

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Minutes from the Meeting of Thursday, November 16, 2017

Attendance	
Commissioners	Senator Bill Beagle Deputy Director Kara Bertke-Wente Director Susan Brown Representative Nicholas Celebreeze Representative Hearcel Craig Mr. Mike Davis Mr. Chad Hibbs Representative Darrell Kick Dr. Randy Leite Mr. Scott Neely Director Ann Ream Mr. John Silverman Senator Cecil Thomas Mr. Socrates Tuch Mr. Tarik White
Presenters	Justin Carter – Ohio Domestic Violence Network / ODH Gary Mohr – Ohio Department of Rehabilitation services Dr. Brian Moore – Passages Connecting Father’s & Sons, Inc. Debra Seltzer – Ohio Department of Health William Vincent IV – Passages Connecting Father’s & Sons, Inc.
Guests	Traci Bell-Thomas – Ohio Department of Medicaid Justin Carter – Ohio Domestic Violence Network Rebekah Hatzitutos – Children’s Hunger Alliance Advocate Ruben Hernandez – Legislative Aide for Sen. Thomas Daniel James – Legislative Aid for Rep. Kick Debra Seltzer Ohio Men’s Action Network / ODH Jaclyn Waggoner – Legislative Aide for Rep. Celebreeze Chip Weiant – Governor’s Office of Faith Biased Community Initiatives Stacey Yeager – Greater Good Ambassadors
OCF Staff	Director Kimberly Dent Ms. Terena Arnold Ms. Monica Mahoney Ms. Judy Strayer

I. Call to Order & Welcome New Commissioners	
10:08-10:13	Senator Bill Beagle
Sen. Bill Beagle called the meeting to order, welcomed our guests, and invited all attending to introduce themselves.	
II. Approval of September 21, 2017 Minutes	
10:43-10:45	Senator Bill Beagle
Approval of the September 21 st minutes was pushed back to a later time, because quorum was not established at the start of the meeting. Once quorum was established minutes were approved as submitted.	
III. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction	
10:10-10:45	Director Gary Mohr
<p>Director Mohr opened with statistics: “Children of the incarcerated are 6 times more likely to be incarcerated. There are 822 collateral consequences of incarceration.” He talked about the success of the first prison fellowship group he was asked to oversee as a deputy warden in 1985. It was a scripturally based, structured program for married inmates. The successful outcomes of this prison fellowship program and others in present day prisons around Ohio, suggests that prison programming needs to be built for systematic sustainability.</p> <p>Family days, worship days, and programing that encourages inmates to accomplish goals and remain connected to their families has positive outcomes. Recidivism continues to be a concern, especially in high security prisons. One prison’s recidivism rate is 52% with several others at or close to 50%, all of which are higher than the State average. 364 inmates were released from Lucasville last year. Statistics show, more than half will recitivise.</p> <p>There is a reintergration center for women near Cleveland. Some of the women there work eight hour days. Director Mohr suggested coaching for inmates that are going to be released would be beneficial to the inmates and the communities they will be returning to. He believes the sooner inmates can involve themselves in programming, the more likely they are to have better behavior while incarcerated and a higher success rate once released.</p> <p>Director Mohr believes inmates should begin receiving coaching when they enter prison as opposed to shortly before they are released. However, this would have to be a systematic change to create consistency and have an impact.</p> <p>Director Mohr briefly discussed his process prior to the execution of death row inmates. He talked about the humanity associated with entering the cell of an inmate scheduled to be executed. He wanted the commission to see why a failing system ultimately effects society as well as the accused. He told the commission of the words of encouragement he tells the inmate, and how he is reminded that even though</p>	

they have done horrible things they are still human. Family members of the soon-to-be executed are effected by a failing system.

Director Mohr suggested inmates should have the option of the following before reengaging society:

- Substance abuse and mental health programming (if needed)
- Cognitive Thinking courses
- GED and college courses
- General programing specified by inmate that requires participation and ends with a graduation.
- Marriage encounters and parenting classes
- Inmates should be able to access OhioMeansJobs to post their resume and for positions that match their skill sets before release.
- Inmates (in lower security prisons) should be able to bankroll income that will be released to them when no longer incarcerated.
- Inmates should be able to get a job, learn or improve skills that assist with deriving an income when released and/or while incarcerated.
- Family reunification programs for both high and low security inmates that will be released.
- Church services with children and/or family

Dir Mohr believes that high security prisons should be “surgically prioritized” when it comes to programming. He would like to see the prison system transition. The University of Cincinnati studied all the prisons in Ohio to develop data regarding evidence based programming in the prisons. Statistically inmates do better when involved with programming.

Kimberly Dent commented that she had visited Lucasville with an employee from the State Child Support Agency (Tiffany Chinn). She concurred that the inmates responded well to the information about programming, child support policies and county office contact information. Director Mohr commented about the high security polices at Ohio State Penitentiary (OSP). Director Dent mentioned that she had also visited OSP with State Child support (along with many other State institutions) and was aware of the strict security measures taken by the facility.

Scott Neely discussed the success a “Father / Daughter” dance at a high security prison and that OCF provided funding in June for “June is Responsible Fatherhood” month. He inquired if applying for funding to do programming for incarcerated fathers would be something worth exploring. Director Mohr stated that it would be worth exploring even though there could be push back. Director Mohr believes decision makers should challenge the current structure as it applies to programming. “We don’t do enough”.

Senator Beagle asked how could legislators be supportive besides financially. Director Mohr, stated that he had received support from the legislators regarding

issues associated with beneficial programming and that we should all be challenging ourselves to offer progressive and innovative ideas.

Guest Chip Weint from the Governor's Office of Faith Based Initiatives stated that Director Mohr has been successful with "faith friendly, redemption and rehabilitation" programs that animate Ohio correction institutions. He asked what if his successor was not in agreement with his ideology as it applies to prison programming.

Director Mohr mentioned that he knew his time would soon be up, but he is not now the man he was seven years ago when he became director of ODRC. Regardless of how his successor's views differ from his own, the position itself has limits. What he experienced during his time in the position changed him significantly. He stated that change does not always occur with the major decisions but individual choices of kindness to all humanity.

IV. Passages Connecting Fathers & Sons TANF Funding & NBNF Update

10:45-11:25 Dr. Brian Moore & William Vincent IV

Dr. Brian Moore gave a brief overview of the NBNF program at Passages, and the added funding they receive to work with MDRC's, B3 research program. He explained, Passages was one of 3 nationally selected programs for additional funding to assist with research on a specified study group programming.

Dr. Moore and Mr. William Vincent, IV gave a more in-depth overview of the TANF funded programming provided by Passages in Lorain and Portage counties. Dr. Moore explained that Passages is a faith based agency and that their faith "interacts with people as soon as they come through the door." He explained that he and the staff at Passages want to do more than address any one barrier for the fathers they work with. Instead they want to connect with the father in such a way that they help him understand the importance of modeling responsible fatherhood in front of their children.

Dr. Moore and Mr. Vincent also discussed:

- Fatherhood Stats
- Gave specific programmatic details (employment tracking process etc.)
- Staff Testimony
- Client Testimony
- Program Curriculum
- What Passages is doing with incarcerated fathers
- Video from the 2016 Fatherhood Celebration
- Plans

Passages' Power Point Presentation is available on the OCF website.

V. Ohio Department of Health OHMAN

11:25- 11:50 Justin Carter & Debra Seltzer

Mr. Carter is a senior at the Ohio State University and an intern at ODH's Ohio Men's Action Network (OHMAN) program. Mr. Carter opened the discussion with media images of famous men. Mr. Carter proposed, such images condition beliefs about male roles, attitudes, and behaviors. Mr. Carter explained that OHMAN addresses domestic violence by working with men and boys to support healthy ideas of manhood. OHMAN programs and trainings also rejects gender-based violence and builds respect for women and girls.

Mr. Carter talked about one of the specific trainings offered by OHMAN. It is a curriculum called "The New Playbook". He explained several ways one could access the training. Those interested can be trained as an individual or request information about scheduling training for a group. Mr. Carter also expressed an interest in connecting with representatives from other State agencies to discuss collaboration opportunities, and provide information on domestic violence to both staff and clients.

OHMAN's Power Point Presentation can be found on the OCF website.

VI. Executive Director's Report

11:50-11:55	Kimberly Dent
<p>Ms. Dent advised that the third year NBNF award had been received. Program Manager Judy Strayer received a notice from GrantSolutions that the third-year grant award will be released to ODJFS.</p> <p>Ms. Dent made mention of all that she has been working on with OCPIM and the Governor's office to address infant mortality in the State of Ohio. She talked about the Medicaid funding meeting at CelebrateOne, and Medicaid's plans to fund the Ohio Equity Institute communities focusing on African-American Infant Mortality.</p> <p>Ms. Dent plans to attend a meeting at Family of Faith Community Church in Newark Saturday, November 8th as a guest. The meeting will discuss the opioid epidemic and children affected by drug addicted parents.</p>	
IX. Announcements & New Business	
11:55-12:00	<p>Senate Bill 125 did not have the votes to get it out of the committee and would be on the agenda for November 28th. Would like to move it up to the Senate floor.</p> <p>Scott Neely – Children's Hunger Alliance annual fund raiser. 23rd annual luncheon February 22, 2017, 11:30am at the Hyatt Regency. Dr. Samson Davis will be the guest speaker if anyone would like to join. Tickets are \$25.00. Mr. Neely would like as many from the Commission to join as possible. Mr. Neely would be willing to set up a table for the Commission at the event.</p>
IX. Adjourn	
12:00	Meeting Adjourned