

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood**

**Minutes from the Meeting of**

**Tuesday, May 19, 2009**

<p><b>Commissioners Present:</b></p> <p>Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman Mr. David Kontur, Vice Chairman Representative Alan Sayre Councilman Kevin Conwell Mr. Robert Boykins Mr. Robert “Bo” Chilton Mr. Cedric Collins Mr. Joseph Maiorano Mr. Scott Neely</p>	<p><b>OCF Staff Present:</b></p> <p>Mr. J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director Ms. Monica Mahoney Mr. Stanley Upton</p>
<p><b>Commissioners Represented by Designee:</b></p> <p>Senator Ray Miller (by Caryn Ragin) Representative Kevin Bacon (by Sean McCullough)</p> <p><b>Commissioners Participating via Telephone</b></p> <p>Mr. Steve Killpack</p>	<p><b>Guests:</b></p> <p>Representative Marian Harris (D-19<sup>th</sup>) Mr. Rashim Yajsib, Ohio Civil Rights Commission Pastor Eugene Norris, Summit County Fatherhood Initiative Mr. Al Grimes, Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative Mr. Matthew Cunningham, ODJFS Mr. Burl Lemon, Forever Dads Ms. Tei Street, Office of Ohio Treasurer of State Mr. Andre Lampkins, Office of Ohio Treasurer of State Mr. Gerald Anderson, Fatherhood House Mr. Winston Gragg, Men Who Are Fathers Ms. Rhonda “RJ” Frazier, The Transformation Place</p>

## **I. Call to Order & Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 am by Vice Chairman David Kontur. Chairman Peter Lawson Jones was en route from Cleveland and arrived soon thereafter to chair the meeting. A quorum was achieved.

## **II. Introduction of Guests**

Executive Director Tracy Robinson introduced two guests from the Office of the Ohio Treasurer: Tei Street, Director of Community Education and Senior Policy Advisor, and Andre Lampkins, Manager of the Community Education and Engagement Department. He also welcomed Mr. Rashim Yajisib, a member of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

## **III. Fiscal Fitness for Fathers**

Director Street spoke about the upcoming conference, “Fiscal Fitness for Fathers.” The conference will take place on September 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at Columbus State Community College. The Treasurer’s Office has held regional conferences on the topic of women and money for several years and is now offering for the first time a similar event for dads. The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood is a conference sponsor, and Director Robinson is on the conference planning committee which meets monthly. Commissioners Maiorano and Killpack said they would like to serve on the planning committee by conference call. Mr. Lampkins will contact them.

The conference will address financial literacy as well as issues related to manhood and money. Conference facilitators will be male so that men can speak in a comfortable environment. The conference will also provide practical tools and information on financial topics, e.g. how to create a household budget.

Commissioner Kontur asked whether the Treasurer's Office plans to follow up with regional conferences. Director Street responded that they would like to do so but the Treasurer's office has limited resources. The Treasurer wishes to collaborate with regional contacts to provide long-term on-going financial education for men. Director Street will provide the OCF with the names of all county liaisons.

On a personal note, Director Street shared that she is the single mother of an adopted son so she sees first hand the impact of father absence in the home.

#### **IV. Minutes from March 24, 2009**

Commissioner Boykins made one correction to the March minutes - he has been married fourteen years, not fifteen. Commissioner Maiorano moved, with Commissioner Collins seconding, that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **V. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Robinson provided a written summary of his activities in April and May, minutes from the April 9<sup>th</sup> grantee conference call and an invoice summary of all ten grantee programs. Those documents are incorporated into these minutes. Executive Director Robinson highlighted the following events and activities from the past two months:

- Meetings on April 7<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> of the Infant Mortality Task Force during which the topic of what fathers can do during prenatal care to support healthy birth outcomes was discussed.
- Presentation on April 28<sup>th</sup> as part of Wal-Mart Managers Diversity Training at which the Executive Director provided an overview of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and strategies to decrease father absence.

- Briefings with several state legislators, Democrats and Republicans, as part of our strategy to educate members of the Ohio General Assembly about the work of the OCF and to recruit new commissioners. Commissioner neely arranged many of these meetings. Representatives Marian Harris and Carlton Weddington both expressed interest in serving as commissioners. Representative Stewart is very concerned about healthcare and Appalachian dads. Executive Director Robinson invited him to visit Forever Dads, a fatherhood program that the OCF funds in his district.
- The three part-time students who work at the OCF are leaving at the end of June. Stanley Upton completes his MBA at Fischer College and will begin work in Cleveland at American Greetings. Brandon Smith, an undergraduate at OSU, has a summer internship working with Nike in Chicago. Derrick Bryant is returning to work on his Ph.D. Executive Director Robinson hopes to hire new students in the fall.

### **C. OFI-RFGA 2009-2011**

Matthew Cunningham, TANF Interagency Section Chief for the Office of Family Stability, spoke and fielded questions about the new Request for Grant Application (“RFGA”) He noted that an RFGA is a grant which is more flexible than an RFP which is a contract. Mr. Cunningham has been working closely with Executive Director Robinson and the principal draft of the RFGA is done. The RFGA is likely to unfold as follows:

- Once the contract office approves the RFGA, a procurement document will post on the ODJFS website where it will remain for four weeks for public review.
- Two weeks into the public review period Executive Director Robinson plans to hold a bidders conference at the Air Center in Columbus so people may ask questions in person.

TANF and contract staff will attend to respond and a typist will take notes that will be posted on the ODJFS website.

- During the first three weeks of the posting, the public may ask questions on-line or by email. All questions and answers will be posted on the ODJFS website.
- Two to three days after the RFGA is removed from the website, the proposal review team will convene. The team will consist of six or seven members and include Executive Director Robinson, Mr. Cunningham and any OCF committee members who want to participate. Depending on the number of proposals received, the team will spend one to two weeks reviewing them. Forty-eight organizations applied for the last RFP. Proposals ranged from thirty to two hundred pages.
- Appeals may delay the award process.

Mr. Cunningham has streamlined the application to make the process less daunting and more uniform. The application contains seventeen questions and responses must be limited to no more than one page per question. The typical timeline for an RFGA/RFP is twenty-one weeks but Director Robinson has been working with key personnel, e.g. Anthony Trotman, ODJFS Director Lumpkin's Chief of Staff, and Bernard E. Houston, ODJFS Chief Procurement Officer to accelerate the process. Unlike the current RFP which lasted nine months, the new RFGA will last eighteen to twenty-four months to align with the state budget, July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011. The initial awards will be for one fiscal year with the opportunity for continued funding. The new RFGA will contain performance standards which must be met in order for a grant to be renewed for the second fiscal year.

Commissioner Kontur asked whether there is any funding for the interim period between when the current RFP ends and before the new RFGA is funded. Mr. Cunningham said that the contract ends June 30, 2009, and there are no carry-over dollars.

To keep the commission informed about how the RFGA is progressing, Chairman Jones suggested that they meet in executive session. Such sessions would exclude any commissioners who may apply for the RFGA and thereby avoid any conflict of interest. For this same reason, Mr. Cunningham declined to answer any specific questions about the content of the RFGA.

#### **D. Putative Fatherhood Registry**

Executive Director Robinson explained what the Putative Fatherhood Registry (“PFR”) does. Most people do not even know it exists. The purpose of the PFR is to give notice to a putative father if his child is being considered for permanent adoption. Executive Director Robinson believes that the goals of the PFR align with the mission of the OCF statute. He is working with ODJFS and has been speaking about the PFR whenever he does outreach. He will meet with Anthony Trotman to discuss assuming responsibility for the implementation of the PFR statutory requirements. If that occurs, he would require every grantee to distribute information on the PFR.

#### **VI. Advance Fatherhood Ohio Summit Report**

Burl Lemmon, Executive Director of Forever Dads, spoke about the fatherhood conference his organization held on April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> at Salt Fork State Park. James McDonald provided a two page summary report which is incorporated into these minutes. Representatives from thirty counties throughout the state of Ohio attended the summit. Mr. Lemmon plans to create a DVD and post power-point presentations from the conference on his website.

## **VII. Discussion and Decision**

### **A. OCF Summit/Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative Annual Conference**

Al Grimes, Coordinator of the Cuyahoga Fatherhood Initiative, spoke about the upcoming fatherhood conference in Cleveland on June 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. This will be Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative's fifth annual conference and the first jointly-sponsored with the OCF. Wednesday evening there will be a reception to honor Chairman Jones and Governor Strickland for the work they have done on behalf of fathers. The resource fair and workshops will be held on Thursday and Friday. On-line registration is available, and the conference is free. Chairman Jones would like all commissioners to attend the conference and serve on a panel.

The OCF is providing funds for thirty hotel rooms, with two fathers per room, so that men who have participated in a fatherhood program can attend the conference. To distribute rooms equitably among the grantee programs, Executive Director Robinson will ask program directors to identify dads who will attend the conference.

### **B. House Bill 1**

Caryn Ragin, Senator Ray Miller's Legislative aide, said that Commissioner Miller sent our proposed revisions of the OCF statute to the Legislative Services Office for review. If the amendments are not incorporated into House Bill 1, our legislator/commissioners will jointly sponsor a separate bill introducing said amendments to our statute.

### **C. Fathers' Month Proclamation**

Representative Alan Sayre said that next week he plans to introduce our Fathers' Month Proclamation to the House for consideration. Chairman Jones suggested that our house members

also jointly sponsor a resolution requesting that President Obama create a national fatherhood initiative.

#### **D. OCF Vacancies**

Chairman Jones recently called Speaker Budish again about commission legislative vacancies. Representative Marian Harris was in attendance at our meeting, and Chairman Jones encouraged her to consider serving on the OCF. (On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Representatives Harris and Weddington were officially appointed as commissioners).

#### **E. Rescheduling of July 2009 OCF Meeting**

Executive Director Robinson proposed that we reschedule our July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting to occur during the upcoming fatherhood conference in Cleveland. (Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum for a meeting in June and, therefore, were not able to reschedule our July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.)

#### **F. OCF Bylaws, Section 5.05 Revision**

Monica Mahoney, OCF Staff, brought an additional revision of the Bylaws to the attention of the commission. Specifically, Chairman Jones proposed that language be added to section 5.05 that, should a commissioner leave a meeting after a quorum is established, his or her departure does not defeat the quorum. Commissioner Kontur moved, and Commissioner Collins seconded that the proposed revision be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

### **VIII. Announcements & New Business**

There were no announcements or new business.

### **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.