

News Today

An online newsletter for ODJFS employees · Thursday, July 11, 2013

Summit Identified Ways to Engage Fathers

Child support, fatherhood and other professionals that serve young fathers in Fairfield and Franklin counties met on June 14 at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus.

The purpose of the Summit to Empower Young Fathers was to discuss strategies for encouraging fathers to take responsibility for their children and stay current on their child support and to highlight programs that have produced measurable outcomes, said Kimberly Dent, executive director of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood.

"We also wanted to provide a setting to network and provide program information to share with the common population we serve," she said.

Presenters spoke about both new and established programs. Nida Reid-Williamson, an administrator with the Fairfield County Child Support Enforcement Agency, gave an overview



(Left to right) Kimberly Dent, executive director, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood; Dr. Arthur James, pediatrician, Nationwide Children's Hospital; Carri Brown, executive director, Fairfield County Commission; and Sarah S. Saxbe, program coordinator, Teen and Pregnant Program, Nationwide Children's Hospital.

of a pilot project that launched earlier this year called Parenting Time Opportunities for Children to the 12th Power, or PTOC¹².

Over the next four years, a multi-county PTOC¹² coalition will plan, implement and evaluate strategies to establish "parenting time orders"

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Workshop Offered on Cyberbullying

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio will host a free workshop on cyberbullying for Project Mentor volunteers from noon to 1 p.m. on Thursday, **July 25**, at the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Branch Auditorium, 96 S. Grant Ave.

The session will include a free pizza lunch. Participants must register by Friday, **July 19**, by visiting <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QN2PRTQ>. For more information, email Emily Fenik at efenic@bbbscentralohio.org or call her at (614) 839-2447, ext. 223.

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at the same time as initial child support orders. Parenting time orders give noncustodial parents the opportunity to spend time with their children. Participating counties are Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Montgomery, Perry, Pickaway, Stark, Summit, Union and Wayne.

Randall Sistrunk, program manager with the Columbus Urban League, described the Father 2 Father program, which teaches parenting skills and helps fathers to become current on their child support obligations. The program helps fathers obtain support order modifications and get their driver's licenses reinstated so they can find jobs and support their children.

"We've had over \$1 million in child support payments and over \$250,000 in arrearages waived" since the program began in 2007, Sistrunk said.

Angela Harris, a representative with the No Kidding Ohio program, spoke about strategies that encourage teens to wait until they're adults

to become parents. Through No Kidding Ohio, teen parents serve as "peer educators" and talk to youth about the challenges of balancing parenthood with work and school.

"This has a huge impact on these young males who are hearing this from an actual teen father," Harris said. "I think they ask a lot more questions of the peer educators."

The summit was cosponsored by the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, Fairfield and Franklin county child support enforcement agencies, Action for Children-Father Factor, Nationwide Children's Hospital Teen Parent Clinic, and the Columbus Urban League-Father-to-Father.

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood plans to continue to partner with the Nationwide Children's Hospital Teen Clinic, Dent said. Nationwide Children's Teen Parent Clinic has reached out to ODJFS and the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood for assistance in developing a training curriculum for teen fathers, she said.

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.
