

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)  
Executive Director Report  
July-October 2013**

**RFPs and Contracts**

***Final RFGA Review:*** OCF (Ohio Commission on Fatherhood) staff attended the final RFGA Review Team meeting with ODJFS Contracts & Acquisitions staff. The review team scored all RFGA's and selected the top six proposals. All award and denial letters were sent July 2, 2013. Purchase Orders were issued in September to the following Responsible Fatherhood grantees for 2014-2015:

1. Action for Children
2. Charisma Community Connections (Fame Fathers)
3. WSOS (Wood, Sandusky, Ottawa and Seneca) Community Action
4. Talbert House
5. Forever Dads
6. Urban Light Ministries

**OCF Grantees**

***OCF Grantee Orientation:*** OCF staff held the 2013-2014 Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Grantee Orientation on September 23, 2013. All six grantees were well represented with appropriate staff. The organizations are excited about the grant and all it has to offer their program.

***Grantee Site Visits:*** OCF staff scheduled site visits with all six OCF-funded grantees. During these visits OCF staff meets with key grantee personnel to observe programming and ensure that grantees are using approved fatherhood curriculum, best practices, evaluation materials and monthly reports as required by OCF. During the month of November OCF staff will visit:

- Action for Children 11/6
- ForeverDads 11/13
- Charisma Community Connections Fame Fathers 11/19
- Talbert House 11/21
- Urban Light Ministries 11/22
- WSOS 11/25

**Trainings, Conferences & Retreats**

***Commission on Fatherhood Strategic Retreat:*** OCF Staff participated in a conference call with Senator Beagle's office to plan an OCF Commissioner Retreat.

***OCF Website Training:*** OCF staff received training from DAS staff to redesign and update the OCF website ([www.fatherhood.ohio.gov](http://www.fatherhood.ohio.gov)) with new required software.

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***County Mobilization Training:*** OCF staff met with OPNFF (Ohio Practitioner's Network for Fathers and Families) staff to receive training on county mobilization training manuals and toolkits to create county wide fatherhood initiatives throughout Ohio.

***2013 Ohio State Fair Training:*** OCF volunteered to work one shift at the Ohio State Fair. OCF staff completed mandatory training on navigating ODJFS website and how to resolve or address frequently asked questions by customer who attend booth.

### **County Meetings**

***Teleconference with Summit County Children Services (SCCS):*** OCS staff met with Jeanne Bennett and Ann Ream from SCCS to discuss a pilot project designed to test the Summit County Children Services' (SCCS) Father Factor model of engagement with fathers in child welfare.

***Office of Families & Children:*** OCF staff met with Joan Van Hull from the Office of Families & Children to discuss a potential pilot project with Summit County Children Services.

***Mercer County Visit:*** OCF staff met with representatives from Mercer County to discuss how to continue implementing their Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative Action Plan.

### **Building Assets for Fathers & Families (BAFF)**

***Meeting with BAFF Representatives:*** OCF staff attended a meeting to discuss the BAFF no-cost federal extension and implementing BAFF in Franklin County. BAFF program is currently being implemented in Cuyahoga and Hamilton Counties.

***BAFF Conference calls:*** OCF staff participated in the monthly BAFF Advisory Board conference calls with Ohio BAFF leadership team.

### **Parenting Time Opportunities for Children 12 (PTOC12)**

***PTOC Steering Committee Meeting:*** OCF staff participated in the PTOC monthly steering committee meeting. Meeting consisted of subcommittee updates and next steps for the federal grant.

***PTOC Visitation Subcommittee Meeting:*** OCF staff met with members from the subcommittee to discuss how the counties that received Access and Visitation grants will connect with the counties participating with the PTOC 12 counties

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### **Prison Outreach**

***Baby Elmo Program-Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Detention Facility:*** OCF staff visited the Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Detention Facility to observe the Baby Elmo program. OCF staff traveled with ODJFS policy analyst, DYS Policy commissioner and DYS parole staff. The meeting will assist with the ongoing plan to provide Responsible Fatherhood and Child Support programming in the facilities.

***Noble Corrections Faith-Based Summit:*** OCF staff attended the Faith-Based Summit at the Noble Correctional facility. OCF provides funds to the program (ForeverDads) that facilitates the Inside Out Dad programming at Noble Corrections. Various other volunteers and Faith-Based programs were in attendance. Noble Corrections staff provided a presentation on the programming offered at the institution.

***Office of Justice Webinar – Working with Children of Incarcerated Parents:*** OCF staff participated in the Office of Justice webinar titled “Working with Children of Incarcerated Parents”.

***Correctional Institutions Re-Entry Fairs:*** OCF staff provided Responsible Fatherhood information at the Warren Correctional Re-Entry Fair. The goal is to engage incarcerated fathers and encourage them to connect with fatherhood resources that will assist them with re-entering into society. Staff attended re-entry fairs at the following correctional institutions:

1. Warren Correctional
2. Madison Correctional
3. Chillicothe Correctional
4. Marion Correctional
5. London Correctional
6. Grafton Correctional
7. Ross Correctional

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

1. Noble Correctional
2. Madison Correctional
3. Belmont Correctional
4. Ohio State Penitentiary
5. Trumbull Correctional
6. Pickaway Correctional
7. Grafton Correctional
8. South Eastern Correctional
9. London Correctional
10. Southern Ohio

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### **Child Support Meetings**

***Meeting with State Office of Child Support (OCS):*** OCF staff met with OCS to develop a data collection system that will ensure reliable child support data is collected from fathers being served in the OCF grant program.

***Child Support Awareness Committee:*** OCF staff participated in the Child Support Awareness Month meeting to discuss the upcoming activities associated with this year's Child Support Awareness month, August 2013. This year's theme is "Support is Key". OCF staff plan to visit some of the county Child Support Agency August activities along with Office of Child Support staff.

***Child Support/Dept. of Rehabilitation Collaboration (DRC) Meeting:*** OCF staff attended the quarterly Child Support/DRC meeting to continue discussions and implement action plans that address the various barriers and hurdles faced by incarcerated and re-entering parents, typically fathers. The group divided into various subgroups that will address topics such as communications/data and information exchange, re-entry and best practices. Fatherhood will continue to provide feedback as the group progresses through the 2009 Recommendation Report.

***Meeting with Office of Child Support Reports Section:*** OCF staff met with OCS Reports Section regarding release forms sent to them by the OCF grantees. OCS will begin to collect Child Support collections/arrears for participants enrolled in the programs.

***Child Support Strategic Workgroup:*** OCF staff attended the quarterly Child Support Strategic Workgroup. OCF staff also participates on two subcommittees, Consistency and Re-branding. The workgroup is comprised of OCF, state Child Support, county CSEA (Child Support Enforcement Agency) and OCDA (Ohio Child Support Director's Association) representatives.

***Meeting with Office of Child Support and DRC Collaboration Subcommittee:*** OCF staff met with OCS and DRC staff to discuss communication and data exchange information.

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### **Other Meetings of Note**

***Meeting with Help Me Grow:*** OCF staff met with representatives from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Help Me Grow to discuss engaging more fathers in the program. A representative from (ODH) Reproductive Health was also in attendance to discuss the Reproductive Life Plan as it relates to engaging men and women.

***Meeting with New Commissioner:*** OCF (Ohio Commission on Fatherhood) staff met with the new Family and Children's First Council appointment to OCF. Chad Hibbs from Guernsey County has replaced David Kontur.

***Columbus Urban League:*** OCF staff attended the Columbus Urban League's Father 2 Father Program Graduation.

***Meeting with Pastor Robey, Seventh Avenue Baptist Church and staff from OCF & Office of Child Support (Franklin County):*** OCF staff met with Pastor Robey to discuss optional Responsible Fatherhood programming and Child Support related issues in the Weiland Park area of Columbus.

***Family Nurturing Center:*** OCF staff met with staff from the Family Nurturing Center in Hamilton County. FNC was awarded an Access and Visitation grant from the Office of Child Child Support. There is a Fatherhood Program NFL (Nurturing Father for Life) also tied to the Access and Visitation program. FNC provided a tour of the facility, provided information regarding their security, confidentiality, procedures and processes as well as their reporting documents.

***Ohio State Fair:*** OCF staff volunteered at the Ohio State Fair and assisted Ohioans with various inquiries about employment, child care, financial assistance and additional state agency assistance opportunities.

***Call with National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI):*** OCF staff met via conference call with a representative from NFI. OCF staff has been working with the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on a strategy to provide Inside Out Dad (Second Edition) in the state institutions.

***Meeting with COTA (Central Ohio Transit Authority) Representatives:*** OCF staff met with COTA staff COTA Community Relations Manager and COTA Mobility Services Manager to discuss the barriers for low income central Ohio residents. An invitation has been extended and accepted to attend the COTA Mobility Advisory Board.