

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)
Executive Director Report
June 2016-September 2016**

Funding:

New Pathways for Fathers & Families Federal Grant:

OCF was awarded the Federal Fatherhood grant from HHS / AFC to implement services in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Clark, Montgomery, and Hamilton counties. Services will focus on economic stability, responsible parenting and healthy marriage and relationships. The grant is scheduled to be funded for 5 years with approximately \$2 million per year. OCF continues to make progress during the planning phase. Purchase orders have been sent to the fatherhood programs selected to provide local services. The Project Director and Researcher 2 have been selected and have begun the state on-boarding process.

Recurring Meetings and Initiatives

State Grantee Monthly Conference Call: OCF staff participated in the monthly state grantee conference call. These calls provide an opportunity for the eight TANF funded fatherhood programs to discuss successes, challenges as well as provide feedback regarding data collection and other program topics by inviting guest speakers.

Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team (HSCRT): OCF staff attended Ohio's Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team meeting. HSCRT provides guidance and support to Ohio's Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant; Project AWARE grant, and School Climate Transformations grant. These grants focus on developing positive school climates, reducing school violence, increasing positive behavior choices, and increasing awareness and access to mental health services. The local county management teams are implementing activities to engage families and communities and look forward to connecting with local fatherhood programs in their respective counties.

NBNF Meetings, Presentations, Trainings and Conference Calls

Conference Call discussing Responsible Fatherhood grant: OCF staff participate in the weekly conference call with the NBNF sub-grantees and partners to discuss the implementation phase of the NBNF project. Each program is given the opportunity to provide updates and ask questions.

B3 weekly check in: OCF staff participated in another series of calls with MDRC, an evaluation company providing an additional analysis of behavioral intervention in employment. MDRC will provide research analysis on a special population of fathers served by Passages, Connecting Fathers and Families. This additional research is tied to the HHS/ACF Pathways Fatherhood Grant awarded to ODJFS/OCF.

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B3 meeting with OJS/Passages/OFA: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with OFA Grant Specialist, MDRC and Passages staff to discuss the plans of the Building Bonds and Bridges activities as related to the NBNF grant project in Cleveland.

MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) Discussion with MDRC: OCF staff participated in a call with MDRC regarding the MOU to be signed by MDRC and ODJFS New Beginnings for New Fathers State Authorizing Official. The MOU contains the expectations of MDRC and ODJFS/OCF as it relates to the B3 (Building Bridges and Bond) innovative evaluation project.

Status Meetings for NBNF Grantee with Tanya Howell: OCF staff participated in several calls with Pathways Federal Fatherhood grant specialist regarding clarifications and updates required in preparation to begin services to the target population of fathers.

NBNF Project Managers Meeting: OCF staff hosted a meeting in Columbus for all project managers and partners prior to the start of serving fathers under the New Beginnings for New Fathers federal grant. Services began on July 11, 2016.

Subsidized employment Meeting under New Beginnings New Fathers: OCF staff participated in a meeting to discuss the most logical and practical method to implement the subsidized employment piece of the New Beginnings for New Fathers grant. It has been decided that the group will explore moving the funds to Action for Children to be disbursed to the three Fatherhood programs after invoicing.

NBNF ETO Meeting: OCF staff participated in a phone conference to discuss the ETO System developed by OPNFF to be used as the case management and data collection tool by OCF and Ohio University, hired to analyze the data provided by the NBNF sub-grantees.

Participant NBNF vs TANF OCF population - Sub Grantee Training Video: OCF staff participated in a meeting to confirm the process to be implemented as it relates to data fidelity and compliance required of NBNF sub-grantees not serving the same dad under the State TANF Block Grant and the Federal HHS/ACF grant activities.

Site Visit with NBNF Sub-grantee, Action for Children: NBNF staff visited sub-grantee site Action for Children to discuss the subsidized employment process associated with the NBNF grant; specifically the administration and financial component. The visit also fulfilled the first visit to the program since the NBNF services have been open to fathers during the week of July 11th.

NBNF Sub-grantee site visits with Action for Children, Passages, Talbert House and Urban Light Ministries: OCF staff visited the federal sub-grantees, Action for Children, Passages, Talbert House and Urban Light Ministries to discuss process and flow of the NBNF program at their site. OCF staff met with the staff at NBNF staff at each location to answer any questions and to see how the program is being implemented at their site. OCF staff reviewed procedure and verified data collection methods during their visit.

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OCF, OFA and Action for Children meeting: OCF staff met and is working with OFA staff person and Action for Children, NBNF sub-grantee, regarding the subsidized employment administrative process. Action for Children will review the subsidized employment invoices from Passages, Urban Light Ministries and Talbert House.

Site Visit / Meeting with Urban Light Ministries: OCF staff visited Urban Light Ministries' leadership to discuss the Clark College Fatherhood Institute and plans to implement the same model in Montgomery County (Sinclair College) and possibly Franklin County (Columbus State University).

Daddy's Tool Bag meeting with Ted Hendricks: OCF staff participated in a phone call with Mr. Ted Hendricks in preparation of the OCF Daddy's Tool Bag website and the purchase of the DVDs. The content on the DVDs include information for first time fathers. Information will also be contained on a website to be built for Ohio residents on the Daddy's Tool Bag website.

OCPIM and other OCF Infant Mortality Initiatives

OCPIM Executive Steering Committee Meeting: OCF staff participated in the OCPIM Executive Steering Committee Meeting to discuss the upcoming OCPIM State Summit scheduled for December 2016 in Cleveland and to discuss the new direction for OCPIM. The meetings also focused on how the state should focus more on the increased African-American Infant Mortality rate.

2016 Infant Mortality Summit Breakout Session meeting with ODH Staff: OCF staff participated in a call to discuss the Summit Breakout Sessions for the OCPIM Infant Mortality Summit. Subsequent meetings have been scheduled to confirm 35 sessions to be conducted during the two days.

Phone Conference with ODH/OCPIIM Fatherhood Involvement Workgroup Leads-Mr. Peter Whitt: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with ODH/OCPIIM Promoting Fatherhood Involvement in Father and Child Health leads and co-chair, Mr. Steve Killpack from the Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families. The phone call focused on the continuation discussion of the Polarity Mapping introduced during the OCPIM Executive Steering Committee Retreat

Phone Conference with Mr. Kenneth Braswell: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with Mr. Kenneth Braswell, Fathers and Incorporated/National Fatherhood Clearinghouse. OCF plans to fund Mr. Kenneth Braswell as a plenary speaker at the upcoming OCPIM State Summit. Mr. Braswell plans to discuss the importance of men's health on maternal and child outcomes as well as father involvement as protective factors during mom's pregnancy and the early years of his children's lives.

SB 332 Conversation: OCF staff participated in a conversation with ODH and co-chairs of the various State Infant Mortality Reduction Plan Workgroups regarding feedback on SB 332. The Fatherhood Involvement in Maternal and Child Health workgroup, co-chaired by OCF and OPNFF (Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families) staff.

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Father Involvement Workgroup Meeting OCPIM: OCF staff co-chaired a phone call with members of the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality Fatherhood Involvement in Maternal, Child and Family Health Workgroup. The discussion focused on the changes to be implemented in ODH as they relate to home visits and IMRI (Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative). An analysis of S.B. 332 was also reviewed as well as the kick-off of NBNF.

Discussion with Kappa Alpha Psi National Fraternity Safe Sleep Program Staff: OCF staff participated in a phone call with Mr. Nathaniel Jordan and Dr. Stacy Scott regarding a proposal submission to ODH to provide a breakout session during the State OCPIM Summit.

Meeting with Nathaniel Jordan and Mr. Kevin St Clair: OCF staff met with Mr. Nathaniel Jordan and Mr. Kevin St Clair to discuss potential partnerships between the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's Safe Sleep Initiative and the NBNF sub-grantees. Medicaid plans to fund the Kappa Alpha Psi's initiative to promote safe sleep in various communities.

End of the Year meeting with OCF, Columbus Urban League, and Moms2B: OCF staff hosted an end of the year meeting with Moms2B and the Columbus Urban League (CUL) Father2Father Program. OCF is funding a two-year pilot program by providing programming and mentorship to fathers connected to mothers who attend The Ohio State University's Moms2B Program. Discussions included the past SFY activities as well as plans for the upcoming SFY.

Meeting with Columbus Urban League Regarding the Moms2B Pilot: OCF staff met with new administration from the Columbus Urban League. The meeting topics included how OCF is working with partners and stakeholders on the state's Infant Mortality issue. The staff also discussed how well the Moms2B Pilot is going, and OCF looks forward to seeing the first year report as well as focusing more direction on data collection.

Phone Conference with Columbus Urban League Staff: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with CUL staff to discuss the Ohio Infant Mortality Taskforce activities as well as the Fatherhood Involvement in Maternal and Child Health workgroup

Home Visiting Core Workgroup: OCF staff participated in the Home Visiting Core Workgroup meeting held at the Department of Medicaid. The group discussed the next steps as the State Home Visiting core workgroup and the plans for the local Home Visiting Program.

Phone Conference with ODH-Males as Home Visitors: OCF staff participated in a meeting with ODH to discuss how OCF and its funded programs can help promote male home visitors as more culturally appropriate male home visitors work with high-risk vulnerable African-Americans toward reducing Infant Mortality. OCF staff will assist ODH in the OIMRI (Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative) by reviewing a couple of proposals offering those services. The completion of the proposal reviews are due by August 19th. The OIMRI programs will also be essential in referring fathers to NBNF

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Prison & Restored Citizen Outreach

Lorain County Re-entry Coalition and Fatherhood Mobilization: OCF staff provided a presentation to the Lorain County Re-entry Coalition. The presentation contained high-level information on Responsible Fatherhood and Child Support. OCF staff, later, met with Passages and Marty Eggleston to discuss the upcoming potential to re-energize the Lorain County Fatherhood Initiative.

Children of Incarcerated Parents Triedstone: OCF staff participated in an overview training of a program developed by Mr. Ted Strader, author and founder of COPEs. Mr. Strader developed Creating Lasting Family Connections curriculum. The curriculum will be offered to those who serve fathers and families in Ohio, specifically for the incarcerated father. The trainings will be offered statewide and are scheduled to begin in the coming months. The project is being funded by Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services with support from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

Grafton Correctional Institution Q&A Session: OCF staff provided a question and answer session to inmates at Grafton Correctional Institution. OCF staff gave inmates information and resources about OCF and OCF funded programs. A representative from the Office of Child Support also presented information, answered questions and passed out resources to inmates in order to assist with barriers they may encounter when re-entering society as a restored citizens.

Other OCF Meetings, Outreach, Calls, Events & Projects

Meeting with Will Davis from Restore Our Cities Foundation: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with Mr. Will Davis from Restore Our Cities Foundation at the recommendation by Cleveland City Councilman Kevin Conwell. OCF staff advised Mr. Davis to register his e-mail on the OCF website to receive future funding opportunity announcements. Mr. Davis will also review the next Responsible Fatherhood Month mini-grant opportunity in 2017.

Fatherhood Summit Debrief: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with OPNFF (Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families) to discuss the successes and challenges of the May 2016 State Fatherhood Summit. The 2018 State Fatherhood Summit Plans were discussed.

Responsible Fatherhood mini grant events: OCF Responsible Fatherhood mini grant recipients, Circleville Juvenile Corrections Facility, Columbus Urban League, Montgomery County Department JFS, Stark County Fatherhood and Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron & Richland Counties are hosting their events Saturday, June 18th. Executive Director Kimberly Dent and OCF commissioners Chad Hibbs, Joseph Hill, Ann Ream and Tarik White have each selected one of the Responsible Fatherhood events to attend. Ms. Dent and the commissioners will speak on behalf of the Commission in support of fathers and fatherhood programming.

First Breath Initiative Meeting: OCF staff attended a meeting at the Van Buren Adult Homeless Shelter on the west side of Columbus. Several topics were discussed to include resources for fathers who have their children in the shelter and require parenting time orders to

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remain. Another topic focused on the 17 pregnant women in the shelter and how the partners can assist with finding housing for these women with the goal of preventing the babies from taking their first breath in the homeless shelter.

STAR Meeting: OCF staff presented at STAR Community Justice Center in Scioto County. The presentation included Responsible Fatherhood and Child Support. OCF and STAR staff also discussed the possibility of a pilot project focused on providing services to the inmates released in Southern Ohio.

Safe Schools and Healthy Students discussion: OCF staff provided NBNF staff with information regarding the ODE/OMHAS Safe Schools Healthy Students, Project Aware and School Climate grant programs. It is important that NBNF staff are made aware of state programs, projects and initiatives to better link them to the NBNF grant activities.

State Fatherhood Marketing and Messaging RFP Discussion: OCF staff participated on a call with the Office of Contracts and Acquisitions regarding the best way to procure statewide Fatherhood outreach marketing and messaging. OCF plans to connect with Kristen Rost with Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

Meeting with OSU Marketing (George Smalley) IMG: OCF staff met with Mr. George Smalley from IMG, which is the company that facilitates all OSU marketing as it relates to the university's sports programs. Funding provided to statewide marketing outreach will be procured.

Discussion with Douglas Lumpkin and Chip Weiant: OCF staff participated in a meeting with Douglas Lumpkin and Chip Weiant (Governor's Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives) The discussion focused on the most practical and meaningful way to implement CCMEP (Comprehensive Case Management in Employment Program) statewide.

Chad Hibbs (Family and Children First Council) and Jeannine Carrol (Red Treehouse-Cleveland) Meeting: OCF staff met with Families and Children First Council and a representative from the Red Treehouse (Ronald McDonald House in Cleveland) to discuss plans to add OCF to the Red Treehouse search tool as a program that offers services to Ohio's families.

Calls to Potential County Mobilization Counties: OCF staff called Morgan, Knox, and Ross Counties to discuss the three counties joining the four counties scheduled to receive mobilization training from OPNFF in October. The four confirmed counties include: Butler, Delaware, Clinton, and Portage

YMCA Professional Development / Resource Sharing Event: OCF staff participated in a community event hosted by the YMCA Head Start program. Community organizations were invited to share information and resources about their programs in an effort to provide children and families with necessary resources to become self-sufficient.

Meeting with Joe Pellegrino and Joe Battaglia -That's My Dad Movement: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with Joe Pellegrino and Joe Battaglia (New Jersey) regarding

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a possible connection of “That’s My Dad” and “June is Responsible Fatherhood Month” where children will have an opportunity to post via a website why their dads are important to them.

ODH - Rural Health Expo - Drug Epidemic: OCF staff attended the Ohio Department of Health’s Rural Health Expo to explore and better understand disparities and health concerns in rural regions of the state, more specifically as they relate to opioid use. OCF is exploring a pilot project with STAR Community Justice Center where the facility will continue to work with inmates as restored citizens in three specific Appalachian counties.