

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)
Executive Director Report
February-April 2014**

OCF Grantees

Urban Light Ministries Fatherhood Graduation (Madison Corrections): OCF staff attended grantee Urban Light Ministries' fatherhood graduation ceremony at the Madison Correctional facility. The Director spoke during the ceremony and lead the Responsible Father Commitment Pledge after distributing Pledge cards and lapel pins.

OCF Grantee Conference Call: OCF staff and funded programs participated on a teleconference to discuss fatherhood in Ohio and around the states. This call allowed time for grantees to check-in regarding their respective programs.

ForeverDads Celebration – Zanesville: OCF staff attended the ForeverDads Annual Celebration. OCF staff handed out letters of congratulations from the Ohio Senate to the five dads in the Zanesville Community being honored.

Trainings, Conferences & Retreats

Center for Family Safety and Healing-Family Violence Plan Meeting: OCF staff met with representatives from the Center for Family Safety and Healing. We discussed a potential partnership to develop a protocol for fatherhood programs to identify and respond to domestic violence in a client's family, an education and training plan for fatherhood practitioners, education for fathers to supplement fatherhood curricula and to identify potential partners for referral list that fatherhood programs use (including batter intervention services).

OCF/OPNFF Phone Conference and Meeting (State Summit): OCF staff met with board members from Ohio Practitioner's Network for Fathers and Families (OPNFF) to discuss the upcoming May 2014 State Summit (for practitioners and professionals). The logistics regarding the venue and flow of the day were discussed. OCF will pay for the venue, audio visuals and ten vendor tables. OCF received a list of hotels/conference centers on the State Term. Staff from OCF and OPNFF visited the Crowne Plaza North and the Quest Conference Center. Phone conferences are held weekly in preparation for the summit.

DAS Web-Design Meeting: OCF staff met with DAS staff to learn additional skills for updating OCF website.

Prison Rape Elimination Training at Madison Correctional: OCS staff completed Prison Rape Elimination Training required in order to serve the incarcerated fathers.

Constant Contact Marketing Workshop: Constant Contacts is a vendor used by OCF to distribute marketing materials such as e-newsletters and event information. OCF staff attended a free informative workshop on The Power of Email Marketing and Getting Started With Email Marketing.

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Meeting with Bartha (Potential Company to provide audio and visual for State Summit): OCF staff met with representatives from Bartha to begin discussions surrounding the audio visual needs at the upcoming state summit. Bartha and SoundCom are on the state term list; however, SoundCom provides audio visual needs for more permanent installation requests. OCF will connect with fiscal and contracts staff to move forward with the purchase order. OCF staff also met a representative from Bartha at the Crowne Plaza to review the venue.

County Meetings

Ohio County Fatherhood Initiate Webinar Kickoff: OCF staff lead a webinar to welcome three new counties to participate in the third round of the Ohio County Fatherhood initiative. Counties included Coshocton, Licking and Richland. The counties will each receive \$10,000 in seed money to implement their county fatherhood action plans.

Building Assets for Fathers & Families (BAFF)

BAFF/Fatherhood Presentation Preparation Phone Conference: OCF staff attended several meetings to prepare for the Building Assets for Fathers and Families presentation at the State Community Action Association event held at the Sheraton on January 30, 2014.

BAFF/Fatherhood Presentation: OCF staff presented with staff from the Office of Child Support and Ohio Community Development Corp. Association at the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies Winter Conference. A workshop regarding BAFF and Responsible Fatherhood was provided to attendees.

Phone Conference with OCS and SmartMoney: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with the Office of Child Support and LifeSpan which has taken over the BAFF services offered by SmartMoney Community Services. Future meeting has been scheduled to meet the new staff and go over invoicing/billing.

Meeting with OSU African American Male Initiative (AAMI) Representative: OCF staff met with representative from AAMI and a representative from OSU Extension to discuss how AAMI can collaborate with OCF as well as the Building Assets for Fathers and Families (BAFF) grant.

Meeting with SmartMoney/Life Span Representatives (Cincinnati): OCF staff traveled to Butler County (Hamilton, Ohio) to meet the staff from LifeSpan. LifeSpan has taken over the services offered by SmartMoney Community Services as they relate to the BAFF (Building Assets for Fathers and Families) grant.

BAFF (Building Assets for Fathers and Families) Advisory Board Meeting: OCF staff participated in the monthly BAFF Advisory Board meeting to continue discussing the services provided in Cuyahoga and Hamilton counties as well as the start-up of services that began in Franklin County. Franklin County has joined the state funded BAFF team (Franklin County CSEA and OSU Extension). Services will continue through September 30, 2014 per the No-Cost Extension awarded by the Federal Office of Child Support.

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BAFF Meeting – Child Support Staff: OCF staff met with OCS (Office of Child Support Staff) to assist with the deliverables for the project manager. The BAFF project terminates September 30, 2014; however, a new contract is required to cover the dates of 07-01-2014 to 09-30-2014.

Prison Outreach

Correctional Institutions Child Support and Fatherhood Q & A: OCF staff provided Responsible Fatherhood presentations at a number of Correctional Institutions. The Responsible Fatherhood presentation is provided prior to the Child Support presentation. Staff presented at the following correctional institutions:

1. Grafton Correctional
2. Pickaway Correctional
3. London Correctional
4. Marion Correctional
5. Richland Correctional

Child Support Meetings

Child Support Consistency Workgroup Phone Conference: OCF staff attended the quarterly Child Support Strategic Workgroup Consistency Subcommittee. The subcommittee is comprised of OCF, state Child Support, county CSEA (Child Support Enforcement Agency) and OCDA (Ohio Child Support Director's Association) representatives. After working with consistency issues regarding employers, the Consistency subcommittee decided to move in the direction of developing surveys to send to the CSEAs.

Child Support Re-Branding Meeting: OCF staff participated in the Child Support Strategic Workgroup/Rebranding meeting. During the meeting the group went over the results of the recent survey sent to custodial and non-custodial parents.

Other Meetings of Note

Meeting at the King Center: OCF staff attended a meeting with Dr. Dad Workshop facilitators at the King Center. Plans have been developed to provide presentations from OCF and the Office of Child Support (OCS) to fathers who attend these workshops.

Observation of No Kidding Ohio at Canal Winchester High School & Bexley High School:

OCF staff attended Canal Winchester High School and Bexley High School with OCF Commissioner representing the Department of Education, Dr. John Richard and Tarik White. No Kidding Ohio is a three day program where peer educators tell their stories, discuss paternity establishment, the cost of raising a child in Ohio and Responsible Fatherhood. OCF is exploring ways to expand the project beyond Fairfield County.

Neighborhood House Nest Advisory Board Meeting: OCF staff joined the Neighborhood House Nest Advisory Board. The first meeting of the year was held to discuss the May 2014 Community Baby Shower. There was also discussion regarding this year's workshops to be offered to mothers and fathers of children from birth to 24 months. Various stakeholders are part of the Nest Advisory Board to assist with decreasing infant mortality in the county. Neighborhood House Nest Advisory Board is planning a Father's Day event in June 2014.

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Conference call with Mr. Rick Johnson and Kindal Brazie: OCF staff spoke with Mr. Rick Johnson regarding his book, “Better Dads, Stronger Sons”. Mr. Johnson is interested in participating in the upcoming State Fatherhood Summit.

Region V Conference Call: OCF staff and Commissioners participated on the Federal Region V Conference Call on March 11th. The listeners included fatherhood and child support staff from several states, including staff from the Federal Office of Child Support in D.C. The Commission received positive feedback from the listeners due to the unique structure of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood.

Discussion with Governor’s Office: OCF staff participated in a call with Kim Hettel and Tracy Ensign regarding an inquiry from a member of the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community (GOFBC).

Chip Weiant (Governor’s Office of Faith-Based Community): OCF staff participated in a phone conference with Chip Weiant. Information regarding the mission and activities of OCF were discussed as well as the upcoming State Summit. Mr. Weiant also shared the new BrightIdeasOhio.org website and how best practices from OCF funded grantees can be displayed on the website. Additional conversation with the Governor’s Office (Tracy Ensign) and Kim Hettel has been scheduled.

COTA Mobility Advisory Board Meeting: OCF staff attended the COTA Mobility Advisory Board Meeting. Updates regarding upcoming COTA events were shared as well as ways COTA can best serve its constituents.

Ohio Children’s Trust Fund: OCF staff attended the April 2014 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Kick-off hosted by the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund. OCF staff participated in the activities and distributed fatherhood materials.