

News Today

An online newsletter for ODJFS employees · Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013

Kimberly Dent Named Fatherhood Director

Fatherhood has a special meaning for Kimberly Dent, the new executive director of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood. Dent's own father died the day before her fifth birthday, and she said she has always had special memories of him.

"That is part of my passion for fatherhood, growing up without a dad," said Dent, who is the mother of three children.

Prior to her permanent appointment on Jan. 27, Dent had served as interim executive director since last March. She previously worked in child support for 15 years at the state and county levels.

Dent said her time working in child support prepared her to take on the leadership role at the commission, which is part of the ODJFS Office of Family Assistance.

"I am very much in agreement with Director Colbert regarding linking Fatherhood and Child Support as closely as we possibly can," she said. "When Child Support does outreach, Fatherhood

is there, as well. For example, at the most recent reentry fairs at prisons, we have had a common table, and Child Support and Fatherhood information is all at that same table."

Fatherhood and child support programs have a common goal of encouraging noncustodial parents to be actively engaged in their children's lives, Dent said.

"If you can establish that relationship between



Kimberly Dent

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Credit Union Meeting Set for Feb. 20

All ODJFS Federal Credit Union members and their guests are invited to an annual meeting scheduled for Wednesday, **Feb. 20**, at the Boat House at Confluence Park, 679 W. Spring St., Columbus.

Registration will begin at 5 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner, a short roundup of 2012 highlights, the election of the 2013 board of directors and a drawing for door prizes. All reservations must be made by Friday, **Feb. 15**. For registration and more information, call the credit union at (614) 466-3416 or email info@odjfscu.com.

The ODJFS Federal Credit Union is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative dedicated to serving the employees of ODJFS. The credit union offers a variety of financial services. Membership is open to all ODJFS employees.

The Credit Union branch at the Air Center is open every weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (614-466-3416). The branch at the State Office Tower is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (614-728-5433). The branch at the Lazarus Building is open Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (614-752-3669).

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dad and child, that financial responsibility will be as natural to him as breathing," she said.

As the commission's executive director, Dent said she looks forward to working collaboratively with child support programs at the state and county level and conducting outreach efforts to fathers in underserved communities. The commission funds programs statewide that encourage responsible parenting and help fathers and families achieve

economic stability, improve communication and resolve conflicts.

Recent outreach efforts have targeted fathers serving in correctional facilities, fathers of disabled children and fathers who live in Appalachian areas.

"As a state agency, our mission is to ensure that we are being mindful," Dent said, "and that we are recognizing the diverse population of Ohio."

GOT NEWS?

To submit an article or idea to News Today, email NewsToday@jfs.ohio.gov. Photos should be sent in JPEG or TIF format.

Feeling Stressed?

Help is available through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) by calling 1-800-221-6327.
