussed this process with the Office of Legal and Acquisitions.

HMRF Biennial Conference Webinar: OCF NBNF staff participated on the HHS/ACF Healthy Marriage Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) pre Conference/Training Webinar. The webinar was held to provide grantees with important information regarding the August 7th – 10th HMRF Conference/Training held in Washington D.C. The grantees received a tutorial on how to download the Conference mobile app.

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HMRF Biennial Grantee Conference (Washington DC): OCF NBNF staff attended the mandatory Health and Human Services HMRF Conference/Training located at the Mayflower Hotel. Staff attended various workshops tied to leadership and nFORM/Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). OCF/NBNF staff will regroup and focus on implementing changes to increase enrollment and retention.

ACF HHS Monthly Meeting: OCF/NBNF staff met with the ACF Federal Program Specialist (FPS) Tanya Howell for the regularly scheduled monthly meeting during the trip to Washington, DC for the Annual Grantee Conference. Discussion centered on the curriculum enhancement request and possible upcoming site visit by FPS in the coming week to include attendance at the Annual Training scheduled for Thursday, August 17th at the Air Center.

NBNF Annual Training: OCF hosted the first Annual NBNF Staff Training. The NBNF team reviewed the target population and the three primary principals for the project. The team provided insight and updates from the recently attended HMRF (Healthy Marriage Responsible Fatherhood) Biennial conference. The staff also discussed best practices and continuous quality improvement processes that will be implemented as the project moves into year three of the NBNF grant. Tiffany Chinn from Child Support provided an overview and hosted Child Support Jeopardy. The Fatherhood partners discussed lessons learned, implementing changes and what does success look like. The day ended with each Fatherhood agency creating a strategic action plan and a funniest father and child moments video.

Cincinnati Children's Cradle Cincinnati Meeting: OCF Executive Director met with Cradle Cincinnati's, Ryan Adcock and Beth McNeil and Harold Howard (Talbert House) regarding a collaboration with NBNF (New Beginnings for New Fathers) at Talbert House.

Sickle Cell Project Director's Meeting (NBNF Presentation): OCF Executive Director and NBNF Researcher provided a joint presentation with Action for Children to the Sickle Cell Director's Association regarding the state NBNF program and how services are vital to fathers who meet the target population but who also have disabled children.

NBNF Data Collection

ODRC IRB Application Discussion: OCF/NBNF staff met with MDRC and Passages director to provide information on the requests from ODRC related to the research proposal application. Passages and MDRC will meet at a later date to determine whether to move forward with their application.

NBNF Enrollment Progress: The NBNF program has enrolled 254 clients during Federal Fiscal Year 2017, and has a total enrollment of 280 since program start in July 2016. Action for Children successfully enrolled 14 fathers at Department of Youth Services during this period, bringing their total enrollment for FFY 17 to 58. Passages has a total of 106 clients enrolled during FFY 17, Talbert House has 46, and Urban Light Ministries has 44.

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B3 / MDRC Meetings

B3 Weekly Check-in:

Passages Query Tool Meeting: OCF / NBNF staff participated in a conference call to discuss data-pulls for NBNF as well as the B3 Project at the Passages Fatherhood Program. Issues were identified that could have negatively impacted the data collected in nFORM between the fathers served under NBNF and Building

ODRC IRB Application Discussion: OCF/NBNF staff met with MDRC and Passages director to provide information on the requests from ODRC related to the research proposal application. Passages and MDRC will meet at a later date to determine whether to move forward with their application.

TANF Grantee Meetings, Events and Conference Calls

Monthly TANF Grantee Conference Call: OCF staff led a call and asked grantees for feedback on their experience working with OCF the past two years. Grantees also received an online anonymous survey about their experience.

ForeverDads Grantee Debrief: OCF staff traveled to Zanesville and met with ForeverDads staff to discuss grantee experience over the past two years. Suggestions for improvement during next grant were noted and will be incorporated,

Passages Grantee Debrief: OCF staff traveled to Ravenna and met with grantee staff to debrief on their experiences working on the grant the past two years and to receive suggestions on how to improve the process during the next grant cycle.

WSOS Grantee Debrief: OCF staff traveled to Fremont and met with WSOS staff to discuss grantee experience over the past two years. Suggestions for improvement during the next grant were noted and will be incorporated.

Meeting with Mr. Tory High (Action for Children Facilitator): OCF Executive Director met with Mr. Tory High at AFC. Mr. High has recently implemented a program titled, “The High Powered Dad”. Mr. High works for the local YMCA and has also written a book to encourage dads to discover the most effective way to juggle life as a dad. Mr. High plans to implement some of the teaching, to include healthy meals in the Fatherhood programming at Action for Children.

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Prison & Restored Citizen Outreach

Mansfield Correctional Q&A: OCF staff along with CSEA staff presented OCF fatherhood programming information to inmates in Mansfield correctional institution (MANSCI). Inmates were given contact information for fatherhood programming in their county and were able to ask questions about father/s rights in various situations.

Chillicothe Correctional Institution (CCI) Reentry Fair: OCF staff attended a two session reentry fair at CCI. OCF staff spoke with soon-to-be released inmates about fatherhood programming in their home county and provide OCF brochures regarding programming.

Ross Correctional Institution Prison Q&A: OCF staff along with CSEA staff presented OCF fatherhood programming information to inmates in Ross Correctional Institution (RCI). Inmates were given contact information for fatherhood programming in their county and were able to ask questions about father's rights in various situations.

Recurring Meetings & Initiatives

Red Treehouse Steering Committee Meeting: OCF staff attended the quarterly Red Treehouse at the Central Ohio Ronald McDonald House. OCF supports the Red Treehouse (\$10,000) and will be featured on the home page of the new website during the month of June (June is Responsible Fatherhood Month).

COTA Mobility Advisory Board: OCF staff attended monthly meeting of COTA Mobility Advisory Board. The Board chair is retiring, and the other Board members have served for approximately three years. New officers were elected; therefore, Executive Director Kim Dent is no longer the Board secretary.