

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Minutes from the Meeting of Thursday, July 11, 2019

Attendance	
Commissioners	Director Scott Neely Deputy Director Kara Bertke-Wente Director Susan Brown Senator Dave Burke Senator Hearcel Craig Dr. G. Mike Davis Mr. William Dodson Exec. Director Michele Reynolds Mr. Joseph Hill Mr. James Jackson Director Ann Ream Mr. Socrates Tuch, Esq. Mr. Tarik White Rep. J. Todd Smith Rep. Riordan McClain Ms. Sarah LaTourette Rep. Terrance Upchurch Rep. Thomas West
Presenters	Director Annette Chambers-Smith, (ODRC) Mr. David Fluellen, OSU Dads2B and Ms. Katie Calhoun (OSU MOMS2B)
Guests	Matt Hazelwood, Educator, Common Sense Culture Katie Calhoun, Program Manager, OSU MOMS2B Director Annette Chambers-Smith, (ODRC) Jennifer Clayton, Deputy Director, (ODRC) Traci Bell-Thomas, IM Project Manager, Ohio Dept. of Medicaid Jonathan Platt, Exec. Director, Story Chain John Payne, CHW II, PHDMC Anthony Prince, CHWII, PHDMC Stacy Yeager, Greater Good Ambassadors Monica Flynn, Exec. Director, Mommies Matter Ashley Parisi, Legal Intern, Ohio Dept. of Health Margaret Simmons, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Craig Molly Rafeld, Legislative Deputy Director, ODJFS Jacob Dowling, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Burke Chelsea Cordonnier, Associate, Governor's Office Scott Pierce, Program Coordinator, Columbus Urban League Carla Carvalho, Legislative Aide, State Rep. Thomas West Office Kevin Conwell, City Councilman, Cleveland City Council

	Eugene Miller, Community Leader
OCF Staff	Kimberly Dent, Executive Director Ms. Monica Mahoney, Program Manager Ms. Terri Simons, Administrative Professional 4
I. Call to Order & Welcome	
10:00-10:05	Director Scott Neely
Director Scott Neely began the meeting at 10:00 am.	
II. Introduction/Welcome New Commissioner	
10:05-10:10	Director Scott Neely
Director Neely welcomed everyone to the commission meeting. He introduced Senator Dave Burke who is newly appointed to the commission.	
III. Welcome Others in the Room	
10:10-10:20	Director Scott Neely
Director Neely welcomed everyone to the Commission Meeting and asked the visitors to introduce themselves.	
IV. Approval of May 9, 2019 Minutes	
10:20 – 10:25	Director Scott Neely
The minutes were approved as submitted without revision.	

V. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections

10:25-10:55

Director Annette Chambers-Smith, Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Corrections

Director Annette Chambers-Smith from Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC) provided an overview of ODRC and highlighted initiatives they are implementing. Director Chambers-Smith plans to promote a more holistic approach to assisting fathers who are incarcerated by furthering their education, improving their work skills to obtain higher paying jobs, and improving their mental health. She also plans to offer more opportunities for family involvement and with the goal of restoring fathers' bonds with their children.

Director Chambers-Smith is focusing on improving ODRC employees' morale. Many of the employees have experienced trauma at home, at work, in the military, etc. ODRC supervisors will be trained on how to recognize trauma so they can identify security officers who may need additional supportive services. She also plans to change the visitation hours and rules so more families can visit incarcerated family members. Transportation is often a barrier to visitation and she plans to investigate whether non-GRF funds are available to assist with transportation. Another goal of the Director is to provide computers for prisoners to learn how to use them and to obtain a computer technology degree or certificate. She also plans to start a pilot to teach incarcerated fathers how to cook and will offer opportunities for them to cook with their children during prison visitations, so they can have a family meal.

Senator Burke asked a question about the visitation hours. According to Director Chambers-Smith, the hours vary by prison with some prisons ending visitation at 2:30 pm and others as late as 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Scott Neely asked about the prison nursery. Director Chambers-Smith stated that the program is available to incarcerated mothers and their children under age three.

Commissioner William Dodson asked what ODRC is doing to help inmates prepare for employment when they are released. According to Director Chambers-Smith, 22, 000 people are going home every year from prison. She said that many private sector employers are increasingly hiring ex-offenders. ODRC works with TAP, a non-profit organization that matches former inmates with jobs and ODRC partners with Ashland University who offers 400 bachelors and associates degrees. ODRC has 6,000 lifers in prison. Director Chambers-Smith said she wants to leverage those people who are in prison for life by having them mentor other inmates who are first-time offenders and to help change their mindsets, so they can become better people.

VI. DADS2B Program	
10:55 -11:20	Mr. David Fluellen, (OSU DADS2B) and Ms. Katie Calhoun, (OSU MOMS2B)
<p>Mr. David Fluellen from Dads2B and Katie Calhoun from Moms2B provided a Power Point presentation that can be found on the OCF website. They invited a father and mother who graduated from their program to speak about their experiences. They talked about how Dads2B and Moms2B helped them become better parents, learn about prenatal care of mother and child, learn healthy eating habits, and learn about healthy relationships. The guest parents attended Dads2B and Moms2B programs for 19 months.</p> <p>Mr. Fluellen discussed the impact fathers have in reducing infant mortality. Dads can assist the mothers after the baby is born by feeding the baby, changing diapers, washing clothes or getting baby to go back to sleep. Dads can also encourage moms to breastfeed. Breastfed babies have a 21% lower risk of deaths in their first year.</p> <p>One of the elements of the Dads2B/Moms2B collaboration is that every class begins with a “Brother and Sister Circle” during which the parents learn about topics of interest, share experiences and ask questions. After the circle time, the parents are split into different rooms and Mr. Fluellen works with the fathers. This provides a safe space for the fathers to discuss any issues at home and to share their personal stories. The dads are connected to nurses who conduct home visits and provide breastfeeding support.</p>	
VII. Grantee Update	
11:20-11:35	Ms. Monica Mahoney, OCF Program Manager
<p>Ms. Mahoney provided an update on the seven grantees whose contracts ended on June 30, 2019. All seven programs met their annual service goals and served more than 1,400 in 2019. The online case management system that OCF began using this grant, Efforts to Outcomes (ETO), made it much easier for grantees to enter data and for OCF to track outcomes. Ms. Mahoney will summarize and analyze the data and report the trends in the OCF Annual Report.</p> <p>OCF issued a new RFGA to fund comprehensive fatherhood programs serving more than one county. Eleven programs applied and five were selected for funding: Action for Children, ForeverDads, Early Child Resource Center, Passages, and Talbert House. Each program must serve at least 200 fathers per year and will receive \$130,000 per year. \$55,000 of their compensation will be based on performance.</p> <p>OCF plans to issue another RFGA to fund programs that serve one county. The goal is to fund counties that do not have robust fatherhood programs so that OCF can have a broader impact in Ohio.</p>	

VIII.	Fatherhood Summit 2020 Update
11:35 -11:40	Ms. Kimberly Dent, OCF Executive Director
<p>Director Dent discussed the State Fatherhood Summit which is planned for May 21-22, 2020 (dates later corrected to May 20-21, 2020). Several commissioners have volunteered to be part of the Summit Planning Committee which will be led by commissioner Joseph Hill. As in previous years, OCF will partner with Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (OPNFF) to offer the summit. The structure will be as follows:</p> <p>Day 1: OPNFF will offer a certification training for fatherhood practitioners during the day and there will be a celebration of fathers in the evening.</p> <p>Day 2: There will be various breakout sessions. Some of the topics under consideration include: Trauma, Mental Health and Addiction, Mentoring, Ohio County Fatherhood Mobilization Project, Faith-based, Poverty – to Self Sufficiency, Child support, Infant Mortality, Incarcerated parents.</p> <p>Director Dent and Harold Howard, President of OPNFF, will visit and select the venue for the summit during the coming weeks. One of the venues under consideration is the Ohio University Conference Center in Dublin which commissioner Randy Leite offered at no charge to the commission.</p> <p>Director Dent estimates around 200 summit attendees. OPNFF will pay for the food. In past years, OCF has offered the summit free of charge to attendees. The planning committee will consider whether this is still feasible. It was suggested to charge for vendor tables to offset cost.</p> <p>Commissioner Scott Neely suggested that they try to get Jessica and Jerry Seinfeld to come to the Summit or send a video message.</p>	
IX.	Executive Director’s Report
11:40-11:50	Exec. Director Kimberly Dent
<p>Director Dent discussed the Executive Report and highlighted the following topics: Commissioner Susan Brown and Director Dent will participate on a team with Region V OCSE; Commissioner Brown stated that August is “Child Support Awareness Month” and informed us that Franklin County OCSE has 40 employers coming to their annual Empowerment Event which takes place on August 13, and 21, 2019. There will be a flyer e-mailed for distribution.</p>	
X.	Announcements and New Business
11:55 – 12:00	Director Scott Neely
<p>There were no announcements. The next Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM.</p>	
XI.	Adjourn
12:00	Meeting Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon	