

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood  
Minutes from the Meeting of Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018

Attendance	
Commissioners	Senator Bill Beagle Deputy Director Kara Bertke-Wente Director Susan Brown Representative Nicholas Celebrezze Representative Hearcel Craig Mr. William Dodson Ms. Allison Glasgow Mr. Joseph Hill Representative Darrell Kick Dr. Randy Leite, PhD Mr. Scott Neely Director Ann Ream Mr. Socrates Tuch, Esq. Mr. Tarik White
Presenters	Director Lance Himes, Ohio Dept. of Health Artis Gaines, The Centers for Families and Children Veda Canon, The Centers for Families and Children Lori Longs Painter, The Centers for Families and Children David Hinman, Clinton County Fatherhood Initiative
Guests	Anthony Slosser, Community Father Katie Wright, Wilmington College Sean Crable, Early Childhood, Outreach and Parent Education Supervisor/Stark County Traci Bell-Thomas, Ohio Dept. of Medicaid
OCF Staff	Director Kimberly Dent Ms. Monica Mahoney Ms. Terri Simons

<b>I. Call to Order &amp; Welcome New Commissioner</b>	
10:00-10:05	Senator Bill Beagle
<b>II. Approval of Sept. 20, 2018 Minutes</b>	
10:05-10:10	Scott Neely
The minutes were approved as submitted.	
<b>III. Ohio Dept. of Health</b>	
10:10-10:40	Director Lance Himes

Director Himes spoke about Health Equity and the effects of the Maternal Child and Family Health. ODH Home Visiting programs are voluntary, evidence-based family support programs designed to promote healthy growth and development for babies and young children. Well-trained professionals visit parents in their homes to discuss issues related to pregnancy, children’s health and development, and parenting. \$137 million dollars is spent on healthcare including educating parents and making the community aware of the infant’s safe sleep program. There were 138, 000 births in Ohio. Around 1,000 infants do not reach their first birthday. A data report will be released in the next few weeks. Infant Mortality is down, however, the disparities of minority women still exist. The Hospitals must do a safe sleep screening before the baby is released to the family. Home visits to families increased up to 200% of federal poverty. The State Health Assessment stated the opioid epidemic is affecting moms and dads because they are unavailable to take care of their children. Fiscal and Policy staff developed proposal recommendations and preparedness funding to be reviewed by OBM (Ohio Budget and Management).

Question: What is the Department of Health doing to reduce Infant Mortality?

Answer: Many interventions are community-based. The Ohio Department of Health provide expectant and new mothers with educational classes, brochures, and WIC (Women’s, Infant, and Children) and SNAP (Supplemental, Nutritional, Assistance Program) Program Applications. The new parents can apply for these benefits online or at their local county office and meet the federal poverty guidelines. It is a highly protective program. ODH makes sure the parents are receiving the necessary benefits starting from prenatal care, childbirth up to 18 months, and older. The Department of Health informs the mothers risks for the baby (ex. Birth defects) and herself if having children too close together in age.

Kara Wentz advised everyone that Wendy Grove is the ODJFS contact and is collaborating with the Ohio Dept of Health on Infant Mortality Data Project and can be contacted for more information.

Question: How much involvement has the Department of Health had with the faith-based Community?

Answer: Dayton and Cincinnati are doing a good job working with the churches. Toledo is working towards it by expanding outreach to the faith-based Community. Celebrate One in Columbus is also working with churches and informing them of the Infant Mortality crisis.

<b>IV. The Center for Families and Children</b>	
10:40 -11:10	Artis Gaines, Veda Cannon and Lori Longs

**The Centers for Families and Children presentation:**

The Centers Staff have been working with an attorney and the Cuyahoga County Office of Child Support. The Centers Staff assist the fathers with cooking healthy meals. They provide training to improve their parenting skills. Mental Health services are available to the new and expectant parents. The Centers Staff assist them with getting childcare vouchers, developing the parents resumes to obtain employment, assist with housing. They also assist parents with either obtaining a GED or getting a high school diploma.

The road to responsibility is obtaining transitional housing and rehabilitation from drugs, alcohol, or abuse. The Centers Staff work with parents to reduce child support payments. Ms. Vita is a licensed family therapist who spoke about how they structure their programs for parents. She stated they provide parenting classes, mentoring, health and human services resources pertaining to food, housing, and clothing, outreach to the community, help parents obtain birth certificates for the children. The population they serve are new parents and grandparents who are learning how to take care of the child’s needs. Dads are wanting to get involved with the Centers program by volunteering their time, build up their self-esteem, and participate in the community activities.

The Centers Staff discuss with the parents the difference between abuse and neglect and inform them of the consequences of being an abuser or negligent parent. They also inform them of the Ohio laws within the court system and how it impacts them and their children. The Centers discussed the challenges of family violence in the home and how it triggers parent’s violence towards spouse, partner or children. Teach parents about having family values and how to talk to the Teenagers (ages 16-20). For example: Write a letter to the child or text your child. Show them how to appropriately intervene in conversations on social media.

<b>V. Clinton County Fatherhood Initiative – Update</b>	
11:10-11:25	David Hinman

**Clinton County JFS DADZ Initiative Program presentation by Mr. David Hinman**

Mr. Hinman discussed the deterioration of family values in Midwest Ohio. He challenged the Dads that are in his program to become better fathers because the kids need their love and attention. DADZ initiative Program helps them to improve their father roles. The Clinton County Court System recommends intervention programs. The court informs the parent that they have 30 days to contact the DADZ Initiative Program and to go through their Fatherhood program to assist fathers with resources, such as food, employment, housing, and rehabilitation otherwise the next step will be going to jail. Mr. Hinman is a pastor and he does outreach with other churches to help families within the community. He meets with fathers in the office to discuss life challenges and solutions. He helps build relationships and gains the father’s trust. DADZ Initiative Program uses the National Fatherhood Initiative 15 modules to show fathering skills presentations to be studied; and embedded videos can be used by smart phones. The action plan is only one page.

Questions: How do you determine the value of your Fatherhood program?

We use data collection from fathers attending the Fatherhood programs.

Question: Are you working with local institutions, colleges or community wide schools?

Answer: DADZ Initiative Program is planning to work with Wilmington College.

Question: Do you recruit church members to work with your DADZ organization?

Answer: Yes, they meet with the congregation, peer to peer relationships, and have partnered with other churches in the city.

<b>VI.</b>	<b>Executive Director's Report</b>
11:25 – 11:30	Kimberly Dent

Director Dent shared her Executive Director's Report which is posted on the OCF website. Some of the highlights include: Annual Report, OCPIM and Infant Mortality.

<b>VII.</b>	<b>Announcements and New Business</b>
11:25-11:35	Senator Bill Beagle

**Commissioner Susan Brown: Franklin County Child Support Webinar:** (see handout)  
Susan discussed FRPN planning grants and initiatives for funding opportunities that will be added to their website. FRPN plans to award 12 states \$10,000. ACF memorandum discusses how they should engage in fatherhood programs. Ohio is a national model. Ohio Fatherhood Commission is state funded with paid staff.

Benefits of fatherhood programs includes increasing child support collections, fathers' earnings, building and improving fatherhood relationships with children and partners. They assist parents with employment and training. Child support incentive funds are very limited.

<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Celebrate Senator Beagle</b>
11:35 to 12:00	

Senator Beagle was honored today by Executive Director, the Commissioners, staff, and guests. Director Dent thanked him for his eight years of service on the Commission. Senator Beagle encouraged everyone to stay involved with the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood. Senator Beagle thanked everyone and stated his next position is becoming the Miami County commissioner in January 2019.

<b>IX.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>
12:00	Meeting Adjourn