

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)  
Executive Director Report  
May-September 2015**

**Funding:**

***Selection of New OCF Grantees:***

Two separate but related RFGAs were released on May 11<sup>th</sup>, offering funding of \$100,000 for two years to experienced fatherhood programs serving multiple counties and one offering \$40,000 per year for two years to smaller, less experienced programs. The application review team selected 8 programs for funding:

1. Action for Children (\$100,000)
2. CAC Erie Huron & Richland (\$40,000- new grantee)
3. Center for Families and Children (\$40,000 – new grantee)
4. Forever Dads (\$100,000)
5. Lima Allen Council on community Affairs (\$100,000 – new grantee)
6. Passages (\$100,000 – new grantee)
7. Urban Light Ministries (\$100,000)
8. WSOS (\$100,000)

***Columbus Urban League:*** OCF is funding the Columbus Urban League \$20,000 a year for two years to provide fatherhood and mentoring services to the expectant fathers connected to the moms at Moms2B Program. The program has been serving expectant moms for five years with the goal of increasing healthy birth outcomes and decreasing infant mortality. By partnering with CUL they will be able to extend their services to include fathers. Alumni fathers from CUL will serve as mentors to expectant dads and CUL staff will provide classes.

***Federal Responsible Fatherhood Grant :*** OCF staff submitted an application for the New Pathways for Fathers and Families federal grant. The grant will fund up to \$2 million for five years. Selections will be announced Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**RECURRING MEETINGS/INITIATIVES**

***State Fatherhood Summit Phone Conference:*** OCF staff participated in a phone conference with OPNFF (Ohio Practitioners’ Network for Fathers and Families) regarding next year’s State Fatherhood Summit. The tentative dates are May 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 2016. The committee plans to meet weekly via conference call at this time.

***Fatherhood Involvement Workgroup Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality (OCPIM) Phone Conferences and Monthly Meetings:*** Kimberly Dent and former OCF Commissioner, Steve Killpack were selected to co-chair “Promoting Fatherhood Involvement in Maternal and Child Health” workgroup. The workgroup has been tasked to address five specific strategies as they relate to father involvement in maternal and child health.

***OCPIM Steering Committee Meeting:*** As part of the leadership team, OCF Director participates in monthly Executive Steering Committee conference calls.

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***Safe Schools Healthy Students:*** Safe Schools Healthy Students State Management Team has been renamed the “Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team”. OCF Director attends monthly meetings which included a presentation by representatives from the Sandy Hook Promise (Newton, Connecticut) provided a presentation regarding the “Sandy Hook Promise Ohio” and visit by the federal office.

***Ohio’s Family and Youth Involvement Committee (Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team):*** OCF staff participated on a phone conference to discuss committee onboarding of fatherhood programs. Three fatherhood programs have agreed to assist in identifying fathers in the local communities willing to engage in the grant activities at the local level (Greene, Wood and Cuyahoga counties).

***Child Support/Rehab and Corrections Quarterly Meeting:*** OCF staff participated in the quarterly Child Support/Rehab and Corrections quarterly meeting. Various community and agency partners attended to discuss best practices and methods of engaging incarcerated non-custodial parents as well as restored citizens. A presentation will be made to the newly selected OCF grantees on Certificate of Qualified Employment (CQE’s)

***Office of Families and Children (OCF) - Father Engagement Subcommittee:*** OCF staff participated in a meeting with OCF and other county agencies regarding father engagement in the Families and Children system. OCF staff provided various resources, information and recommendations regarding father engagement.

***COTA Mobility Advisory Board:*** OCF staff attended the COTA mobility Advisory Board meeting. The board discusses upcoming Central Ohio Transit Authority changes and upgrades. The board also shares board member program information.

**OTHER MEETINGS AND PHONE CALLS**

***Meeting with Stephan Dunn and Fred Crum:*** OCF staff met with local fatherhood practitioners to discuss the possibility of future collaboration.

***Phone Conference with Fathers’ Rights Organization:*** OCF staff participated in a phone conference with Beth Incorvaia, founder of FRO (Fathers’ Rights Organization) in Lucas County. Beth provided OCF staff with the organization’s vision and mission.

***Call with Mr. Tim Hendricks:*** OCF staff met with Mr. Tim Hendricks (California) creator of “Daddy’s Tool Bag”. OCF is considering purchasing the DVD for expectant fathers.

***Region V Fatherhood Call:*** OCF staff participated on the Region V Fatherhood call. Presentations were made by the Graduate School of Social Work, Denver – Dads Matter Promoting Father Involvement in Home Visiting Services for Vulnerable Families and FPRN (Fatherhood Research and Practice Network) at Temple University.

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***Interview Candidates to fill OCF Staff Position:*** OCF staff participated in group interviews with candidates to fill the open position of Administrative Assistant. A candidate was selected and a referral was made to Director Dungey's office for further vetting.

***Phone Conference with Jessica Pearson from Policy Studies:*** OCF staff participated on a phone conference call with Jessica Pearson from Policy Studies and members from Temple Universities Research Department. They have offered to provide training to Ohio's fatherhood practitioners at the next Ohio Fatherhood Summit.

***Men's Health Seminar in Bethesda, Maryland:*** OCF staff attended the Men's Health and implications on Pregnancy Outcomes Seminar in Bethesda, Maryland. OCF staff was invited to attend to represent Ohio's Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality. OCF staff co-chairs the Father Involvement Workgroup. Various researchers and practitioners presented on the summit to bring awareness to Men's/Male Health issues and how it relates to birth outcomes.

***Meeting with John Gonzales-Lima-Allen Council on Community Affairs:*** OCF staff met with John Gonzales regarding Infant Mortality and a Fatherhood Fraternity.

***Talbert House Celebration of Fatherhood:*** OCF staff attended the Annual Talbert House Celebration of Fatherhood event where the Talbert House Board and organization recognized a community father of the year as well as a graduating father of the year.

***African-American Male Wellness Summit:*** OCF staff attended the African-American Male Wellness Summit sponsored by CareSource. Various guest speakers provided information to fathers and families during the summit regarding the importance of father involvement and parenting. The panel provided information regarding the August 8<sup>th</sup> African-American Male Wellness Walk to take place in Columbus.

***Meeting with Center for Family Safety and Healing:*** OCF staff met with staff at the Center for Family Safety and Healing to discuss future trainings on family violence awareness and prevention for OCF fatherhood grantees and resources on domestic violence.

***Safe and Together Webinar:*** Participated in webinar on Community Collaboration to Reduce Domestic Violence presented by David Mandel and associates as part of their on-going training on the Safe & Together model used by ODJFS Office of Families and Children.

***Neighborhood House Community Baby Shower:*** OCF staff attended event for expectant and new parents and shared information about OCF-funded programming in Franklin County.

***Meeting with Capital University Law School/ Family and Youth Law Center:*** OCF staff met with Jennifer Hartmann to discuss collaborating on family violence prevention training for OCF grantees.

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***Moms2B Event:*** OCF staff attended a Moms2B presentation at the Columbus Club. Drs. Steven and Patricia Gabbe provided key information on the program during the program's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Anniversary. OCF is currently in the process of developing a contract with the Columbus Urban League to provide fatherhood and mentoring services to the fathers connected to the moms at Moms2B (Motherhood Program).

***Columbus Goodwill Pathways Program:*** OCF staff attended and observed the Pathways Program, which is an employment program for non-custodial parents with child support orders in Franklin County. OCF is interested in including their organization in the forecasted Federal Fatherhood grant to provide employment services to the fathers in Franklin County.. Goodwill of Columbus is uniquely equipped to address employment barriers for the fathers who would be served if OCF is awarded the federal grant.

### **Prison Outreach**

OCF staff provided Responsible Fatherhood presentations at a number of Correctional Institutions. The Responsible Fatherhood presentation is provided prior to the Child Support presentation. Staff presented at the following correctional institutions:

1. Pickaway
2. Ohio State Penitentiary

OCF staff attended prison reentry fairs at:

1. Noble
2. Chillicothe
3. Ross

***Restored Citizens Summit:*** OCF attended Restored Citizens Summit at Columbus State Community College.

***Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Family Engagement:*** OCF staff presented at the Akron (April 28<sup>th</sup>) and Columbus (April 29<sup>th</sup>) Family Engagement event hosted by ODRC. This venue gave the community, stakeholders, ODRC staff, etc. an opportunity to discuss ways to better engage family members of the incarcerated population. Research shows that when family members connect with the inmate, recidivism is reduced.

***Building Bridges Conference Call:*** OCF staff participated in conference call with ODRC, Office of Child Support, and Office of Reentry to begin planning April 2016 Meeting at Dennison University where Cross-training will be provided.