

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Virtual MS TEAMS Meeting

Attendance

Commissioners

Director Susan Brown, Franklin County Child Support
Senator Jerry Cirino (A)
Dr. G. Mike Davis, ODRC
Wanda Ellis, Deputy Director, JFS Office of Family Assistance
Mr. Joseph Hill, OMHAS
Mr. James Jackson, ODYS
Asst. Director Sarah LaTourette
Dr. Randy Leite
Rep. Riordan McClain
Director Scott Neely, Children's Hunger Alliance
Ms. Molly Rafeld, ODJFS Legislative (A)
Director Ann Ream, Summit County
Dr. Michele Reynolds, GOFBCI (A)
Senator Vernon Sykes
Dr. Randi Thomas
Mr. Socrates Tuch, Esq.
Rep. Terrence Upchurch (A)
Rep. Thomas West
Mr. Tarik White, ODE

Presenters:

Action for Children

Ms. Julie DeCarlo
Mr. Ashiko Hudson
Mr. Keith Wollenberg

OCF Staff

Exec. Director Kimberly Dent
Mr. Joshua Counciller, Project Manager

Guests:

Ms. Sharelle Bell, Assistant to Wanda Ellis, ODJFS Family Assistance Deputy Director
Mr. Colin Calloway, Leg. Aide to Senator Vernon Sykes
Mr. Matthew Cunningham, Chief of Bureau of Technical Assistance & Support (for Deputy Director Wanda Ellis)
Ms. Mariama Diallo, Leg. Aide to Director Susan Brown, Franklin County Supreme Court
Mr. Jacob Dowling, Leg. Aide to Senator Jerry Cirino
Mr. Brendon Embry, Leg. Aide to Senator Jerry Cirino
Mr. Darryl Jones, Leg. Aide to State Rep. Terrence Upchurch
Ms. Angela Kaiser, Assistant to Wanda Ellis, ODJFS Family Assistance Deputy Director
Mr. Jacob Kramer, Leg. Aide to Senator Hearcel Craig
Mr. Traevon Leak, Leg. Aide to Senator Vernon Sykes

Mr. Sean McCann, Legislative Aide to State Rep. Thomas West
Mr. Kolin Petty, Leg. Aide, State Rep. Riordan McClain
Ms. Margaret Simmons, Leg. Aide to Senator Hearcel Craig
Mr. Bryan Stout
Ms. Kelley Williams, Assistant to Exec. Director Michele Reynolds

OCF Staff:

Exec. Director Kimberly Dent
Mr. Joshua Counciller, Project Manager
Ms. Terena Arnold, Program Administrator
Ms. Terri Simons, Admin. Professional

I. Call to Order & Welcome **10:00 – 10:05 Chair Scott Neely**

Mr. Scott Neely began the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

II. Introductions/Welcome **10:05-10:10 Chair Scott Neely**

Mr. Scott Neely welcomed everyone, called role to verify Commissioner attendance. Those that were with the commission prior to this meeting introduced themselves and the agency they represent.

Executive Director, Kimberly Dent advised of Commissioners that were attending by phone, coming later or not present.

Exec. Director Kimberly Dent asked OCF Staff to introduce themselves.

Mr. Neely then asked new Commissioners to introduce themselves.

Dr. Randi Thomas (Governor Appointee)
Sen. Vernon Sykes
Sen. Jerry Cirino - who was unable to be present but sent his legislative aid Brenden Embry
Dr. Randall Leite

Several commissioners had technical issues when attempting to enter the meeting. Commissioner attendance was at 8. Quorum was not established.

III. Approval of November 12, 2020 Minutes **10:10 Chair Scott Neely**

Voting had to take place later in the meeting. Quorum was not established at this time.

IV. Fatherhood Well-Being Assessment Tool Work Group/Team **10:10 – 10:20 Mr. Joshua Counciller/Exec. Director Kimberly Dent**

Exec. Director Dent expressed her appreciation for the “pivot” to virtual classes, case management, job development and overall programming required by the OCF grantees due to Covid-19 restrictions. She talked about the stigma associated with mental health and addiction, and the importance of checking in with fathers

to see how they are doing as individuals before even addressing fatherhood goals. Mr. Counciller, representatives from each of the grantees, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services developed a screening tool to address the fathers' needs and any challenges he may have with mental health addiction. The plan is to implement the screening tool for the next biennial starting July 2021. Exec Director Dent wanted to review the screening tool with the Commissioners prior to implementation.

Project Manager Mr. Joshua Counciller thoroughly explained the development, purpose, and implementation process of the Well-Being Assessment Tool. Mr. Counciller explained the difference between a screening tool and an assessment. Fatherhood practitioners expressed a need to approach the issue of substance abuse and mental health delicately, and by way of conversation over time, as opposed to requesting the information in a formal assessment during the initial intake. As the practitioner builds a rapport with the father more information regarding mental health and substance abuse needs can be discussed or observed. Mr. Counciller explained that the goal is to provide holistic assistance and barrier removal to fathers. When drafting the assessment tool, questions began with high level questions then are whittled down to a succinct set of questions.

Mr. Counciller displayed and began to review the sections of the screening tool draft. The first questions on the screening tool address current health insurance and primary care doctor status. Then progresses to the date of the last visit if applicable. Mr. Counciller acknowledges the sensitive nature of asking questions regarding substance abuse. When developing the screening tools, there was conversation about how this section would be covered in conversation. He and the grantees also included a section that covers the functionality of the father if substance abuse is a factor. Questions in this section address things like:

- How/if substance about effects work,
- if not currently using was there past substance abuse,
- if father is currently using has there been any reduction in use

Mr. Counciller then goes of the Likert scale regarding how the father is feeling with "5" being all the time and "1" being none of the time as it applies to feelings of:

- Nervousness
- Stress
- Depressed
- Worthlessness
- Hopelessness
- Restlessness/Fidgety
- Alone
- Angry

Next, the assessment gauges self-help activities in support of the father's mental, spiritual, and physical well-being. The questions in this section ask about the father's: friends, family, sports groups/teams, and places of worship, if applicable. Such groups can act as a support system for the father or a method of self-help, though he may not acknowledge it as such.

Finally, the father was asked about his country of origin and data is placed in ETO and stats will be reported to the new African Immigrant Commission. Mr. Counciller then opens the floor for questions, inviting Commissioners to unmute their mics and guests to enter questions in the Q&A chat function.

Exec. Director Dent advised that the draft assessment was sent to Commissioners prior to the meeting. She asked them to give it some thought and provide feedback as to whether they believe it will assist with how fathers enter the program. Grantees advised that due to COVID-19 dads were expressing anxiety. Fathers who owe back child support were the only Americans that did not receive the first stimulus checks. Those

who owe the IRS and student loans received them, but fathers owing back child support were excluded, causing them to be angry and anxious. Exec. Director Dent, asked Commissioners to look over the screening tool, give it some serious thought, and provide feedback.

Mr. Scott Neely asked if there were any questions.

Director Susan Brown advised that she is looking at similar tools for the pilot programs in the Child Support office. She and a number of her staff recently took mental health and addiction training. Her question was regarding the follow up to the questionnaire, since it is a screening tool and not an assessment; will there be assurances from the grantees for professional assistance if issues are identified?

Exec. Director Dent advised that when grantees apply to the Request for Grant Application (RFGA), they are assessed on their connection to community resources. It is mandatory for the applicant to have a connection with Child Support, Child Protective Services, and the courts. This way referring fathers to needed services is already a part of the grantee's service delivery. Some grantees are more intentional than others; but now with everyone using the same screening tool, when issues surface, we can ensure that not only are they measured but fathers are connected to resources.

Director Brown specified that the training she and her staff had recently taken was the Mental Health & Addiction First Aid, that it was free, and she would be willing to share the contact information with OCF if interested. Exec. Director Dent thanked Director Brown and said that would be useful for the OCF grantees.

Once the well-being assessment is finalized it will be outward facing on the OCF website:

www.fatherhood.ohio.gov

V. Introductions/Welcome to Arriving Commissioners

10:20-10:25 Chair Scott Neely

Mr. Counciller advised that Commissioner Randi Thomas was present on the public side of the meeting, and that he would be attempting to call and gain access to the Commissioner side.

Exec. Director Dent advised that several Commissioners had arrived during the presentation, and asked Mr. Neely if he wanted to give them an opportunity to introduce themselves. Mr. Neely agreed that this was a good time to allow them to introduce themselves.

Introduction opportunity and welcome was extended to the following:

- Mr. Socrates Tuch, Esq.
- Sen. Vernon Sykes
- Dr. Randi Thomas

Exec. Director Dent informed Mr. Neely that the Commissioners have reached quorum and asked if he was interested in having the meeting minutes from November 12, 2020 approved.

VI. Approval of November 12, 2020 Minutes

10:25-10:30 Chair Scott Neely

11 Commissioners were present and able to vote.

Mr. Neely agreed that now was a good time to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and asked if one of the Commissioners would make a motion.

Mr. Socrates Tuch motioned to approve the minutes.

Dr. Mike Davis seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted to approve.

November 12, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as submitted with no changes.

VII. Action for Children

10:30-11:05 Mr. Ashiko Hudson, Mr. Keith Wollenberg, & Ms. Julie DiCarlo

The Action for Children (AFC) Father Factor program includes a: program manager (Ashiko Hudson), job developer (Keith Wollenberg and two case managers (Ms. Julie DiCarlo / Roslyn Arnold).

ACF's Program Manager, Mr. Ashiko Hudson opened the presentation. He advised that his team would be assisting him. Mr. Hudson joked about the variables that parents contend with working from home. Some of the variables that challenge Mr. Hudson are the new dog he purchased for his son, parenting duties associated with his son attending school from home, and the excitement expressed by his son when playing Fortnite games to name a few. Mr. Hudson promised to keep the presentation brief to respect the Commissioner's time and to avoid encountering "at home" variables. Mr. Hudson talked about how he became a father at 19 years old. He is currently the father of four children, and now at 45 years old, he has a granddaughter.

ACF is a childcare advocacy organization that helps individuals and other agencies navigate quality childcare. Within this area of advocacy is a parenting program component. Father Factor is the OCF funded program at ACF. The goal of Father Factor is "to empower fathers to be the best Parent, Partner and Provider they can be..." by establishing and reestablishing families.

Mr. Hudson believes the work is valuable to the communities they serve which include: Franklin, Delaware and Licking counties, under the OCF grant. ACF also provides services to incarcerated fathers at the West Central Community Based Correctional Facility in Union County under another funding source and plans to expand into Fairfield county next year.

Mr. Hudson, Case Manager Julie DiCarlo, and Job Developer Keith Wollenberg discussed the programmatic structure and other services fathers receive when recruited for the Father Factor program.

ACF's Father Factor Basic Programmatic Structure:

1. Recruitment
2. 12-hour curriculum – Relatable facilitator led discussion
3. Case Management and Barrier Removal – (**Julie DiCarlo**) – Introduces herself and Ms. Roslyn Arnold and explained how both of their duties are structured.
 - a. Case Managers addresses the needs of the father during an intensive intake process. Case Managers inquire about the father's reason for seeking services and work with the father on the following:
 - i. ISP / Goal Setting
 - ii. Court System Navigation: Custody, Parenting Time
 - iii. Child Support navigation: Paternity establishment and right sized orders

1. Address the fear fathers sometimes experience associated with Child Support
 - a. Case Managers teach fathers that the support is for the child.
- iv. Community Referrals
 1. Encourages working together for the betterment of fathers overall.
4. Job Development and Employment Services – **(Keith Wollenberg)**– Job Developer goes above and beyond to connect fathers with “right size” employment reflective of skill set.
 - a. Fathers are assessed during the intake process
 - i. Asked about work history and interests
 - ii. Provided low to no cost work training and/or certification courses if necessary
 1. Mr. Wollenberg recently found a free constructions trade program through a church.
 - a. One father will be completing the program later this month. The father will have been trained on carpeting and flooring. Once completed, his resume will be updated, AFC will work with the father on interview skills and connect him to their network of employers.
 - iii. Resume updates and interview prep if necessary
 1. One father obtained employment with Nationwide Insurance after having his resume updated. He reported that outcomes improved when the updated resume was uploaded to Indeed.
 2. Another father expressed a need for assistance with the interviewing process.
 - a. This father was introduced to the STAR method and became more comfortable with the interview process. Has since obtained employment at a warehouse.
 - b. AFC’s Job Developer has cultivated a number valuable employer relationships, including employers who are sensitive to and willing to hire formerly incarcerated fathers reentering society.
 - i. AFC Job developer has relationships with over 100 employers in various counties,
 - ii. Including relationships with Ohio Means Jobs and the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act.
 - c. AFC hosts job fairs
 - i. Due to the pandemic the most recent job fair had to be canceled.
 - ii. The job fair ACF hosted prior to the pandemic had over 50 job seekers attend.
 - d. Mr. Wollenberg has past experience as a Domestic Violence Counselor and works with fathers on a HIITS survey upon intake.
 - i. Fathers with a score of 10 or higher are referred for services based on guidance from the Ohio Domestic Violence Network.
 - ii. Mr. Wollenberg has shared the Power & Control Wheel and the Equality Wheel with AFC staff in hopes of implementing it into the fatherhood curriculum in the future.
5. Parenting education classes, seminars, and workshops – **(Ashiko Hudson)**
 - a. Fathers must successfully complete at least 7 of the 8 classes to graduate.
 - i. **Session 1. Reflections** – Reviews how the father was raised and how it effects his parenting style.
 - ii. **Session 2. Build on the Positive** – Uses the positives in how the father was parented and how he is currently parenting to build and possibly create a new parenting profile.
 - iii. **Session 3. The Art of listening** – Emphasizes the importance of listening, and that fact that as parents they are all still learning and growing.

- iv. **Session 4. Forgiveness** – Explores how unforgiveness could potentially hold fathers back. This session is often emotional, a bonding and transformative experience for the cohort.
 - v. **Session 5. RESPECTFUL Discipline** – Fathers discuss the method of discipline used when they were raised, how it influences how they discipline their children and alternative ways to address discipline.
 - vi. **Session 6. Democracy at Home** – Emphasizes the importance of children having a voice. Mr. Hudson stated there is often push back at first, but later fathers report the change in the dynamic of the father child relationship.
 - vii. **Session 7. Positive Pair-enting** – Addresses challenges fathers face with the mother of their child(ren), and encourages fathers to honest, accountable, and to properly rectify and resolve any relationship challenges that effect their ability to parent.
 - viii. **Session 8. Taking Care of You** – Open discussion about self-care that asks fathers about what they do to positively build themselves up.
- b. Consideration is given to fathers that miss classes due to work or other positive Parent, Provider, Partner investments. Fathers are given opportunities to make up classes if they miss due to work or other reasons associated with supporting their families.

6. Graduation

7. Ongoing Support

Mr. Hudson closed the presentation with demographics from the last fiscal year. Statistics are reflective of the last in-person cohort prior to the pandemic.

Father Factor Demographics:

- 154 Fathers served in 3 counties
- 73% Community / 23% Incarcerated / 4% Unknown
- 42% Caucasian / 32% African American / 19% Latino
- 99% Father to a child 18 or younger
- 23% no degree / 25% HS Diploma/GED/ 14% Assoc. Degree or higher
- 45% less than \$1000 earned in past 30 days
- 47% full-time employed
- 29% never married / 19% divorced/separated / 25% married/engaged
- 65% Improved communication with children / 35% Increased time spent with children not living with them

Mr. Neely thanked the AFC team and joked about how the “RESPECTFUL Discipline” session referenced in the presentation would be useful when engaging his 16-year-old son. He also addressed a question in the chat box that Father Factor classes are open to fathers with children of all ages.

Exec. Director Dent encouraged the Commissioners to unmute their microphones and inquire if they had question and asked if there were any questions in the chat function.

Ms. Terri Simons advised that all questions had been addressed.

Exec. Director Dent went on to explain the importance of fathers having access to services at a “one stop shop”, and how often OCF staff receives inquiries about father specific needs, processes, and services. Exec. Director Dent discussed a recent referral to AFC, for a father who was referred to OCF through Kinship Care. Kinship

Care was unable to assist the father, who had just inherited custody of his seven-month-old daughter, because as her father he was not considered to be “kin”, according to their standards. Referring this father to AFC put him in a position to receive the assistance required and kept his infant daughter out of the foster care system. Exec. Director Dent also advised that Commissioners could see all the data from State Fiscal Year 2020 in the published Annual Report.

The Action for Children presentation can be found on our OCF website. www.fatherhood.ohio.gov/Our-Commission/Commission-Meetings

VIII. Introductions/Welcome to Arriving Commissioners

11:05-11:10 Chair Scott Neely

Mr. Neely acknowledged the arrival of newly reappointed commissioner Dr. Randy Leite and gave him an opportunity to introduce himself.

Dr. Leite advised that he has been involved with OCF for the past ten years. He stated he was a Commissioner in the past and is grateful to have been appointed for another term.

Mr. Neely inquired about the new phase in his life. Dr. Leite told Commissioners that he had retired as the Dean of the College of Health Science at Ohio University in December. He has recently been hired as the Executive Director of the Appalachian Children’s Coalition, which is focused on bringing awareness to the needs of children in Southeast Ohio.

Mr. Neely advised that Representative West had signed in during the presentation but had to report to another meeting. Exec. Director Dent confirmed that Rep. West had to go, but that his legislative aid was present and taking “copious notes” on Rep. West’s behalf.

Mr. Neely asked if there were any other Commissioners present that were not previously acknowledged in the introductions earlier in the meeting. Exec. Director Dent advised that all Commissioners present had been acknowledged.

IX. Bylaws Review and Continuation

11:10-11:40 Commissioner Scott Neely and Commissioners

Mr. Neely asked that Commissioners begin reviewing the Bylaws and the recommended changes in verbiage the previous meeting. Mr. Neely reminded Commissioners that the first three articles were reviewed in the previous meeting, then recapped the changes Commissioners discussed.

1.01 Duties of the Commission

R.C. 5101.342

1. 01 A. Organize a state summit on fatherhood every four years – **(Language Change)** OCF will organize a State Fatherhood Summit at a minimum of every four years, **or as often as the Commission budget allows.**

***Mr. Neely** advised that the new language will be sent to all Commissioners for review, at least 30 days before the next Commissioner meeting.*

Article III Officers – Mr. Neely advised that the proposed changes in Article III were in reference to changing the vote for officers from annually to biannually to coincide with the State Fiscal Year and biannual appointments. He also advised that should the amendment be extended to the “Commission Chair” officer position, statutory change would be necessary and would the involvement of elected officials.

3.02 Chairperson – (Statutory change required/ Language Change) The Commission shall elect a Chairperson at each state fiscal year (SFY) biennium by a simple majority vote of the Commission as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05.

3.03 Vice Chair – (Language Change) The Commission shall elect a Vice Chairperson at each state fiscal year (SFY) biennium by a simple majority vote of the Commission as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05.

3.04 Secretary – (Language Change) The Commission shall elect a Secretary at each state fiscal year (SFY) biennium by a simple majority vote of the Commission as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05.

3.05 Election of Officers – (Language Change) The Commission shall elect Officers at each state fiscal year (SFY) biennium by a simple majority vote of the Commission as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05.

Mr. Neely explained that Officers shall serve 2 years before another election is held. The election would take place in July and would coincide with 2-year legislative appointments and the funding biennial. Then verified with Exec. Director Dent, that these were the discussed changes in the articles.

Exec. Director Dent confirmed to Mr. Neely regarding change in language for officer elections. Then began to further explain the language changes in the article addressing the Fatherhood Summit. Exec. Director Dent advised that, statutes require OCF to have a summit every four year, but there are times when the budget will allow summits to take place more often. The next summit is not required by statute to take place until the year 2024, which is long time considering the summit is not for the population we serve, but instead for the population serving the population we serve.

Rep. McClain advised that the new language was submitted to Lame Duck, but it has yet to be approved. He also referenced the operating budget and other upcoming opportunities to resubmit. He said that he, Rep. West, and Rep Upchurch would make a conscious effort to resubmit the updated and approved language.

Mr. Neely recalled that Rep. McClain and Rep West had advised in a previous meeting that he would be attempting to get the language change request submitted and thanked him for the update. He then asked if there were any questions. Since there were not, he continued reviewing the changes to the bylaws.

Article IV. Commission Committees

4.01 Committees

The Executive Committee:

Mr. Scott Neely (Chair)	Children’s Hunger Alliance
Rep. Thomas West (Vice-Chair)	House of Representatives
Mr. Socrates Tuch (Secretary)	Ohio Dept. of Health
Exec. Director Kimberly Dent	Non-Voting Ex-Officio Member
Chairs of the other Standing Committees	

The Fiscal Funding Committee:

Ms. Ann Ream (Chair)	Summit County Children's Services
Mr. Scott Neely	Children's Hunger Alliance
Mr. James Jackson	Ohio Dept. of Youth Services
Rep. Thomas West	House of Representatives

The Summit Committee:

Mr. Joseph Hill (Chair)	(OMHAS) Ohio Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Mr. Scott Neely	Ohio Children's Alliance
Rep. Riordan McClain	House of Representatives
Mr. James Jackson	(ODYS) Ohio Dept. of Youth Services
Dr. Mike Davis	(ODRC) Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation & Corrections
Director Susan Brown	Franklin CDJFS Child Support Enforcement Agency
Rep. Terrence Upchurch	House of Representatives
Mr. Tarik White	(ODE) Ohio Dept. of Education
Director Ann Ream	Summit County Children Services

Mr. Neely asked Exec. Director Dent about previous committees.

Exec. Director Dent reminded Commissioners that there was once a Policy/Legislative Committee. The Commission later decided that since there were already six appointments from the General Assembly, the Policy/Legislative Committee was replaced with the Fiscal Funding Committee. This gives Commissioners further insight into how the OCF funds are spent. She also advised that each committee had to have at least three members. In an effort to be inclusive, she also encouraged the new Commissioners to advise if interested in sitting on any of the committees.

Mr. Neely stated that policy could be discussed at the full Commission meeting. Then reiterated that if Commissioners were interested in any of the standing committees or felt that another committee needs to be established, to advise Exec. Director Kimberly Dent, Ms. Terri Simons, or himself.

Dr. Randy Leite advised that he was interested in sitting on whichever committee needed representation.

4.02 Subcommittees – Reviewed

4.03 Membership on Committees – Reviewed

4.04 Limited Membership Committee – Reviewed

Article V. Meetings

5.01 Regular Meetings – Reviewed

5.02 Special Meetings – Reviewed

5.03 Emergency Meetings – Reviewed

5.04 Notice of Meetings to Members and Officers - Reviewed

5.05 Quorum and Voting – **Mr. Neely** reminded Commissioners that they were counted in attendance even if they were unable to attend the entire meeting.

Exec. Director Dent advised that currently there are 18 Commissioners and that we are currently waiting on the Speaker of the House to replace former Commissioner Smith, and one more Governor appointment.

Mr. Neely also advised that the four House members have to be formally appointed again as well.

Required Number from each Office	Office
2	Ohio Senate
4	House of Representatives
1	Supreme Court
6	State Government Agencies (ODJFS, OMHAS, ODH, ODRC, ODYS, ODE)
1	Ohio Family & Children’s First Council
1	Governor’s Office Designee (GOFBCI)
5	Citizens of the general public appointed by the Governor’s Office
20	Total Commissioners

5.06 Public Meetings – Reviewed

5.07 Record of Commission Meetings – Reviewed

5.08 Commission Records – Reviewed

5.09 Record Retention – Reviewed

5.10 Organization of Meetings – **Mr. Neely** gave Commissioners time to read through this Article and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Article VI. Consistency with Laws of the State of Ohio - Reviewed

Article VII. Amendment, Severability and Suspension

7.01 Adoption of Bylaws – Reviewed

7.02 Amendment and Repeal – Reviewed

7.03 Severability – Reviewed

7.04 Suspension – **Mr. Neely** gave Commissioners an opportunity to read through this article. He advised that it was standard language and self-explanatory but opened the floor in case any lawyers present wanted to explain further.

Exec. Director Dent explained that there would be a debrief, and that all of the suggested language changes would be sent out in an email 30 before the next Commissioner Meeting in accordance with Article 7.02. She wants each of the Commissioners to have time to establish clarification and ask questions of necessary. Everything discussed will be voted on at the next Commissioner meeting. She also advised that the “Revised Date” would be updated once changes were approved.

X. Executive Director's Report

11:40 – 11:50 Executive Director Kimberly Dent

Exec. Director Dent explained that the Executive Director's Report covered her meetings and activities from October/2020 – February/2021 before this meeting. She discussed and highlighted the following topics:

- **Funding:**
 - **NKO – No Kidding Ohio** – is a pilot program OCF is currently funding in two counties (Fairfield / Cuyahoga – Cleveland). The purpose is to teen pregnancy prevention, but the program also supports the Peer Educators who are young parents between the ages of 16-24. The Peer Educators are responsible for presenting the pregnancy prevention curriculum to high school and middle school kids. Exec. Director Dent had the opportunity to observe a Peer Educator from the NKO-Fairfield team (with the TeenWorks organization) present at Heath Jr. High School. The NKO curriculum is owned by ODJFS.
 - The Federal Office of Child Support provided funding to the State Office of Child Support to implement the NKO program/curriculum in Lucas and Gallia counties.
 - Additional federal funds have been released to the State Office of Child Support to implement in three additional counties: Franklin, Ashtabula, and Perry counties
 - **Exec. Director Dent** invited **Director Susan Brown** to speak more about the Franklin County implementation.
 - **Director Brown** advised that she was currently reviewing draft of the first iteration. She reiterated the impact of the peer to peer presenters.
 - Then advised that their target population resides in areas of high debt and high child support arrears, as well as juvenile detention centers, community centers, schools and anywhere else the target population resides.
 - They plan to partner with the local JFS, AMP program, and the CCMEP program, using case managers as ambassadors for the program. David Fluellen (Dads 2B) has also partnered with the NKO program.
 - The hope is that the program will address the periphery bubble of child support prevention. Director Brown plans to make a good showing with the application.
 - Is also requesting that Peer Educators are hired on as staff for a better outcome as it applies to retention of the Peer Educators for the duration of the grant, competitive wages, benefit options, and solidifying their start in public service.
- **TANF Grantee Meetings, Events & Conference Calls:**
 - **Monthly Program and Grantee Agreement Touch Base** – Exec. Director Dent briefly reminded Commissioner of the continued effort to end infant mortality in the State of Ohio. OCF is working with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to support the role dads play in helping with the issue of infant mortality in Ohio.
 - Representatives ODH's WIC Coeffective program spoke to grantees about the importance of breastfeeding. The Breast for Success curriculum teaches fathers the importance of supporting moms with breastfeeding.
 - The Ohio Guidestone program also presented to grantees. Their focus is on postpartum depression fathers experience. OCF has ongoing meetings with Ohio Guidestone. May be asked to present at a future Commissioner meeting.

- **County Mobilization Project in Knox/Columbiana County** – Representatives from both counties have expressed interest in mobilizing fatherhood in their respective locations. OCF is looking to connect the county stakeholders with proper guidance and training to do. Successful counties complete the training, and develop a fatherhood action plan, then receive \$10,000 of seed money from OCF to implement their action plan.
- **State Agency Collaboration:**
 - **Co-Authored Chapter with Ann Ream** – The Ohio University School of Social Work, the University of Denver, and the University of North Carolina will be writing a collaborative book titled: *Social Work Practice Father Engagement with Assessment & Intervention*. Ohio University asked Exec. Director Dent to author a chapter, who in turn invited Ann Ream to coauthor. The chapter they are writing addresses engaging father through programs, assessments, and systems. A strong draft has already been composed. The draft will be submitted at the end of May, and the book is scheduled to be published at the end of 2022.
 - **Ms. Ann Ream** stated that the chapter focus is on the need to improve father engagement across all systems, and that practice changes will increase involvement using child safety and permanency as a cornerstone. Proper father and other paternal family member engagement could reduce some of the trauma experienced by children involved with child welfare systems.
 - Ms. Ream advised that case examples, recommendations, strategies, practices, and discussion questions will be included in the chapter to show:
 - How practice changes can improve father involvement,
 - Contribute to better outcomes for children,
 - Prompt thought provoking discussion when used by instructors in a classroom setting.
 - **Meeting with Families & Children, Joan Vanhull** – The State failed a federal audit in father engagement, and has been placed on a P.I.P. Exec. Director Dent informed Commissioners that she met with Ms. Joan Vanhull with the State Office of Families & Children, and pointed her toward the Tool Kit (Engaging Fathers in Child Welfare) developed by OCF and representatives from other agencies in 2017, specifically for child welfare workers. Ms. Ann Ream also assisted with the development of this Tool Kit. Exec. Director Dent explained that new child welfare employees should be expected to review the Tool Kit because it addresses implicit bias as it applies to fathers.
 - **Montgomery County Fatherhood Summit** – Exec. Director Dent was invited by the Montgomery County JFS Fatherhood Coordinator, Mr. Michael Newsome, to be a guest speaker at the opening session.
 - **The States of Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Nebraska** – Are all in various stages in developing a commission on fatherhood and have looked to Exec. Director Dent for guidance.
- **General Fatherhood Outreach, Meetings, & Conference Calls:**
 - **Native American Fathers & Families Association Webinar** – OCF Exec. Director Dent and Program Manager Mr. Josh Counciller attended the first day of a three-day webinar. Exec. Director Dent advised of the necessity to become educated about other cultures and

their family dynamics, to be respectful and improve services delivery when engaging Native American fathers.

To read the Executive Directors Report, please go to our OCF website.

www.fatherhood.ohio.gov/Our-Commission/Commission-Meetings

XI.	Announcements and New Business
11:50-11:55	Chair Scott Neely

- Chair Scott Neely thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Children’s Hunger Alliance Virtual event is scheduled for February 25, 2021. Time: 12 noon – 1:00 pm
Guest Speaker: Mr. Jimmy Wayne (country music singer)
- Exec. Director Kimberly Dent is requesting \$3 Million dollars the next SFY
 - If request is honored there will be an additional \$800,000 per SFY.
 - Exec. Director Dent has advised leadership in her office but is unsure if it is included in the Governor’s proposed budget.
 - Mr. Scott Neely asked if legislators could advise of budget status at the next Commissioner meeting.
 - Additional funding will go towards
 - RFGA for 3 additional multi-county grantees
 - Covering counties in Ohio that have yet to receive fatherhood funding
 - Pilot projects

XII.	Adjournment
11:55 -12:00	Chair Scott Neely

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

The next Virtual Commission Meeting: **Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 10:00am-12:00pm**

2021 Commission Meeting Dates		
Thursday, February 11, 2021	10:00 AM – 12:00 noon	Location: Virtual
Thursday, May 13, 2021	10:00 AM – 12:00 noon	Location: Virtual
Thursday, July 8, 2021	10:00 AM – 12:00 noon	Location: TBA
Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021	10:00 AM – 12:00 noon	Location: TBA
Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021	10:00 AM – 12:00 noon	Location: TBA