

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood  
Minutes from the Meeting of Thursday, February 12, 2015**

<b>Attendance</b>	
<b>Commissioners</b>	<p> <b>Senator Bill Beagle</b>  <b>Ms. Kara Bertke-Wente</b>  <b>Mr. Jamoya Cox</b>  <b>Mr. William Green</b>  <b>Director Kimberly Hettel</b>  <b>Mr. Chad Hibbs</b>  <b>Senator Joseph Schiavoni</b>  <b>Mr. Socrates Tuch</b>  <b>Mr. John Silverman</b>  <b>Mr. Luis Vazquez</b>  <b>Mr. Tarik White</b> </p>
<b>Designees</b>	<p><b>Ms. Rona Dorsey for Scott Neely, ODRC</b></p>
<b>Presenters</b>	<p> <b>Mr. Burl Lemon, ForeverDads</b>  <b>Ms. Irene Varley, The Dibble Institute</b> </p>
<b>Guests</b>	<p> <b>Mr. Barry Sheets, The Ridge</b>  <b>Pastor Eugene Norris, Fame Fathers</b>  <b>Ms. Christine St. Clair, The Buckeye Ranch</b>  <b>Mr. Larence Witherspoon, The Buckeye Ranch</b> </p>
<b>OCF Staff</b>	<p> <b>Director Kimberly Dent</b>  <b>Mrs. Whitney Addison</b>  <b>Ms. Monica Mahoney</b> </p>

<b>I. Call to Order &amp; Welcome New Commissioners</b>	
<b>10:00 to 10:15</b>	<b>Senator Bill Beagle</b>
<p>Senator Beagle welcomed our three new commissioners: Senator Joseph Schiavoni, Mr. Jamoya Cox representing Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Mr. Socrates Tuch representing the Department of Health.</p>	
<b>II. OCF Grantee ForeverDads</b>	
<b>10:15-11:00</b>	<b>Burl Lemon</b>
<p>ForeverDads (FD) is one of the six current grantees selected for funding by OCF. They serve fathers in Muskingum, Perry, Guernsey, Noble and Morgan Counties. Burl Lemon has been the Director of FD for eleven years. He provided a Power Point presentation about the history and services provided by FS; it is posted on the OCF website.</p> <p>Commissioner Socrates Tuch asked whether “On my Shoulders” is a support group. Mr. lemon responded that it is an evidence-based curriculum that incorporates time for participants to share and discuss topics in a safe space.</p> <p>Senator Joseph Schiavoni noted that once you get men talking about fishing and football it becomes easier for them to open up about difficult topics.</p> <p>Director Kimberly Dent noted that FD uses the curriculum, “Nurturing Fathers” as part of NFL Dads. Director Dent will connect Mr. Lemon with Hawaii Fatherhood Commission because they are interested in using it during home visits with new fathers and Mr. Lemon has extensive experience using it.</p> <p>FD uses the curriculum, “Inside Out Dads” at Noble Corrections where they have served incarcerated fathers since 2008. According to Mr. Lemon, this is FD’s premier program. Inmates with promise co-facilitate the sessions which helps them become better fathers and leaders. An outgrowth of the fatherhood program at Noble is FD’s reentry program – “Restored Citizen Network” (RCN). Many graduates from “Inside Out Dads” are part of that group. participation in RCN has positioned these fathers to connect with support services once they return to the community.</p> <p>The best recruitment tool for FD is the “All Pro Dads” program. They serve free breakfasts for fathers and children in local schools. Schools support it because it provides an opportunity for parent engagement. Fathers are asked to pay \$1 so the men’s dignity is preserved.</p> <p>FD has created many community events including “Who Let the Dads Out?” as a way for dads and kids to have fun together. Domino’s Pizza advertises the events on all their boxes and provides free pizza at the events. Some of these dads are not used to these kinds of interactions with their children.</p>	

When FD was not funded by OCF in 2012-13, FD was made to look to the local community in order to sustain their programming. According to Mr. Lemon, the loss of OCF funding was the best thing that ever happened to FD because it caused the board of trustees to rise up and develop some different ways to fund programming including their annual "Tribute to Fatherhood". It is like a Hall of Fame for community fathers. They typically raise \$20,000 a year at that event and 400-500 people attend. It is the only event of its kind in their community.

Senator Schiavoni said he was very impressed and would like to bring fatherhood programming like FD to his district. He asked Mr. Lemon was is FD's annual Budget. FD receives \$105,000 from OCF and \$80,000 from other sources. In actuality FD is a \$300,000 plus organization but able to offer services by maximizing resources through donation of space, food and community volunteer's time.

According to Mr. Leon, everything we need is available in the community and it is not a matter of dollars. Money is needed for payroll and basic administration costs but they c Can get everything else from the community through donations.

### III. The Dibble Institute

11:00-11:20

Irene Varley

Director Dent invited Irene Varley from the Dibble Institute (DI) to present information on prevention of premature fatherhood through a curriculum designed specifically for teen fathers (Love Notes). Ms. Varley provided a Power Point presentation about the history and curriculum provided by the Dibble Institute; it is posted on the OCF website.

Charlie Dibble is the founder of DI; he worked at GE in Cincinnati and was very successful. He recognized that divorce rate was rising and wanted to create something to help teens create healthy families with healthy marriages. He used his wealth to fund and found DI as a non-profit based in Berkeley, CA.

Everything at DI is research based. Family formation and healthy relationships is the focus. Target audience is young people and the goal is to educate them about healthy relationships before they form bad habits in relationships. The philosophy at DI is that information and education helps teens become intentional in their choices and relationships. The curriculum is designed for 15-24 year olds.

Commissioner Kim Hettel asks if there is an abstinence message. Mr. Varley did not answer the questions directly but said that the curriculum focuses on different types of intimacy beyond sex.

**IV. Election of Officers**

**11:20-11:22**

As required by OCF Bylaw 3.05, commissioners voted for officers by anonymous ballot and elected the following people:

1. Senator Bill Beagle, Chairman
2. Carri Brown, Vice Chair
3. Luis Vazquez, Secretary

**V. Approval of Minutes**

**11:22-11:35**

The minutes from September 24, 2014 were approved as submitted.

**VI. Report from the Director**

**11:40-11:47** Director Kimberly Dent

Director Dent was out of the office on a medical leave from October 15, 2014 until January 12, 2015. OCF staff, Monica Mahoney and Whitney Addison continued to run the office in her absence.

One of the initiative's Director Dent spoke about is "Moms2Be", a free program for low-income expectant mothers whose babies are at higher risk for infant death. The goal is to educate moms about how to have a healthy pregnancy so they will have lower infant mortality. OSU Medical Center and Nationwide Children's Hospital are providing the program at four locations in Columbus. Class meets weekly during pregnancy and the first year of the child's life. OCF would like to engage fathers and is working with Moms 2B and the Columbus Urban League to develop a pilot program that includes expectant fathers. Director Dent will invite them to present on this pilot project at a future OCF meeting.

Other items of note that Director Dent spoke about include:

1. OCF came into being 16 years ago this week. Steve Killpack has been part of the commission since the beginning. At end of April meeting OCF would like to honor him for his service.
2. OCF staff are providing a grant writing training tomorrow.
3. OCF's next RFGA and Responsible Father's Month applications will be released soon.

Commissioner Luis Vazquez asked who can apply for funding through the next RFGA. Ms. Addison responded that we cannot talk about any of the details publicly until it is released because there are potential applicants in the room today.

<b>VII. Action Items</b>	
<b>11:47-11:58</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commissioners should advise whether they are able to stay for an extended meeting on April 23 so that the commission can thank and recognize former commissioner Steve Killpack for his service to the commission.</li> <li>2. Commissioner should advise whether they would like someone from the Governor’s Office to provide the commission with training on how to prevent and identify Human Trafficking. Depending on the length of the training, this would be offered as part of the regular commission meeting.</li> <li>3. Commissioners will receive a summary of Grantee Funding in response to Commissioner Silverman’s request for a list of previously funded grantees and the amount of funding they received.</li> </ol>
<b>VIII. Announcements &amp; New Business</b>	
<b>11:58-12:00</b>	
	<p>Commissioner John Silverman wants to know about OCF’s historical grant funding including who has been funded and for how much. Monica Mahoney will email everyone this information.</p> <p>Chairman Beagle said that OCF’s budget request for the next state fiscal year is \$1 million. OCF is part of ODJFS’s TANF budget and has received \$1 million per year in the past two budgets. OCF was a separate line item in 2011 and some legislators tried to defund OCF.</p> <p>Chairman Beagle introduced SB42, which deals with minors and outpatient mental health treatment. The bill, “Dylan’s Voice,” named after a young man, who committed suicide, will allow minors to seek mental health treatment at age 11. (currently the age is 14). The bill would also allow noncustodial parents (usually the father) to grant permission for mental health treatment.</p> <p>The Chairman also mentioned Infant Mortality Bills pending in the Senate and said that Senator LaRose’s Equal Parenting Bill will be reintroduced sometime during this General Assembly.</p>
<b>IX. Adjournment</b>	
<b>12:00</b>	The meeting adjourned.