

**Ohio Commission on
Fatherhood
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 14, 2022
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Attendance

Commissioners

Director Susan Brown
Exec. Director Elisha Cangelosi
Director Matthew Damschroder
Dr. Mike Davis
Lt. Col. Pedro Munoz
Rep. Riordan McClain
Director Scott Neely
Director Ann Ream
Randi Malcolm Thomas, Esq.
Mr. Socrates Tuch

Presenters:

Community Action Organization of Scioto County
Jared Timberlake

**Summit PCSA and Ohio Commission on Mr.
Fatherhood**
Director Ann Ream & Joshua Counciller

OCF Staff

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

Guests:

Ms. Wanda Ellis, Deputy Director, Office of Family Assistance
Dawson Varuola, Leg. Aide to State Rep. Thomas West
Mr. Kolin Petty, Leg. Aide to State Rep. Riordan McCain
Mr. Traevon Leak, Leg. Aide to Sen. Sykes
Mr. Bryan Stout, Office of Legislation, representing Molly Rafeld
Ms. Sonya Townsend, Jamestown Staff
Mr. Kerry Townsend, Jamestown Staff
Mr. John Erby, F2F-Columbus Urban League
Ms. Karen Kimbrough, OMHAS
Ms. Caroline Sippin, Leg. Aide to Rep. West
Mr. Ethan Stout, ODJFS
Mr. David Fluellen, Urban Family Development (Dads2B)

I. Call to Order & Welcome

10:01	Chair Scott Neely
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Mr. Scott Neely began the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

II. Introductions/Welcome

10:01-10:05	Chair Scott Neely
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Mr. Scott Neely opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, and called role to verify Commissioner attendance. Commissioners introduced themselves and the agency they represent.

III. Approval of May 12, 2022, Minutes

10:6-10:08	Chair Scott Neely
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Quorum was not established. 10 Commissioners were present for the meeting.

Mr. Neely explained that Commissioners will have to vote on the May 12th and July 14th meeting minutes on September 8, 2022 since quorum was not established.

IV. Community Action Organization of Scioto County

10:09 – 10:55	Mr. Jared Timberlake
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Mr. Neely introduced Mr. Jared Timberlake the Program Manager from Community Action Organization of Scioto County, Inc (CAO Scioto). Scioto County has the population of around 74, 000 people.

Mr. Timberlake opened with CAO Scioto's mission statement: To strive to develop and implement strategies which appropriately mix advocacy, education, and direct provision of services through agency administered programs and coordination of CAO activities with those of all other institutions, agencies and groups serving those in need.

Mr. Timberlake discussed employment services provided such as:

- Career Counseling
- Resume building
- On the Job Training

CAO Scioto also provides:

- Educational Assistance (by way of fatherhood services or other services provided at CAO Scioto),
- Assistance with navigation through the court systems, processes, and paperwork.
- Parenting Time / Custody Cases
- Child support cases

Fatherhood Programming

CAO of Scioto uses the 24/7 Dad Curriculum and address following in the fatherhood classes:

- a. Family History
- b. What it means to be a Man
- c. Showing and handling feelings

- d. Men's Health
- e. Communication – often a place for great conversation. Children are often affected by the lack of communication between their parents.
- f. Working with Mom / Co-parenting
- g. The Father's Role
- h. Discipline
- i. Children's Group
- j. Dad's and work

CAO Scioto receives referrals from state and county agencies as well as through community resource referrals. They host many Fatherhood Events in their community. Scioto is a small community and getting involved is a great way to market the program. The Fatherhood 500 in Portsmouth and other community events is a great way to stay connected.

Services & Resources

In an effort to address fathers' health needs CAO Scioto works with several treatment providers, who make outpatient care to individuals and families in the community available. Providers also offer counseling to families and are willing to provide treatment in home treatment.

They collaborate with "WIC" Women Infants and Children's program and inform fathers about resources, (i.e., formula, wellness checkups for children, etc.). They have nurse navigators who examine the children and consult with the fathers by informing them of their child's illness.

When necessary fathers are referred to HEAP, PIP, utility and rent assistance. Direct services are provided through the Opportunity Center address the problems of hunger, emergency needs and inadequate housing.

CAO Scioto provides Mobile Produce Distribution to the community. The Summer Food program provides free, nutritious breakfast and lunch-time meals to children ages 18 and younger throughout the summer months when school is not in session.

Fathers and children are able to utilize free portable shower units. Mr. Timberlake advised that it helps the homeless population. Interested fathers are also able to continue education at CAO Scioto, by way of fatherhood classes or other services provided.

Mr. Timberlake discussed the importance of fatherhood. He has been married for 10 years to his wife Hannah and they have an 18-month-old son, named Josiah. Mr. Timberlake also gains usable and valuable information through the 24/7 Dads Curriculum. Mr. Timberlake said you get to father your kids; not babysit them. Josiah is his pride and joy, he loves being a father.

Q1. Wanda Ellis: How many shower units and laundry facilities are available?

A1. Mr. Timberlake responded, they have three showers and one laundry room.

Q2. Socrates Tuch: Do you work with Project DAWN?

A2. Mr. Timberlake was unaware of Project DAWN. Mr. Tuch advised that Project DAWN-Ohio stands for Deaths Avoided With Naloxone and is a network of opioid overdose education and Naloxone distribution programs, that are coordinated by the Ohio Dept. of Health.

Project DAWN is available for organizations working to prevent opioid overdose and promote harm reduction. The Ohio Dept. of Health can help CAO Scioto provide opioid education and take-home naloxone to clients and community members. Link to Project DAWN: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/project-dawn/?adlt=strict>

Q3. Kimberly Dent: What about Child Support issues or concerns?
A3. Not at this time.

Mr. Neely thanked the Mr. Timberlake and opened the floor for questions.

For additional information about Community Action Organization of Scioto County: <https://www.fatherhood.ohio.gov/Our-Commission/Commission-Meetings>

V. Summit (PCSA) Public Children’s Services Agency and ODJFS-OCF – Ohio Commission on Fatherhood	
11:01-11:43	Exec. Director Ann Ream and Joshua Counciller, ODJFS-OCF Project Manager

Commissioner Neely introduced Commissioner Ann Ream who is the Executive Director of Summit County Children Services, and Mr. Joshua Counciller, Project Manager for the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood.

Summit County – Making a conscious effort to allow fathers to be pivotal and not “out of sight out of mind”. Traditionally and systematically child services have been mother centric. Employees need to work different with dads and work harder to engage dads.

Summit County Children Services houses the Diversity Equity & Inclusion Steering Committee (DEI Steering Committee). The initiative was evolved during COVID-19 pandemic. The DEI Steering Committee wanted the agency to become more father inclusive. The initiative was revamped to actively support and engage dads in the Summit County Children services. The DEI Steering Committee will also take a look at how fathers impact the lives of their children during custody, both when they are in the fathers’ custody and in the custody of the agency.

Summit County Children Services served 1 in 12 children in the county last year. Which is an opportunity to impact a lot of children by supporting fathers. Ms. Ream is spearheading the DEI Steering Committee. Ms. Ream and the multi-disciplinary chief she is working with have been given three months to come up with objectives, goals, and suggestions that will go to the DEI Steering Committee to implement. They will be looking at data, ways to support dads, resources that are available in the community, tools that Children Services can use to support fathers.

Some community resources that support dads Ms. Ream mentioned are the following programs: **Just Dad From Akron, Fallen Fathers, & Birthing Beautiful Communities**. She advised of the importance of case workers being familiar with programs in the area.

Ms. Ream advised of the importance of systematic consistency regarding practices, protocols, policies, and procedures from intake, ongoing services, through foster care and adoption placement. There are 360 staff that Ms. Ream would like to have surveyed to ensure that the practice of engaging fathers consistently is in place.

Will continue using the Fathering in 15 online resource but is also interested in recommending the

implementation of a Father Subject Matter Expert in each unit for assistance and accountability.

Ms. Ream advised of the barrier associated with paternity testing. She stressed the importance of knowing who to locate, identify and engage for case planning and the potential of partnering with fathers. The DEI Steering Committee will take a look at how this barriers and others concerning fathers are being addressed and reduced. Another option being considered is partnering with the Child Support Enforcement Agency.

One of the ground rules is to be a champion for dads. Father involvement is about child involvement and that is in the best interest of the children. The Summit County Executive Director has signed a letter of agreement to begin the round two County Mobilization project with OCF. Programs like this need to be supported across all systems, round two of this project is Summit County's attempt at reconnecting with Summit County leadership across systems regarding Summit County Fathers.

The Toolkit is a best practice guide for Children Service workers and case managers to engaging fathers. In 2011 Summit County participated in the County Mobilization project and developed best practices for their agency. The 2011 Summit County Children Services developed internal tools and practices that spearheaded a state level, 20-person, fatherhood workgroup that developed the toolkit in 2016 and implemented it in 2017.

In spite of the implementation the state of Ohio continued to be on performance improvement plans concerning engaging dads. The toolkit addresses the pitfalls and barriers throughout the life of a child services case. Executive Director Kimberly Dent and Ms. Ream looked for the 20 original fatherhood workgroup members. Many of which were able to rejoin the team along with several new team members. The goal is to revamp the toolkit by:

- Revamp the toolkit by
- Updating the practice guide
- Updating and disseminating the best practices for case workers and agencies
- Train agencies and case workers techniques to identify, locate, and engage residential, non-residential, custodial, incarcerated, and/or alleged fathers.
 - One of the appendices includes all of the Ohio prisons and their visitation policies which can be used for mothers and fathers.

Mr. Joshua Counciller advised that the workgroup is made up of members from various areas systems and fatherhood work:

- Members from the Original Work Team
- Stakeholders
 - Local County Children Service Agencies
 - Private Organization
- State Representation
 - OCF
 - The Office of Families and Children
- Fatherhood Practitioners

Mr. Counciller advised that Fatherhood Research and Practice Network (FRPN) produced a State-to-

State Report Card in 2017 data showing all 50 states information that leads to effective fatherhood practice and evaluation research. The report card showed that the State of Ohio failed.

- Promoting positive relationships between the child who is in foster care and father were 59% of cases in Ohio.
- The Ohio Fathers' Needs were assessed and addressed were 51% of cases
- Concerted Effort to involve fathers were 69% of the cases in Ohio.

The larger committee meets once a month, but the toolkit is divided up into 4 sections and each section has a subcommittee reviewing it. Subcommittees meet monthly as well. Subcommittees are encouraged to invite guest speakers, potentially "boots-on-the-ground" fatherhood practitioners to their monthly meetings to include various perspectives.

Once the final recommended product is complete, the plan is to have a focus group from various county Children Services agencies caseworkers weigh in and ensure they will have buy-in as well. This would be one of the final steps before moving forward with publication.

Though it was published in 2017, there have been no trainings since 2017. One of the amendments this round will be regular trainings on the material for all the counties. This workgroup is also working with the Office of Families & Children to ensure that any recommendations that require updates to administrative code are addressed. In hopes of shifting father engagement from an option to a requirement. Ms. Ream reiterated the importance of a sustainability plan and hopes that the toolkit becomes a launch pad to enhance Ohio's practices in child services.

Finally, Ms. Ream discussed the new Pilot Project with OCF and Passages in Cuyahoga County Children Services. 2400 kids are in custody in Cuyahoga County. The pilot began with a justification. There is a need to improve the levels of engagement of fathers and the fathers' families in the Children Services system. This pilot is the proposed solution to this issue.

Mr. George Beard is the Fatherhood Engagement Specialist selected by Passages that works alongside Ms. Maureen Drays the Social Program Administrator in the Cuyahoga County Children Services. Mr. Beard learned how the Children Services system and the culture of the agency. His main role is to help dads navigate the Children Services system, engage fathers that are already involved with the agency, and keeping them motivated through the process.

Mr. Beard has 11 active referrals. There are 28 total cases that are in pending status, 5 of which need signed releases. Without the signed the release Mr. Beard is not permitted to communicate with, or work on any case related items for the father.

Team Decision Making meetings are a collaborative practice that includes all the members of the family and the agency involved with the case. Anytime decisions need to be made concerning the case these meetings take place. Mr. Beard is often introduced to fathers and families during these meetings. Mr. Beard does take case notes, but he does not have access to the Children Services case notes system.

The pilot will take place for two years. The hope is that it will become the model for the state.

Everything Mr. Beard is doing is being documented. Ms. Ream hopes to have Ms. Drays come to a future Commission meeting.

Executive Director Dent advised that OCF has put \$50,000 toward this pilot. Executive Director Dent is often asked how Ohio continues to fail with father engagement when there is a Commission on Fatherhood within the state. This pilot is an attempt to address this continued failure.

Mr. Counciller shows the FRPN national report card by state for the meeting attendees to see.
Executive Director Dent

Cangleosi – Thanked Ms. Ream for all she does for Ohio Families. Is a licensed clinician, has worked in mental health, and worked for Children Services at one point during her career. Cangleosi provided oversight for and once worked in residential and community-based care.

Excited about the toolkit. Wants to know if any thought has been given to children placed in higher levels of care. Providers not only neglect engaging fathers, but also neglect to engage other potential placement options in the child’s families. So much pressure is placed on case workers and Children Services professionals to engage to always engage every option. There are other service providers should also support case workers with this type of engagement. Cangleosi would like to see some of the contracted providers into these conversations, as they should be in support of Ms. Ream and case workers.

Centralized Referrals was the response to case worker turn over. Cangleosi would be willing to speak with Ms. Ream about the process if she is interested.

Executive Director Dent advised that case workers will test the toolkit once complete.

Please visit the OCF website for more information about Director Ann Ream and Joshua Counciller presentation. <https://www.fatherhood.ohio.gov/our-commissioners/commissionmeetings/>

VI.	State Fatherhood Awareness & Training
11:45-11:48	Commissioner Scott Neely

Mr. Neely informed the Commissioners that the State Fatherhood Training & Awareness event is in the planning stages. OCF initially planned to have a state summit this year. However, the verbiage in the statute was not updated to clearly permit a summit more often than every four years. Moving forward with a summit in 2022 is not possible.

OCF will have a Training & Awareness event this fall. The location has to be procured. Once the location is confirmed, official dates will be set, and free trainings on several fatherhood topics will take place over a two-day period.

The 17th Annual Fathers Walk is scheduled for September 22, 2022. OCF has been working with Commissioner Tarik White and the Ohio Department of Education to disseminate information about the Fathers’ Walk to the Ohio Eight Superintendents. The hope is that data will be collected in regard to statewide participation. Northeast Ohio has collected data on the number of schools and fathers

that have participated over the years.

OCF will look into CEU's for the Training & Awareness Event.

The Office of Communications has already approved a flyer for the event. Executive Director Dent is waiting for the letter (from her) to be approved that will accompany the flyer and invited state school districts to participate.

You can go to the social media and type: **#FathersWalk** or visit <https://www.fatherhood.ohio.gov> for more information on how to participate in your county and/or school district.

VII.	Executive Director's Report
11:49-11:54	Kimberly Dent

Executive Director Kimberly Dent reviewed OCF funding: 5 Multi-County grantees, 4 Single-County, and 8 Pilot programs.

OCF Executive Director Kim Dent and Administrative Professional Terri Simons attended the Inaugural Fatherhood Festival at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH. OCF provided informational and promotional items to the 100's of attendees that attended the event.

OCF also implemented a #DadandMe contest. The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood received 19 total essay entries and all 19 were winners. One of the entry winners 5-year-old Paxton and his father were interviewed, and video recorded by ODJFS Communications Department staff, Dasia Clemente, and Harley Downour. Paxton read his winning essay about his dad at the Fatherhood Festival.

OCF Executive Director continues to participate in the Grafton Corrections Fatherhood Conference planning committee meetings. The prison Fatherhood Conference is scheduled for the weekend of August 26, 2022. Director Annette Chambers-Smith will be attendance along with previous NFL Players who will be talking in the workshops. Expected attendance is 300 people for the child/dad day.

OCF Executive Director and Project Manager attended the 6th Annual Child Well-Being and Father Involvement Symposium in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The two provided a workshop on the importance of Fatherhood programs and their engagement with systems like Child Support, Child Protective Services, and Workforce Development.

OCF Executive Director still works with Jessica Seinfeld and the Good+ Foundation. Aspen Institute does fatherhood work in New York and California.

OCF Executive Director attended the CelebrateOne Fatherhood Summit held at Columbus State Community College.

OCF Executive Director and Project Manager were invited by the Wyoming Supreme Court to attend and present during their Joint Symposium on Children and Youth Conference. The presentation focused on father engagement measures to include need assessments and

resources for a more father-inclusive approach to case planning in Child Protective Services.

OCF Executive Director, Kim Dent, and Project Manager, Joshua Counciller, presented during the virtual NPCL (National Partnership for Community Leadership) 24th International Fatherhood Summit. The presentation is titled, “Brokering Relationships, Fatherhood, Child Support, Child Welfare, and Workforce Development.”

OCF Executive Director presented to Senate Staffers on the important role fathers play in their children’s lives and advised of what the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood entails.

OCF staff provided free 24/7 Dad curriculum training to 25 attendees who were interested in becoming certified in the National Fatherhood Initiative training opportunity. The 24/7 Dad curriculum is one of several evidence-based and/or evidence-informed curricula supported by the Commission.

OCF funded 25 Fatherhood practitioners to receive Father Factor curriculum training. The Father Factor curriculum is owned by Action for Children (AFC), and AFC provided certifications to each attendee.

Executive Director Kim Dent pre-recorded a session for the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC) Fatherhood Summit: Leading the DRIVE: Diversity, Reentry, Inclusion, Vision, and Employment. The NRFC is contracted by the federal Administration for Children and Families’ Office of Family Assistance to facilitate various Fatherhood projects and events. Exec. Director Dent will participate in a virtual Q&A with Summit attendees on June 16 following her session, “VISION – Leadership Qualities that Lead to Engaging and Sustainable Fatherhood Initiatives.”

Executive Director Dent said that Child Support had failed. She will meet with Michelle to discuss how she could provide guidance to help them improve fathers’ economic stability and dads job readiness skills.

The total number of program participants / TANF eligible fathers served: 12,453. The total number of fathers served irrespective of his TANF eligibility is 13,763

****(numbers do not include fathers served in June/2022)*

VIII.	Announcements and New Business
11:54-11:56	Chair Scott Neely

Commissioner Neely asked if there was any other new business.

Executive Director Dent reminded Commissioners that the next meeting will take place at the Vern Riffe Center, and that though there may be a virtual option for attendees, Commissioners have to attend in person.

IX.	Adjournment
11:55	Chair Scott Neely

Mr. Neely requested a motion to close the meeting.
 Mr. Socrates Tuch made a motion to close the meeting.
 Lt. Col. Pedro Munoz seconded the motion.
 Commissioners agreed to close the meeting.

The next **In-Person** Commission Meeting: **Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 10:00am - 12:00pm**

2022 Commission Meeting Dates		
Thursday, February 10, 2022	10:00 AM – 12:00 noon	Location: Virtual Zoom
Thursday, May 12, 2022	10:00 AM – 12:00 noon	Location: Virtual Zoom
Thursday July 14, 2022	10:00 AM – 12:00 noon	NEW Location: Rhodes – State Office Tower, 30 E. Broad St. 18th Floor, Conference Room 1858, Columbus, OH 43215
Thursday, September 8, 2022	10:00 AM – 12:00 noon	Location: Vern Riffe Building, 77 S. High St. 19th Floor, Conference Room 1948 Columbus, OH 43215
Thursday, November 10, 2022	10:00 AM – 12:00 noon	Location: Vern Riffe Building, 77 S. High St. 19th Floor, Conference Room 1948 Columbus, OH 43215