

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)  
Executive Director Report  
November 2017-February 2018**

**Funding:**

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

OCF released and closed the request for grant application (RFGA) for the 2017-2019 TANF funding cycle. This grant will provide two levels of funding, designated as Funding Level A, for awards of \$120,000.00 per year for SFYs and 2019 and Funding Level B, for awards of \$50,000.00 per year for the same period. The application review team selected the following 7 programs for funding:

1. Action for Children (Level A)
2. Centers for Families and Children (Level B)
3. Coleman Profession Services (Level B)
4. ForeverDads (Level A)
5. Passages (Level A)
6. Talbert House (Level A)
7. WSOS (Level A)

***Third Year New Beginnings for New Fathers Award Received:*** OCF/NBNF staff received a notice from GrantSolutions that the third-year grant award will be released to ODJFS. OCF Executive Director forwarded the notice to OFAM fiscal and ODJFS leadership. The notice indicated another \$1,957,864.00.

**State Agency Collaboration**

***ODRC/OCS/OCDA Meeting:*** OCF executive director participated in the ODRC/Child Support meeting. An update regarding the state of Ohio's CQE (Certificate for Qualification of Employment) was provided as well as an update on the Child Support Guidelines bill. OCF Executive Director provided an update on the New Beginnings for New Fathers services currently being provided in Circleville and Cuyahoga Hills as well as plans to provide services in Indian River.

***Columbus Public Health - Infant Vitality Toolkit:*** OCF Executive Director participated in multiple meetings with the Columbus Public Health Department to discuss the development of the Fatherhood Infant Vitality Toolkit. This toolkit is a continuation of the work implemented by Celebrate One and Columbus Public Health. The group discussed the timeline and the various tasks required to complete the toolkit in a timely manner. The committee will continue to meet in person as well as via web-ex to complete the toolkit. The committee consists of staff from the Columbus Health Department, Celebrate One, Action for Children, the Columbus Urban League and OCF.

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***Child Support Strategic Workgroup Meeting:*** OCF Executive Director attended the quarterly Child Support Strategic Workgroup. The group received information regarding upcoming system changes, legislation updates, etc. The group exists of representatives from the Office of Child Support and local Child Support Agencies.

***Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team (HSCRT):*** OCF Executive Director attended the Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team quarterly meeting to discuss the activities under the Safe Schools Healthy Students and Project Aware grants. The Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services fund school activities that address behavior and academics in various counties in Ohio.

***Phone Conference with ODH and OPNFF:*** OCF Executive Director participated on a phone call with Jye Breckenridge, ODH Home Visiting and Steve Killpack, OPNFF to discuss a June Barbershop event in Columbus that we hope to expand to the other four NBNF sites. The event will include health screenings, NBNF and other community services to the fathers at the various barbershop locations. The team also discussed the best curriculum to implement for dads in the Home Visiting program as well as father engagement.

**General Fatherhood Outreach**

***CIA (Community in Faith) Faith Based Event-Take a Stand Against Opioid Addiction:*** OCF Executive Director participated on a panel with the pastor from Family of Faith Community Church as well as Licking County Prosecuting Attorney Bill Hayes and CEO of Licking County Big Brothers Big Sisters.

***Texas Fatherhood Interagency Meeting Via Skype:*** OCF Executive Director met with Texas State agency representatives and other community stakeholders via Skype. OCF Executive Director gave an overview of OCF structure, programs, grants, funding, partners, quarterly meetings and special programs. Exec Director also discussed the importance of obtaining “buy-in” from both government and private businesses when establishing sustainable Fatherhood programming, and answered questions about challenges and successes. The Texas Fatherhood group invited the Exec Director to the Texas State Fatherhood Summit, scheduled for June 29, 2018.

***Meeting with Frank Williams Man2Man Fatherhood Program (Summit County):*** OCF Executive Director met with Mr. Frank Williams from Man2Man in Summit County to discuss Fatherhood curricula and advanced Fatherhood programming related to Infant Mortality prevention and Infant Vitality in Summit County. Man2Man is currently funded by the Summit County Fatherhood Initiative (SCFI), Summit County Job and Family Services.

***Phone Conference with Calvin Williams (On My Shoulders Co-Author):*** OCF Executive Director participated in a phone conference with Calvin Williams (Cincinnati) regarding the upcoming On My Shoulders training scheduled in Columbus for NBNF partners. The training will be open to Stark County Fatherhood practitioners from the Early Childhood Resource Center as well. Stark County’s Infant Mortality Coalition (THRIVE) plans to continue to fund

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the Fatherhood Program in Stark, and the practitioners are interested in modifying the curriculum currently used in Fatherhood programming under the Medicaid funding.

**OCF Meetings, Outreach, Calls, Events & Projects**

***Meeting with New Commissioner - Mr. William Dodson Jr.:*** OCF Executive Director was notified that Mr. William Dodson, Executive VP, of Rhema Christian Center had been officially appointed to the Commission on Fatherhood by the Governor's Office. Executive Director met with Mr. Dodson at Rhema Christian Center on Agler Road to discuss the upcoming 2018 OCF meetings, provide Mr. Dodson with his OCF binder and answer any questions prior to the upcoming February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

***Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program PRT:*** OCF staff participated on the Parenting and Pregnancy Program proposal review team. The various proposals were scored individually with consensus scoring deciding the selected programs.

***Phone Conference with Mr. Brad Hagen:*** OCF Executive Director participated in a phone conference with Mr. Brad Hagen (Washington D.C.). Mr. Hagen contacted the OCF e-mail box regarding information from the Nubian Scholar focused on how to provide Fatherhood services to millennials by use of music and social media. The information will be reviewed and follow-up scheduled with Mr. Hagen.

***Phone Conference with Delaware County (Mobilization Project):*** OCF staff set up a meeting to answer questions about the implementation and funds released for Delaware County Fatherhood Initiative. OCF staff clarified contract expectations, and followed up with the OFAM fiscal department to verify the time frame for spending funds. It was determined that because the agreement is not a grant agreement, there is no time period required to spend funds.

***Region V Fatherhood Conference Call:*** OCF staff participated in the quarterly Region V Fatherhood conference call with practitioners and stakeholders from various Region V states. The author and developer of the WATCH D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students) school program Mr. Eric Snow provided information on the history and success of the school program. A principal from an elementary school in Tennessee also discussed the success of the program in her school. OCF staff advised that they are interested in discussing the success of the program in a middle or high school environment.

***Stark County Fatherhood Program Visit – THRIVE Infant Mortality:*** OCF Executive Director visited Mr. Shawn Crable, Director of the THRIVE Infant Mortality Fatherhood program in Stark County. The program is operated under the Early Childhood Resource Center. The Fatherhood program has been written into the THRIVE proposal for ODM funding.

***Walking Logo (Starts Within) Documentary Video Taping:*** OCF Executive Director, staff from the State Office of Child Support participated in an interview with "Starts Within" Director as part of a documentary focusing on incarcerated fathers and restored citizens who are fathers and the importance of remaining connected to their children. The documentary is scheduled to be an hour long with several community and agency leaders participating in the discussion.

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***Meeting with Mr. Dan Palmer and Scioto County Judge Alan Lemon (Fatherhood and Opioid Crisis):*** OCF Executive Director attended a meeting in Scioto County to discuss the need of Fatherhood programming to address the various needs of the population currently impacted by the Opioid and drug epidemic.

***First Breath Initiative Council Meeting:*** OCF Exec Director met with the Director of the FBI (First Breath Initiative) at the Van Buren Homeless Shelter. The council is working on ways to provide shelter to women who are pregnant. On average, there are approximately 25-30 pregnant women who reside in the shelter. OCF Exec Director discussed how the Central Ohio Fatherhood programs can assist expectant dads connected with the homeless pregnant women and provide better support.

**OCPIM and other OCF Infant Mortality Initiatives**

***OCPIM (Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality) Executive Steering Committee Meeting:*** OCF Executive Director participated on the OCPIM Executive Steering Committee call to discuss the upcoming OCPIM Quarterly meeting and the upcoming State OCPIM Summit.

***Weekly Infant Mortality Calls:*** OCF Executive Director participates in the weekly IM call with the governor's office, ODH and ODM. Each of the state agencies were provided the opportunity to update how the state Medicaid Funded meetings are going in the Ohio Equity Institute (OEI) communities. OCF Executive Director advised that the NBNF funded Fatherhood programs in four of the nine OEI communities are positioned to assist in providing Fatherhood services.

***Other calls included the following:***

- Various updates from the departments were made to include the plans for 2018 and an update regarding the OEI Community Medicaid Funding meetings. The applications from the various OEI communities are due December 8, 2017. OCF Executive Director provided an update regarding the meeting with the Columbus Public Health Department's Epidemiology staff and plans to develop a Fatherhood Infant Vitality Toolkit for statewide use.
- Plans were made and dates established to revisit several of the OEI (Ohio Equity Institute) counties with a focus on the Faith-based community component. OCF Executive Director advised that OCF funds a Faith-based Fatherhood program in Montgomery County, Urban Light Ministries, through the New Beginnings for New Fathers grant.
- The group discussed the upcoming meeting scheduled at the various OEI (Ohio Equity Institute) counties as they relate to the engaging the Faith-Based community.
- OCF Executive Director plans to attend the upcoming Faith-Based meetings in various OEI (Ohio Equity Institute) counties, beginning with Hamilton County on January 17<sup>th</sup>. OCF Executive Director has been assigned the task of reaching out to Pastor Eugene Norris of Fame Fathers in Summit County regarding churches in Mahoning County that may be a good fit for the Mahoning County Faith-Based upcoming meeting. OCF Executive Director will update the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives after speaking with Pastor Eugene Norris.

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- OCF Executive Director participated on the Weekly Infant Mortality calls with the Governor's Office, Ohio Department of Medicaid and the Ohio Department of Health regarding the Faith-Based meetings scheduled in various Ohio Equity Institute counties. The goal is to engage the Faith-Based community in the areas with high Infant Mortality rates and high disparate rates between non-Hispanic Caucasians and non-Hispanic African-Americans.
- The discussions are currently based on the topic of the meetings with the Faith-Based members of the nine OEI IM communities. OCF Executive Director has not attended these meetings as there is currently no role for ODJFS. Once the regular OEI IM community meetings begin, OCF Executive Director will continue to attend the scheduled meetings.

### **NBNF Meetings, Presentations, Trainings and Conference Calls**

***Federal Grant Administrator (Health and Human Services) / Public Strategies Site Visit: Our Federal Program Specialist*** from Health and Human Services (HHS) and two technical assistance team members from Public Strategies came to review our NBNF program and provide input, and feedback recommendations for the New Beginnings for New Fathers (NBNF) grant program. Over a period of four days they reviewed the NBNF program, met with program partners, visited our Fatherhood direct services sites, discussed recruitment and retention challenges, data systems best practices, issues and concerns, reviewed processes, budgets, and discussed expectations of year three with this grant. A teleconference was held with NBNF Fatherhood partners and two technical assistance representatives from Mathematica to review questions and inconsistencies in the nForm data system, and to answer questions OCF/sub-grantees had regarding data entry. The site visit ended with HHS and Public Strategies providing a debriefing session where they were able to document the questions/concerns of OCF/Sub-grantee staff. HHS provided recommendations, advised of potential changes in year four of the grant and agreed to research unanswered question to provide guidance in the near future. HHS also meet with ODJFS Fiscal staff to observe the safe guards and protocols into place for federal funding and invoicing payments. Contract changes and deliverables were also discussed along with internal procedures used when request for changes to contracts are made.

***HHS/ Public Strategies Action for Children Site (AFC) Visit:*** OCF staff, our HHS Federal Program Specialist, and two technical assistance staff from Public Strategies traveled to Action for Children to meet the NBNF staff paid under the federal grant. HHS had each team member discuss their responsibilities and their reason for being in their job role. HHS spoke to establishing a feel for the determination and commitment to the program based on staff input. HHS discussed their concern with existing enrollment numbers being low. They wanted to know how HHS and Public Strategies can assist in boosting enrollment numbers, and what staff saw as existing challenges to recruiting in the communities. AFC staff spoke to the existing community partnerships with Franklin County Child Support, Columbus Urban League and Moms 2B being keys to their enrollment. We also discussed including more details in their FFY budget and sending a copy of the final contract completed with Columbus Urban League/Moms 2B once final. Staff was also able to observe Father Factor being facilitated at the Reeb Center to a group of fathers. The facilitator did an outstanding job engaging and talking with this group.

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***NBNF / HHS / Public Strategies – Passages Site Visit:*** OCF staff, our HHS Federal Program Specialist, and two technical assistance staff from Public Strategies completed a teleconference with Passages team due to inclement weather in Cleveland on the day of the scheduled site visit. HHS had each team member discuss their responsibilities and their reason for being in their job role. Passages reviewed their process flow for what a new father interested in the NBNF program would do if he walked into their door and wanted assistance from their agency. They discussed their process flow, and what a father would receive in assistance, classes, incentives and referrals and links for resources to remove barriers. Passages discussed the process they have created with Cuyahoga County Child Support to embed the referral/linkage process into the paternity establishment and have a consistent presence in the Cuyahoga County Child Support agency. One of Passages biggest challenges cited was the difficulty getting dads from enrollment to the first day of class. Public Strategies mentioned that Passages process flow chart was one of the best submitted by all of the HMRF grantees nationwide. HHS noted that Passages numbers were just at the threshold of meeting the needed enrollment numbers for the quarter. We reviewed budgets and discussed the need to drill into more details on spending and provide break downs of legal consults, marketing and outreach funds. HHS also discussed how NBNF and the Building Bridges and Bonds Federal grant were different at Passages with that program through MDRC.

***NBNF / HHS / Public Strategies – Talbert House Site Visit:*** OCF staff, our HHS Federal Program Specialist, and two technical assistance staff from Public Strategies traveled to Talbert House to meet the NBNF staff paid under the federal grant. HHS had each team member discuss their responsibilities and their reason for being in their job role. HHS spoke to establishing a feel for the determination and commitment to the program based on staff input. HHS spoke to this current quarter as being critical to our program to meet enrollment numbers. Talbert House staff spoke to engaging with community partners and processes in place. Key processes that they have created for fathers in being able to receive legal consults and co-parenting counseling options. HHS cautioned the use of providing co-parenting to just mothers only. They are to provide guidance on this practice. HHS also addressed their major concerns that Talbert House was not at their 25% enrollment for the first quarter and that not one father has completed their NBNF program. Based on discussions held, staff had a misunderstanding of when fathers were supposed to list as completed/graduated from the program and they are working to correct statuses for fathers currently in the program. Talbert House knows to collect exit surveys and update statuses for fathers on the last day of cohort classes. The budget was discussed along with the need to provide more clarification and narrative breakdown for travel, other, contract services and under the other services section of the budget. HHS and Public Strategies staff were provided an opportunity to observe the Money Smart curriculum programming conducted by OSU Extension as part of NBNF. They were impressed with the Money Smart programming provided to the fathers

***NBNF / HHS / Public Strategies – Urban Light Ministries Site Visit:*** OCF staff, our HHS Federal Program Specialist, and two technical assistance staff from Public Strategies traveled to Urban Light Ministries' (ULM) Dayton location to meet the NBNF staff paid under the federal grant. HHS had each team member discuss their responsibilities and their reason for being in their job role. HHS spoke to establishing a feel for the determination and commitment to the

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program based on staff input. HHS and Public Strategies asked ULM staff about the issues they were experiencing with recruitment and retention, reviewed their process flow and budget. HHS and Public Strategies offered suggestions based on methods of other HHS grantees, and discussed the possibility of condensing curriculum to increase retention. HHS advised the biggest concern was Urban Light Ministries not meeting their 25% numbers for this quarter, stressing that sites need to be at 50% target numbers by the end of March = 125 fathers enrolled. The budget was discussed with the need to provide more narrative details for amounts under supplies, equipment, and other services. A request was also made to indicate that the out of state trip to People for People was already completed with month and year. HHS and Public Strategies staff were provided an opportunity to observe On My Shoulders programming conducted by a ULM facilitator. They were impressed with the OMS programming provided to the fathers.

***NBNF / Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) meeting:*** OCF Executive Director and NBNF staff met with the leadership from all NBNF sub-grantees to discuss HHS recommendations, possible changes with client surveys, as well as possible changes in staffing at sub-grantee sites. Representatives from Ohio University also attended the meeting. OU CQI staff, plan to take a closer look at the language in client surveys. OCF staff will work with sub-grantees to develop father/client focus group to gauge effectiveness and father's understanding of surveys.

***Urban Light Ministries Visit to OCF:*** ULM's CEO and COO along with the NBNF Program Manager met with OCF Executive Director regarding the HHS/Public Strategies visit and debrief from the previous week. OCF Executive Director discussed the serious issue of low enrollment numbers as well as ensuring that staff are appropriately placed in roles that best correlate with their personalities and skillset.

***NBNF Sub-Grantee Site Visit: Urban Light Ministries:*** OCF NBNF staff completed a site visit with Urban Light Ministries NBNF management team in Springfield, Ohio. NBNF staff reviewed revised incentive plans, new cohort models and core curriculum being provided. Security protocol was discussed and reviewed, several small changes need to be incorporated into Urban Light's written security plan. Staff discussed NBNF inventory and that some additions needed to be added, staff also discussed the fact that Passages took delivery for ULM's additional 100 port-a-crib sets delivered and ULM was required to account for these in their agency inventory since they are physically located in Cleveland for now. Staff will reevaluate port-a-crib sets in the spring to determine if there is a need to reassign these remaining 100 sets other agencies. Staff also discussed the need for an updated recruitment plan, which ULM is finalizing now. Staff reviewed Urban Light's strategic action plan. ULM has put into motion much of what was outlined. Follow up will be held at the next site visit. Staff discussed the budgets changes and the request for ULM staff to complete a site visit with the Project DADS grantee in Philadelphia, PA. Lastly, staff discussed the need to review the budget on a quarterly basis to determine any needs for adjustments or amendments.

***NBNF Sub-Grantee Site Visit: Action for Children (AFC):*** OCF staff completed a site visit with Action for Children NBNF management team in Columbus, Ohio. Staff reviewed revised incentive plan, new cohort model and core curriculum being provided. Staff discussed some retention challenges and ways that curriculum can be incorporated to see if they assisted with

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drop off rate. Staff discussed current recruitment challenges with getting fathers in the door for intake and enrollment appointments. Security protocol was discussed and reviewed, several small changes need to be incorporated into Action for Children's written security plan. Staff discussed NBNF inventory as well as some challenges with providing services last month with Circleville DYS and the need for these fathers to finalize programming in the community. Several fathers were given the exit survey while still residing at DYS, which was not correct per the directive from HHS. OCF staff created a written protocol for providing services in facility settings to assist all Fatherhood partners with the process outlined. Staff reviewed budget changes needed as well as the need to incorporate the contractual agreement in the works with Columbus Urban League (CUL) to provide NBNF services to fathers at the MOMS2B program. As enrollment increased, AFC plans to hire another case manager who will assist specific fathers and work directly with the CUL fathers enrolled. AFC will be sending staff to National Fathers and Families conference in California in Feb. 2018. Additionally, staff reviewed the new ETO NBNF individual services screen and first report created. Action for Children had information missing to related tabs for outcomes and referrals. Staff walked through the screen outline and tabs with the case manager and job developer to determine a sense of understanding the missing components needed. We also discussed the need to review the AFC budget on a quarterly basis to determine any needs for adjustments or amendments. AFC has hired two new fiscal staff to replace fiscal staff who recently left the organization.

***HHS/ACF Monthly Teleconference:*** OCF NBNF staff to discussed Passages budget for 7-1-17 to 9-30-17, updated revised incentive plans for new cohort models and the use of paper surveys protocol and requests to use paper surveys at specific site locations.

***Details from the following meeting:***

- OCF staff discussed approval from HHS to move forward with allowing ODJFS/OCF to provide services to CCMEP participants, but ensuring OCF/NBNF will not duplicate benefits given. HHS and Public Strategies are scheduled to visit Ohio for a Federal site visit the last week in January to meet with each agency location and observe workshop facilitation. HHS also requested OCF/NBNF staff keep formatting for budgets and narratives the same across all partner locations. OCF already requested the same format and updated budgets from all partners, and the narrative formats were provided to HHS as uploads in GrantSolutions. HHS also provided additional clarification that mothers who enroll in the program and meet eligibility criteria are considered program participants and can receive any incentives and barrier removal items. This is a huge change and contrary to previous guidance.

***Meeting with Cuyahoga County Child Support Agency:*** OCF, along with Dr. Moore from Passages, met with Cuyahoga County Child Support Agency staff in Cleveland, Ohio to discuss the NBNF program and how both programs can work together to form a collaborative partnership to provide essential tools for young fathers to help them become successful men and responsible fathers as well as learning how to help support their parenting partners. A referral process was outlined and marketing material shared. A follow-up site visit meeting was scheduled for staff to observe the Passages program and establish quarterly follow-up meetings to review the process.

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- OCF staff, along with Passage staff met with staff at the Cuyahoga County Office of Child Support to discuss the referral process put into place between the Office of Child Support and Passages. Staff discussed referrals made and how that process was working between the two agencies. The team discovered while referrals are being made, most fathers when contacted decided they were not interested in the program. The idea was suggested that the Child Support worker call Passages and arrange a meeting with the agency staff so that fathers can come right over to discuss the program. Passages will also begin to have a presence at the Child Support agency to meet with fathers directly starting next week. The team will meet in March 2018 to discuss how these new approaches are working.

***NBNF Biweekly Conference Call:*** OCF staff met with the NBNF team to discuss updates to staff time tracking updates and enhancements made and to review the new ETO NBNF individual service page to walk through the process related to referrals and outcomes now that staff have been using the new screen for 30 days.

***Other meeting discussions included:***

- OCF staff led NBNF team meeting to discuss changes made to ETO for staff time management tracking. Discussion were held on inventory tracking and logging inventory in ETO. Year three Federal and State budgets have been submitted. State budgets are being amended to remove subsidized employment, increase incentives given and update travel and overall funding allocated.
- OCF Staff met with the NBNF team to discuss clarifications provided by the nFORM team in regards to capturing and updating nFORM for session series classes. Clarifications were made on how to create “Dummy Sessions” series to capture hours of classes attended by participants prior to them becoming fully enrolled in the program. The team reviewed the need to ensure NBNF staff has a communication process in place with the facilitators and that staff meet with facilitators to offer review and feedback on curriculum delivery. Each Fatherhood agency discussed what the process is implemented to provide facilitators CQI and communications.

***Urban Light Ministries Recruiting Meeting:*** OCF NBNF (New Beginnings for New Fathers) staff participated in a meeting with ULM NBNF staff to assist with a plan to better recruit and retain fathers in the NBNF program. Each of the four NBNF Fatherhood programs are required to update OCF with a monthly recruitment plan for their respective service delivery area.

***Ohio University Monthly Call / Updates and CQI Review:*** OCF NBNF staff participated in the monthly OU conference call to discuss the plans for the CQI planned visits to the four partner Fatherhood programs. OCF NBNF staff plan to review the first-year services NBNF Annual Report to be released with the OCF Annual Report scheduled for the end of December 2017.

***Other meeting discussions included:***

- OU staff was introduced to new NBNF Researcher 2 staff. After which OU staff gave an in-depth update on, things that are working with the NBNF sub-grantee’s programs, and areas opportunities for improvement. OCF and OU staff discussed concerns and possible changes in the data collection process to increase the likelihood of survey completion.

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- Data storage review for ETO and nForm, conversation about which data reports each agency is pulling, reports used to create monthly overview reports, reports used to create recruitment / referral report, need for Ad Hoc reports for each agency and any questions management has regarding data reporting.

***Monthly NBNF Managers Meeting – Teleconference:*** OCF NBNF staff facilitated the NBNF managers call scheduled monthly. This time is allotted the NBNF local project managers an opportunity to discuss local service delivery NBNF successes and challenges.

***NBNF Project Manager Role Meeting:*** OCF Executive Director scheduled a meeting with NBNF local Project Managers regarding their roles and the role of the state NBNF Project Manager and Researcher II. The state NBNF local Project Managers are required and expected to manage their local programs, including staff.

***LEAP Intro Webinar / HMRF Dashboard Launch & Establishing Effective Partnerships Training (Two Separate Webinars):*** OCF NBNF staff participated in the first two LEAP webinars as part of the technical assistance offered to comply with the Pre-Corrective Action Plan Notice. Follow-up activity to include service delivery workflows from the four partner Fatherhood agencies due December 29<sup>th</sup> and a partner identification and description grid due December 15<sup>th</sup>.

***NBNF Curriculum Training Make-up Class Details Meeting:*** OCF NBNF staff began the initial review of the authors' definitions/requirements of core curriculum make-up classes for participants who miss a class but plan to continue and complete the programming. OCF NBNF staff reviewed the On My Shoulders class make-up definitions with plans to review the Love Notes and Father Factor make-up class requirements.

***OCF NBNF Project Manager Meeting with Urban Light Ministries (ULM) Local Project Manager:*** ULM new local Project Manager traveled to Columbus to learn more about NBNF Implementation as well as updates on how to most effectively use ETO and nFORM. The new local Project Manager received some of the required NBNF training and is being scheduled for the remaining required training in the coming months.

***Conference Call with Healthy Marriage Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) HHS/ACF Federal Program Specialist (FPS):*** OCF NBNF staff participated on a phone conference with HMRF HHS FPS to clarify each of the four Fatherhood partner's incentive plan. Additional topics were discussed to include program delivery timeframes indicated by each partner.

***Internal NBNF Discussion Regarding HHS/ACF HMRF Office Hours:*** OCF staff attended an HHS HMRF Grantee discussion with Public Strategies to review and discuss the application approach of applying and establishing effective partnerships with service delivery agencies and partner agencies.

***NBNF Implementation Team Meeting:*** OCF held the NBNF implementation call to discuss developing a program process flow diagram that all Fatherhood partners have due on 12-15-17.

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Discussion was also held regarding HHS new guidance on audio/video (virtual classes) cohorts and survey completion, requiring that exit surveys should be gathered when fathers exit the program for any reason, not just related to graduation/completion status. This discussion also raised concerns regarding the existing incentives being given at exit. Implementation members will discuss these concerns with their NBNF Fatherhood teams and the team will review and follow up at the next meeting.

***NBNF Monthly Case Manager Meeting:*** OCF staff provided case managers with an updated case manager reference guide and led discussion with NBNF case managers on providing services to women who volunteer to participate in the program and also around incentives for women that are not permitted under the grant. This is in the process of being clarified with HHS. Case managers also discussed biggest challenges, which remain much the same as housing, legal and some child care.

***Session #2 Small Group Discussion: Office Hours:*** OCF NBNF staff participated in the Session # Small Group Discussion with other HMRF (Healthy Marriage Responsible Fatherhood) grantees, HHS/ACF staff and Public Strategies (the HMRF technical assistance organization) regarding the LEAP Series activities, due dates, and questions that grantees may have regarding the various activities. The New Beginnings for New Fathers project manager reported that OCF is in compliance with the required activities and due date requests.

***Phone Conference with ULM NBNF Program Manager:*** OCF Exec Director and NBNF Project Manager participated in a phone call with ULM NBNF Program Manager regarding the grant service delivery structure, successes and challenges in Montgomery and Clark counties. Several “next steps” have been identified as well as assistance from OCF Exec Director in working with Montgomery County CSEA.

***Ohio University Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Monthly Call:*** OCF/NBNF Project Manager facilitated the monthly call with Ohio University as it relates to ongoing CQI to the NBNF partners. OU is under contract with ODJFS to analyze the data collected by the partners from participants as related to Infant Mortality education and Financial Education. OU plans to visit with the four NBNF Fatherhood partners in the coming months.

***NBNF Action for Children (AFC)/Franklin County CSEA Process Flow:*** OCF/NBNF Project Manager facilitated a call with ACF regarding plans to insert NBNF in the Franklin County CSEA paternity and establishment processes at the agency. The goal is to engage young fathers and new fathers early on in the establishment process to ensure that orders are “right-sized” and fathers play more of an active role in the financial care of their children.

***Session #3: Monitoring Success: Systems, Tools, and Timelines:*** OCF staff attended this training with Public Strategies to discuss how we successfully monitor our program partners. Tools and techniques used by grantees were discussed. Public Strategies also reviewed formatted examples of tools and logs that could be used by grantees to document and provide oversight for program partners. Grantee agencies discussed tools they developed and currently use for this purpose.

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**Session # 3 Office Hours:** OCF staff meet with other grantees to discuss tools and forms they currently use for successful monitoring. Staff also discussed how this process was helpful and ways that the approaches helped grantees look at processes in a different light. The staff's takeaways from the discussion included, communication is key to ensuring fidelity across programs. Additionally, it was determined that reviewing and mapping the process flows allows for great insight to pin point exact issues and approaches needed for resolutions.

**OSU / NBNF Monthly Call:** OCF/NBNF staff participated in the Ohio State University Extension call to discuss the MoneySmart curriculum, which is implemented as a curriculum to NBNF participants to teach budgeting, improving credit, banking, etc.

**NBNF Job Developer Monthly Meeting:** OCF staff and NBNF Job Developers discussed challenges and success associated with assisting NBNF clients with securing and maintaining employment. Job Developers advised one another on alternative ways to address younger clients that forsake opportunities. Some even suggested that some of the issues could be resolved with more communication with the potential employers.

**Inside the Black Box Webinar Part II:** OCF/NBNF staff attended the Inside the Black Box Webinar (Part II) to learn various promising practices surrounding enrolling and retaining fathers in Fatherhood programs.

**“On My Shoulders” (OMS) Three-Day NBNF Curriculum Training:** Calvin Williams, On My Shoulders Curriculum developer, provided a three-day OMS training for all new NBNF staff. All NBNF staff are required to be trained in the OMS curriculum. OCF Executive Director also invited three additional Fatherhood practitioners to the training, two from Stark County Fatherhood Initiative, which is a program that receives funding through Medicaid via their local IM Coalition. The third Fatherhood practitioner was from Scioto County, Ohio State University Extension, and was requested to attend the training because of a visit to Judge Alan Lemon and staff regarding the need for Fatherhood services as they relate to the Opioid Epidemic.

**New Beginnings for New Fathers, (NBNF), Data Update: NBNF Enrollment Progress:** As of February 9, 2018, NBNF enrollment for Federal fiscal year, (FFY), 2018 was 147. Passages' FFY 2018 enrollment was 65, Action for Children's was 26, Talbert House's was 30, and Urban Light Ministries' was 26.

### **B3 / MDRC Meetings**

**MDRC / B3 Monthly Update:** OCF/NBNF staff participated on the monthly phone call with MDRC/B3 staff regarding the special grant project funded by HHS to Passages in Cuyahoga County. The Cognitive Behavior as it relates to employment is scheduled to end by spring 2018. An IRB approval was received by ODRC (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction) for the implementation of services to participants on probation/parole.

**MDRC / B3 Monthly Update:** OCF staff met with Dina Israel and Douglas Phillips from MDRC, for an overview and update on the extended services provided to Passages, one of the

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NBNF sub-grantees. OCF staff discussed the new partnership with Passages and the Cuyahoga County Child Support office and the implementation of the official referral service, and other parameters of the partnership. Also discussed were: the IRB approval at ODRC, the MOU with ODH as it applies to father referrals for the Home Visiting program, staffing changes, how the University of Cincinnati (UC) is assisting to ensure that new staff is appropriately educated on the extended curriculum for B3 and UC's recent site visit to Passages.

**TANF Grantee Meetings, Events and Conference Calls**

***Site Visit to Coleman:*** OCF staff visited new TANF grantee Coleman Family Services to assist with questions on grant requirements, responsibilities of staff and new online data management system, ETO. OCF staff will continue to work with Coleman Family Services as new level B grantee.

***TANF Grantee Action for Children (AFC) Site Visit:*** OCF staff met with program managers at AFC to plan first ever grantee led meeting to take place on January 16 at AFC. This is being done at the request of grantees who want more face to face meetings with fellow practitioners throughout the two-year grant. The meeting activities are planned and led by the host grantee staff.

***TANF Grantee Talbert House Site Visit:*** OCF staff met with all grantee staff at Talbert House to review grant expectations and answer outstanding questions from grantee staff. OCF staff reviewed preliminary data from the new online case management system all grantees are required to use to record and track client data, Efforts to Outcomes (ETO). Several trends were identified and needed adjustments were discussed with the program manager.

***TANF Grantees Monthly Conference Call with Program Managers:*** OCF staff led first monthly call with program managers from all seven grantees. Topics of common concern were discussed and changes agreed to by all participants. These calls were implemented to insure buy-in from the grantees and to make sure that program services and expectations remain consistent across the seven grantee sites.

***ForeverDads Fatherhood Event (Zanesville):*** OCF staff attended annual ForeverDads Board of Trustee holiday luncheon. Following the luncheon, OCF staff met with all grantee staff from Foreverdads to review grant expectations and answer outstanding questions from grantee staff.