

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (“OCF”)

Minutes from the Meeting of

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

<p>Commissioners Present:</p> <p>Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman</p> <p>Representative Marian Harris</p> <p>Representative Carlton Weddington</p> <p>Director Angela Cornelius-Dawson</p> <p>Mr. Robert Boykins</p> <p>Mr. Robert “Bo” Chilton</p> <p>Dr. Diane Karther</p> <p>Mr. Steven Killpack</p> <p>Mr. Joseph Maiorano</p> <p>Mr. Scott Neely</p> <p>Ms. Carri Brown</p> <p>Mr. Greg Landsman</p>	<p>Guests:</p> <p>Representative Timothy Derickson</p> <p>Director Terry Collins Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction</p> <p>Director Donald Lumpkin Ohio Department of Job and Family Services</p> <p>Irene Lyons Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections</p> <p>Al Grimes Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative</p> <p>David Mahan Frontline Youth Communications</p>
<p>Commissioners Represented by Designee:</p> <p>Senator Ray Miller (by Nicole Harper, Legislative Aide)</p> <p>Representative Ron Magg (by Michael Evans, Legislative Aide)</p>	<p>OCF Staff Present:</p> <p>Mr. J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director</p> <p>Ms. Monica Mahoney</p> <p>Ms. Whitney Logan</p>

I. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 am by Executive Director Tracy Robinson. Chairman Peter Lawson Jones was en route and arrived shortly thereafter. A quorum was achieved.

II. Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests

Executive Director Robinson introduced our new commissioner, Deputy Director of Child Support Carri Brown. Donald Lumpkin, Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Representative Timothy Derickson, David Mahan, Irene Lyons and new OCF staff member Whitney Logan were introduced and welcomed. Chairman Jones thanked Ms. Brown for agreeing to serve on the Commission and welcomed our guests to the meeting.

III. Approval of September 15, 2009 Minutes

Commissioner Joseph Maiorano moved, with Commissioner Steven Killpack seconding, that the minutes from the meeting of September 15, 2009, be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Robinson provided a written summary of his activities in September and October, a synopsis of which appears below.

A. Outreach:

Executive Director Robinson highlighted the Commission's and/or his involvement in the following events and activities:

- The OCF co-sponsored the Fiscal Fitness for Fathers Conference with Ohio Treasurer Kevin Boyce's Office (Columbus, Ohio; September 18, 2009). More than 200 people participated in the conference. Executive Director Robinson served as a panelist.
- Facilitated fatherhood panel for students at Reynoldsburg High School (Reynoldsburg, Ohio; November 6, 2009). Students generated questions and gained insights on fatherhood.
- Met with White House Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnership (Washington D.C.; November 9, 2009). Chairman Peter Lawson Jones, Ben Odell, Ruth Berry and Al Grimes all participated in a discussion of national and Ohio fatherhood initiatives.

B. OFI-RFGA 2009-2011

Executive Director Robinson informed the Commission about the seven grantees that the RFGA review committee selected for funding. The official public announcement will not be made until the protest period is completed and purchase orders are issued by the ODJFS Contract Office. The grants will fund the programs over the two-year biennium, with a program review occurring mid-way through the funding cycle. Grantees must serve at least twenty fathers per month and submit timely reports in order for their funding to continue during the second half of the biennium.

Upon the recommendation of Nicole Holder, one of the members of the review team, two of the grant applications were referred to the Ohio Ethics Commission for review of potential conflicts of interest. The Executive Director did not disclose any further information on the two proposals but stated that funding is available for both if they are approved.

All fathers participating in funded programs will be required to complete the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI) before and after receiving services. The AAPI is an evaluative tool that is

used worldwide to assess child-rearing attitudes and behaviors, the results of which will provide measurable data on the impact of fatherhood services on the recipients' attitudes over time. Commissioner Greg Landsman said that a similar attitudinal inventory was used in a re-entry grant program funded by his office to capture participants' goals and expectations prior to receiving services. He also noted the Ohio Prison News Network in Marion County as a potential source of free graphic design services.

Several commissioners raised questions about providing information and guidance to applicants who were not awarded grants. Commissioner Landsman mentioned that grant proposals submitted after the deadline could have been excellent proposals. Commissioner Bo Chilton said we should support grassroots and small fatherhood programs that may not yet have the capacity for a \$100,000 grant. Chairman Jones suggested that the Commission provide feedback to grant applicants who were denied funding and suggested holding a meeting to give such applicants an opportunity to ask questions. Commissioner Brown suggested posting successful applications online to provide examples of what is contained in successful proposals. Commissioner Killpack said that the current RFGA process created by ODJFS is very complex and burdensome.

V. Director Terry Collins on the Legislative Priorities of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Chairman Jones introduced Director Terry Collins of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction ("ODRC"). Director Collins appreciates the Commission's efforts to assist incarcerated fathers trying to remain engaged with their families while in prison or reengage, once released, and he thanked the OCF for the opportunity to address the panel on ODRC's legislative priorities.

Director Collins shared the following data and statistics:

- 51,052 people are incarcerated in Ohio - one out of every 25 people in the state.
- Ohio prisons are filled to 132% of capacity.
- ODRC releases 28,000 people a year.
- ODRC releases and receives 100 inmates a day, five days a week.
- ODRC has a prison nursery that is filled to capacity. Currently 67 incarcerated women are pregnant.
- Studies show 27% of incarcerated men have a dependent child.
- ODRC offers visitation five to seven days a week and has 450,000 people registered for visitation.
- ODRC uses various curricula to strengthen inmates' familial bonds, including "Inside Out Dads" and "Keeping the Faith".
- Ohio needs an additional \$1 billion to meet its prison capacity needs.
- 30% of individuals behind bars are first-time offenders.
- 800 offenders are serving time for failing to pay child support.

According to Director Collins, Senator Seitz is promoting common sense sentencing reform with Senate Bill 22 which will save the state millions of dollars. The current ODRC annual budget is \$1.8 billion.

Commissioner Maiorano asked whether judges can be incentivized to use alternative sentencing and community diversion measures. Director Collins replied that he has spoken to several judges, but many are resistant to alternative sentencing because of their fear of being perceived as soft on crime.

Commissioner Maiorano said he was incarcerated twice, and no program assisted him in getting to where he is today. Chairman Jones suggested utilizing the media both to recognize judges who employ

alternative sentencing and to show in real dollars how this impacts state and local budgets. Several commissioners also suggested publishing a sentencing scorecard or a report on judges.

VI. Discussion and Decision

A. Meeting of Legislative Subcommittee

Commissioner Scott Neely reported on actions taken by the Legislative Subcommittee which met for the first time on September 1, 2009.

B. House Bill 349

Representatives Carlton Weddington and Ron Maag are co-sponsors of H.B. 349 which contains the proposed amendments to the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood statute, O.R.C. 5101.34.

VII. Announcements & New Business

- Representative Weddington attended the Congressional Black Caucus Conference in Washington, D.C. where he briefed Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. other influential policymakers on the Commission's work.
- Greg Landsman announced that his wife and he are expecting their first child in March.

VIII Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.