

# Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Virtual MS TEAMS Meeting

### Attendance

#### Commissioners

Wanda Ellis, Deputy Director, JFS Office of Family Assistance  
Director Susan Brown, Franklin County Child Support  
Senator David Burke (A)  
Senator Hearcel Craig  
Dr. G. Mike Davis, ODRC  
Mr. Joseph Hill, OMHAS  
Mr. James Jackson, ODYS  
Asst. Director Sarah LaTourette  
Rep. Riordan McClain  
Director Scott Neely, Children's Hunger Alliance  
Director Ann Ream, Summit County  
Dr. Michele Reynolds, GOFBCI  
Rep. J. Todd Smith (A)  
Mr. Socrates Tuch, Esq.  
Rep. Terrence Upchurch (A)  
Mr. Randi Thomas (A)  
Rep. Thomas West  
Mr. Tarik White, ODE

#### OCF Staff:

Kimberly Dent, Exec. Director of Ohio Commission on Fatherhood  
Joshua Counciller, Project Manager  
Terri Simons, Admin. Prof. IV

#### Presenters:

Mr. Carlos Christian and Ms. Ebony Taylor, Starts Within Organization

#### Guests:

Margaret Simmons, Leg. Aide to Senator Hearcel Craig  
Adam Gillmor, Legislative Aide to Senator Dave Burke  
Sean McCann, Legislative Aide to State Rep. Thomas West  
Kolin Petty, Leg. Aide, State Rep. Riordan McClain  
Nilani Jawahar, Leg. Aide to State Rep. J. Todd Smith  
Matthew Cunningham, Chief of Bureau of Technical Assistance & Support (for Deputy Director Wanda Ellis)  
Mariama Diallo, Leg. Aide to Director Susan Brown, Franklin County Supreme Court  
Jacob Kramer, Leg. Aide to Senator Hearcel Craig  
Mr. Harold Howard, Talbert House

Mr. Harold Stephens, Talbert House  
 Mr. Steve Killpack, OPNFF  
 Mr. Lonnie Tucker, Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Service Board  
 Dr. Brian Moore, Passages  
 Mr. Warren Brookins, Father Services by Pathway to Hope, Hamilton, OH  
 Mr. Amir Saleem, No Kidding Ohio (NKO-Cuyahoga)  
 Mr. Jordan Wack, Passages

**I. Call to Order & Welcome**  
**10:00 – 10:05 Chair Scott Neely**

Mr. Scott Neely began the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

**II. Introductions/Welcome**  
**10:05-10:10 Chair Scott Neely**

Mr. Scott Neely welcomed everyone to the commission meeting and asked the visitors to introduce themselves via the chat. The Commission had a quorum of 10. The Commission had 18 Commissioners at this time.

**III. Approval of July 9, 2020 Minutes**  
**10:10-10:15 Chair Scott Neely**

The September 10, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as submitted with no changes. Mr. Socrates Tuch motioned to approve the minutes. Rep. Thomas West seconded the motion.

**IV. Vote on 2021 Commission Meeting Dates**  
**10:15 -10:25 Exec. Director Dent and Commissioners**

The 2021 Commission Meeting Dates were approved as submitted with no changes. Mr. Socrates Tuch motioned to approve the Commission meeting dates. Rep. Thomas West seconded the motion.

<b><i>2021 Commission Meeting Calendar Dates</i></b>		
<b>Thursday, February 11, 2021</b>	<b>10:00 AM – 12:00 noon</b>	<b>Location: Virtual</b>
<b>Thursday, May 13, 2021</b>	<b>10:00 AM – 12:00 noon</b>	<b>Location: TBA</b>
<b>Thursday, July 8, 2021</b>	<b>10:00 AM – 12:00 noon</b>	<b>Location: TBA</b>
<b>Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021</b>	<b>10:00 AM – 12:00 noon</b>	<b>Location: TBA</b>
<b>Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021</b>	<b>10:00 AM – 12:00 noon</b>	<b>Location: TBA</b>

## V. Starts Within Organization

10:25-11:00 Mr. Carlos Christian and Ms. Ebony Taylor

The Starts Within Organization (SWO) is a single County Grantee collaborating with Richland County Job & Family Services. The Starts Within Organization was founded in 2011 as a non-profit organization that combats the alarming recidivism rate that hinders the growth of communities across the nation. The Starts Within Organization (SWO) was co-founded by Mr. Carlos Christian. The organization is founded on the principal that individuals must Start Within themselves and Start Within their current situations. The organization takes a holistic approach to reentry providing programming for incarcerated men, their significant other, and their children. In January 2020, Starts Within Organization was awarded their first grant from the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood focusing on serving fathers in Richland County. Mr. Christian has been teaching fatherhood curriculum in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction prisons for many years.

Mr. Christian informed the audience that he had to change his platform to incorporate the use of social media and other online meeting applications (E.g. Facebook / Zoom Meetings) as opposed to teaching in person, in order to continue facilitating fatherhood classes and other services. Ms. Ebony Taylor is the administrator for the Starts Within Organization. She oversees the case management program and the business's finances. Ms. Taylor advised that SWO is in the process of hiring a case manager who lives in the Richland County.

The goal of the agency is to:

1. Connect SWO fathers to employment and housing opportunities
2. Provide training and education to fathers and families enrolled in the program
3. Improve the co-parenting experience
4. Assist with legal issues such as:
  - a. establishing paternity,
  - b. visitation/parenting time orders, and
  - c. review of existing child support orders.

The Starts Within Organization also plans to expand fatherhood services by collaborating with various Richland County employers and other businesses in the area that provide on the job training (OJT) and/or apprenticeship opportunities (E.g. Barbershops), to establish a formal referral process.

Mr. Christian advised that he also provides services to fathers and families at the Franklin County Child Support Agency via the "The Journey Program." Mr. Christian advocates for and advises fathers from the start of the paternity establishment process through the implementation of the child support order. Mr. Christian informs the audience that many of the fathers he works with are mentally and financially broken. He inspires fathers by teaching them that they are valuable, and they have something valuable to offer to their children.

Senator Hearcel Craig informed everyone that as of today there are 150 fatalities involving young people between the ages of 15-19 in Columbus. Youth are killing one another. Sen. Craig expressed that fathers must

recognize that they have power and ability but must implement structure in order to provide for and build confidence in their children. Sen. Craig thanked Mr. Christian for his commitment.

Mr. Scott Neely agreed with Sen. Craig's comments and congratulated Mr. Christian on his success with the Starts Within Organization. He also mentioned that writing personal notes to the fathers and including the names of their children was a special touch that will definitely be remembered.

The Starts Within Organization presentation can be found on our OCF website. [www.fatherhood.ohio.gov/Our-Commission/Commission-Meetings](http://www.fatherhood.ohio.gov/Our-Commission/Commission-Meetings)

## VI. Open Bylaws

**11:00-11:40 Exec. Director Dent and Commissioners**

Mr. Scott Neely advised that Commissioners begin reviewing and recommending changes to the Bylaws. 1. To change the amount of time the Exec. Committee Officers serve on the Commission from one to two years. Exec. Director Dent advised that the Commissioners should review other sections of the By-laws.

### **1.01 Duties of the Commission**

#### **R.C. 5101.342**

##### **1. 01 A. Organize a state summit on fatherhood every four years;**

Proposed language to be added: Exec. Director Dent suggested, "When funding is available in the budget, OCF will set aside funds for the Fatherhood State Summit, even if its less than four years." Exec. Director Dent advised that OCF accepted a grant in the past. She advised Rep. West that she would need to hire a new person to process gifts and donations. Exec. Director advised that she can bring verbiage to the next meeting.

##### **1.01 B: Prepare a report each year that identifies resources available to fund fatherhood-related programs.**

Mr. Scott Neely asked Exec. Director Dent if it is possible to get other funding for fatherhood? Exec. Director Dent advised that the focus on prevention and early intervention has been added to the program. Exec. Director Dent advised Mr. Neely, that fatherhood requirements must be aligned with TANF grant funding requirements.

##### **1.02: Acceptance of Gifts and Grants**

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood received a federal grant from (HHS) Health & Human Services. Exec. Director Dent advised that OCF does not accept gifts at this time. Exec. Director Dent said in order to do so, she would first have to hire a staff person and include the responsibilities associated with accepting gifts in the job description. Rep. West asked Exec. Director Dent if funding had to come from the general assembly or could it come from other sources. Exec. Director Dent informed Rep. West that OCF can receive and has received grants from other sources. OCF also collaborated with Ohio Practitioners Networks for Fathers and Families (OPNFF) during the State Fatherhood Summit. OPNFF assisted with paying for the food expense, because the TANF grant specifically indicates that food is not an allowable expense.

## Article II

### 2.01 Membership

The Bylaws show that OCF has 19 members on the Commission, however it should be changed to 20 total members.

Required Number from each Office	Office
2	Ohio Senate
4	House of Representatives
1	Supreme Court
6	State Government Agencies (ODJFS, OMAHAS, ODH, ODRC, ODYS, ODE)
1	Ohio Family & Children's First Council
1	Governor's Office Designee (GOFBCI)
5	Citizens of the general public appointed by the Governor's Office
<b>20</b>	<b>Total Commissioners</b>

Exec. Director Dent proposed to add the Ohio Dept. of Medicaid to the Commission. Rep. West and Mr. Tuch agreed that Ohio Medicaid should be included in our Commission because: Medicaid receives TANF funding, healthcare for our service population is important, and many of the fathers OCF serves meet the criteria for services provided Medicaid.

Rep. Thomas West motioned to add Medicaid to the Commission. Mr. James Jackson seconded the motion.

Mr. Scott Neely advised that the Statute needs to be amended. Director Susan Brown referenced the Bylaws section 7.02, which states: amendments and appeals must be submitted in writing 30 days prior to being voted on by Commissioners. Mr. Neely confirmed validity of the bylaw referenced by Dir. Brown. Exec. Director Dent advised that OCF will make sure it's shown in the February 2021 Commission Meeting. Exec. Director Dent advised that there will be ongoing conversations concerning Bylaw revisions. Voting will take place after all proposed revisions have been discussed.

2.02 Designees – no changes

2.03 Compensation – no changes – if the Commissioner travels to the meetings OCF will reimburse for travel. The travel reimbursement requests are sent to Terri Simons (OCF Admin. Assistant) for processing through the ODJFS.

2.04 Vacating Term – no change

2.05 Conflicts of Interests (Ethics Training) - no change

2.06 Staff and support Services

## Article III Officers

3.01 General Provisions

3.02 Chairperson – make the change to biennial or every 2 years on chairperson.

3.03 Vice Chair – make change from 1 year to 2 years

3.04 Secretary – make change from 1 year to 2 years.

3.05 Election of Officers – change from 1 year to every 2 years.

Proposed change language: Mr. Neely suggested "Officers shall serve 2 years until next election is held starting in July, instead of the following calendar year."

**Article IV. Commission Committees**

4.01 Committees

**The Executive Committee:**

Mr. Scott Neely (Chair)	Children’s Hunger Alliance
Rep. Thomas West (Vice-Chair)	House of Representatives
Mr. Socrates Tuch (Secretary)	Ohio Dept. of Health

**The Fiscal Funding Committee:**

Ms. Ann Ream	Summit County Children’s Services
Mr. Scott Neely	Children’s Hunger Alliance
Mr. James Jackson	Ohio Dept. of Youth Services
Rep. Thomas West	House of Representatives

**The Summit Committee:**

<b>Executive Director Kimberly Dent (Chair)</b>	Ohio Commission on Fatherhood	<b>Mr. James Jackson</b>	(ODYS) Ohio Dept. of Youth Services
<b>Terri Simons</b>	Ohio Commission on Fatherhood	<b>Dr. Mike Davis</b>	(ODRC) Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation & Corrections
<b>Joshua Counciller</b>	Ohio Commission on Fatherhood	<b>Mr. Tarik White</b>	(ODE) Ohio Dept. of Education
<b>Mr. Joseph Hill (Vice- Chair)</b>	(OMHAS) Ohio Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services	<b>Mr. Harold Howard, President</b>	(OPNFF) Ohio Practitioners’ Network for Fathers and Families
<b>Mr. Scott Neely</b>	Ohio Children’s Alliance	<b>Dr. Brian Moore</b>	(OPNFF) Ohio Practitioners’ Network for Fathers and Families
<b>Senator Hearcel Craig</b>	Ohio Senate	<b>Mr. Steve Killpack</b>	(OPNFF) Ohio Practitioners’ Network for Fathers and Families
<b>Rep. Riordan McClain</b>	House of Representatives	<b>Director Susan Brown</b>	Franklin CDJFS Child Support Enforcement Agency
<b>Rep. Terrence Upchurch</b>	House of Representatives	<b>Director Ann Ream</b>	Summit County Children Services

The OPNFF President Harold Howard informed Director Dent via the chat that he would be open to working with OCF on the next State Fatherhood Summit, even if it takes place in two years as opposed to four years.

Exec. Director Dent asked the Committee members if they would remain on the Committee for the next State Summit.

Mr. Neely advised that discussions regarding Bylaw revisions would remain open, and Commissioners would continue reviewing them at the meeting scheduled for February 11, 2021.

## VII. Executive Director's Report

11:40 – 11:50 Executive Director Kimberly Dent

Exec. Director Dent discussed the Executive Director's Report and highlighted the following topics.

- **Single County Fatherhood Implementation Grant Renewal for SFY2022-2023:** The five grantees can continue working with additional funding. OCF Exec. Director met with Deputy Director Eric Glenn to discuss the progress of the Single County Fatherhood Implementation request for grant application (RFGA). This is a reposting from last spring. The original RFGA was unpublished due to COVID-19. The RFGA is currently published with proposals due by 3:00 p.m. November 20, 2020.
- **Five Multi-County OCF Fatherhood Implementation Grant Renewal for SFY2022-2023 Biennium:** OCF met with the five multi-county fatherhood implementation grantees. In consultation with OCA (Office of Contracts and Acquisitions), OCF is exercising the option to renew the agreements for another biennium with posting another request for grant application (RFGA). The five grantees are Action for Children (AFC), ForeverDads, Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC), Passages, and Talbert House. All five grantees also wish to pursue the option of renewal. OCF Exec. Director and OCF PM met with multi-county fatherhood implementation grantee, ECRC. ECRC is interested in bringing Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties in with its fatherhood programming. OCF plans to schedule ongoing conversations to discuss changes.
- **Funding: NKO – No Kidding Ohio - Teen Parents in Cuyahoga County.** Mr. Amir Saleem is heading this project with the Cleveland City School district. NKO-CLE focuses on the importance of tracking data regarding the teen parents and the importance of following TANF regulations. NKO is also in Fairfield County. Director Dent said she wants to have it in Franklin and Hamilton Counties as well. Executive Director Dent also spoke with OWD Deputy Director Arthur Hurst about potentially providing funding for NKO in Columbus and Cincinnati.
- **New Grant Orientation Planning with (OCS) Office of Child Support:** OCF Executive Director met with staff from the Office of Child Support/Outreach, Education and Grants Management to prepare for the October 29th grantee orientation scheduled for Lucas and Gallia counties. Lucas and Gallia counties implemented the No Kidding Ohio funded by the (HHS/ACF/OCSE) Federal Office of Child Support through a grant application submitted by the State Office of Child Support. Gallia and Lucas Counties were awarded federal funds via the State Office of Child Support, who received a grant from HHS/ACF/OCSE to decrease teen pregnancies.
- **DADS2B – Mr. David Fluellen:** Mr. Fluellen from Dads2B decided to use the additional 2020 funds from the grant to expand Dads2B, along with Moms2B from Ohio State University, in Montgomery County.
- **Williams Challenge/Man2Man:** Due to low performance numbers and non-compliance with the Performance Improvement Plan, OCF/ODJFS terminated the contract with Williams Challenge/Man2Man who was serving in Trumbull County.



- **OCF Annual Report is due Nov. 15, 2020:** Exec. Director Dent discussed various topics that will be included in the OCF Annual Report that Joshua Counciller is designing this year.
- **Mental Health and Addiction Screening work Group/Teams Meeting:** OCF Project Manager met with OCF funded grantees to begin conversations regarding mental health and addiction screening tools to be implemented next biennial budget grant cycle. The meetings are scheduled weekly at this time. OCF PM met with OCF funded grantees to finalize conversations regarding mental health and addiction screening tools to be implemented during the next biennial budget grant cycle. OCF Exec. Director and OhioMHAS Director John Sexten joined the Work Group/Team conversation on Monday, 10/26/2020. The final draft mental health and addiction screening tool was submitted to OCF Exec. Director for additional scrutinization.
- **Conference Call with Mr. Chip Weiant:** OCF Exec. Director met with Mr. Chip Weiant regarding information that grantees collect from participants. Mr. Weiant, the longest serving member on GOFBCI (Governor's Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives) has suggested a meeting with Director Michele Reynolds, GOFBCI Exec Director to discuss data collection tools implemented in their programs. OCF Exec. Director participated on a call with GOFBCI staff and board member Chip Weiant regarding changes in the data collection tool OCF plans to introduce to OCF commissioners and implement during the next biennial budget grant cycle. The data collection tool will contain questions focused on the father's well-being before exploring questions related to his role as a father. OCF is also working with current grantees to include questions related to mental health and addiction. OCF would like to include questions focused on the father's hobbies and other support systems like faith organizations and other community support systems.
- **State Fatherhood Summit:** Exec. Director Dent thanked everyone that helped make the State Fatherhood Summit a great success this year. The responses from the attendees and surveys received were great.
- **Reba Collins (Building Bridges):** Ms. Collins and Exec. Director Dent collaborated with various state agencies on issues concerning prison reform. West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church Virtual Training was held on Oct. 1-2, 2020. OCF Exec. Director participated in the monthly Building Bridges Meeting, hosted by the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church and ODRC. The planning committee discussed the big takeaways from the surveys provided after the "All in Community, Building Bridges" virtual event. Planning Committee members discussed "big bucket", "small bucket", and "easy, obvious, and strategic responses" next steps.
- **Recovery Ohio Recovery Support Workgroup:** OCF Exec. Director participated in the Recovery Ohio, Recovery Supports Work Group. The work group received an update from the co-chairs regarding plans to continue to focus on continuum of care for vulnerable Ohioans working through substance abuse. The co-chairs from the two sub-committees, housing and Peer/Community Supports provided updates on the respective strategies and how they are tied to the Governor's Recovery Ohio Plan.

- **ODRC Family Engagement:** OCF Exec. Director participated in the bi-weekly ODRC Family Engagement meeting. The committee members re-capped and debriefed the Montgomery County Re-entry Family Information evening event. The Committee decided to work with the family members who attended that event in an upcoming Family Engagement event. OCF Exec. Director met with the ODRC Family Engagement Advisory Council. The members had an opportunity to hear from ODRC Director Chambers-Smith regarding how the prisons continue to address COVID-19 and the direction she is taking the agency. The members also heard from an author who wrote a children’s book to help children of incarcerated mothers understand and cope with the situation. The title of the book is “How Mommy Found Her Way Home.”
- **National Dads Take your child to school day planning meeting:** OCF Exec. Director participated in a WebEx meeting with Mr. Scott Leach from New York City’s Fatherhood program as well as other national Fatherhood practitioners to discuss the webinar to promote the virtual “Dad Take Your Child To School Day” event was held on September 17, 2020.
- **Blueprint Taping: Social live Link with Mr. Kenneth Braswell:** OCF Exec. Director participated in an interview with Mr. Kenneth Braswell, Fathers Incorporated. The documentary “Dark Hearts,” was produced by Mr. Braswell, and the pre-recorded interviews with various Fatherhood practitioners, researchers, policymakers, etc. will air with the documentary on September 29, 2020. Mr. Kenneth Braswell’s The Blueprint Forum: OCF Exec. Director watched the Blueprint forums. OCF Exec. Director wrapped-up the day of conversations post the screening of “Dark Hearts.” Various leaders in non-profit, faith-based, scholar and government entities participated in various forums to discuss the importance of engaging, supporting and empowering fathers.
- **Cornell University Webinar Zoom Meeting w/Ms. Rosemary Avery:** OCF Exec. Director participated in a tech check with other speakers scheduled to speak during the Cornell University webinar that was held on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The webinar on criminal justice, low income families, and Fatherhood is scheduled for one hour with the following hour scheduled as a meeting with 50 students from Cornell University asking follow-up questions from the webinar. Executive Director Dent will discuss Family Engagement in the prisons as well as dismantling the community to prison pipeline.
- **(APPAM) Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management – Child Trends APPAM:** OCF Exec. Director joined the staff at Child Trends and HHS/ACF in a presentation on Charmed (Co-parenting & Healthy Relationship & Marriage Education for Dads) at the (APPAM) Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Conference. The presentation was held on Wednesday, November 11, 2020.
- **InsideOut Dads Virtual Training (2-day training)** held on **October 14-15, 2020:** OCF sponsored the training and purchased training kits for 25 people who registered. Training provided by Mr. Erik Vecere at National Fatherhood Initiative.
- **New Contract with Advocates for Educational Equity and Excellence:** OCF Executive Director and Project Manager met with Ms. Cassandra Archie with Advocates for Educational Equity and Excellence, to discuss the pilot project, “Fathers at the Education Table, the Forgotten Experts.” OCF PM provided an operational plan o Ms. Archie to submit with the budget. Ms. Archie focuses on assisting children with IEP’s in school.

To read the Executive Directors Report, please go to our OCF website.  
[www.fatherhood.ohio.gov/Our-Commission/Commission-Meetings](http://www.fatherhood.ohio.gov/Our-Commission/Commission-Meetings)

<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Announcements and New Business</b>
11:50-11:55	Chair Scott Neely
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chair Scott Neely thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a safe and Happy Holiday.</li></ul>
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>
11:55 -12:00	Chair Scott Neely

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

The next Virtual Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. - noon.