

# Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Riffe, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room 1960

### Attendance

#### Commissioners

HHS Asst. Director Kara Bertke-Wente (A)  
Director Susan Brown, Franklin County Child Support  
Senator Dave Burke (A)  
Senator Hearcel Craig  
Dr. G. Mike Davis, ODRC  
Mr. Joseph Hill, OMHAS (A)  
Mr. James Jackson, ODYS  
Asst. Director Sarah LaTourette  
Dr. Randy Leite, Ohio University  
Rep. Riordan McClain (A)  
Director Scott Neely, Children's Hunger Alliance  
Ms. Molly Rafeld, JFS Legislation (A)  
Director Ann Ream, Summit County  
Dr. Michele Reynolds, GOFBCI  
Rep. J. Todd Smith  
Mr. Socrates Tuch, Esq. (A)  
Rep. Terrence Upchurch  
Rep. Thomas West  
Mr. Tarik White, ODE

#### OCF Staff:

Kimberly Dent, Exec. Director of Ohio Commission on Fatherhood  
Monica Mahoney, Program Admin.  
Terri Simons, Admin. Prof. IV

#### Presenters:

Mr. Kevin Shepherd, Bureau Chief, Ohio Dept. of Youth Services  
Mr. Harold Howard, Director, Talbert House  
Mr. Alexander Rulon, Assoc. Director, Talbert House

**Guests:**

Kevin Shepherd, Bureau Chief, Ohio Dept. Youth Services  
Frank Williams, Exec. Dir. Williams Challenge, Man2Man Fatherhood Program  
Darryl Jones, Legislative Aide to Rep. Terrence Upchurch  
Margaret Simmons, Leg. Aide to Senator Hearcel Craig  
Jacob Dowling, Legislative Aide to Senator Dave Burke  
Sean McCann, Legislative Aide to Rep. Thomas West  
Matthew Cunningham, Chief of Bureau of Technical Assistance & Support (for HHS Director Kara Bertke-Wente)  
Wanda Ellis, Deputy Director, Office of Family Assistance  
Sean McCann, Legislative Aide for Rep. Thomas West  
Scott Pierce, Columbus Urban League  
Cassandra Archie, Advocates for Parents and Children’s Excellence  
Alexander Rulon, Associate Director, Talbert House  
Harold Howard, Director, Talbert House  
Anthony Slosser, Community Father  
Stacey Yeager, GGA, Outreach Coordinator  
Kolin Petty, Leg. Aide, Rep. McClain’s Office  
Latonya Adjei-Tabi, Policy Analyst, Supreme Court of Ohio  
Devona Dunn, Program Director, Columbus Fatherhood  
Stefan Dunn, Exec. Director, Columbus Fatherhood

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

Mr. Scott Neely began the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**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. The Commission had a quorum.

**Approval of November 14, 2019 Minutes**  
10:10-10:20 Chair Scott Neely

The November 14, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as submitted with no changes. Mr. Scott Neely motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Dr. Mike Davis seconded the motion.

## I. State Fatherhood Summit 2020

10:20-10:35

Exec. Director Kimberly Dent and Commissioner Joseph Hill

Director Dent discussed the State Fatherhood Summit which is planned for May 20-21, 2020. The Committee continues to meet once a month by conference call regarding the planning of the State Fatherhood Summit.

**VENUE:** The Crowne Plaza Hotel Columbus-Worthington.

**AUDIO/VISUAL:** Exec. Director Kimberly Dent selected Bartha for the audio visual.

### **DAY 1 – Wednesday, May 20, 2020:**

(OPNFF) Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families will offer a three-hour long **Fatherhood Training**. The training will focus on what makes a successful fatherhood program in Ohio and cover the following topics: case management, co-parenting, child support, and men dealing with trauma.

**Fatherhood Grant Writing 4-hour training** for 70-80 attendees will be offered. Grant Writer will explain how to successfully apply for fatherhood funding.

There will be a **reception in the evening to celebrate fathers**. Each OCF grantee programs have been asked to bring one to two fathers to the Summit who they feel were impacted by the fatherhood program and have experienced an improvement in their fathering.

### **DAY 2- Thursday, May 21, 2020:**

#### **OPENING REMARKS/PLENARY SESSION UPDATE:**

Director Dent secured the participation of Jessica and Jerry Seinfeld's representation from the Good+ Foundation, Mr. Alan Michael Graves.

Director Dent sent a letter to Ms. Stephanie Meyers of the "I Promise School" requesting Mr. LeBron James to attend the event or submit a video that could be played during the Summit. Ms. Meyers forwarded the request to LeBron's publicist, who advised that he is very focused on the current NBA season and is unable to attend the event or provide a video. Kim advised that she understood and to please give LeBron our best for a successful end to the current season. Please keep Ohio Commission on Fatherhood in mind for a future video or attendance at a future Fatherhood event.

**LUNCHEON SPEAKERS:** Mr. Chris Brown and Mr. Ken Braswell are the keynote speakers and are confirmed.

The Fatherhood and Government plenary session will consist of state department directors and the six legislators who serve on the commission.

**There are eight (8) Breakout Sessions:**

<b>Trauma</b>	<b>Mental Health and Addiction</b>
<b>Ohio County Fatherhood Mobilization Project</b>	<b>Faith-based</b>
<b>Poverty – to Self Sufficiency</b>	<b>Child Protective Services</b>
<b>Infant Mortality</b>	<b>Incarcerated parent</b>

**II. Ohio Dept. of Youth Services**  
 10:35-11:05 Mr. Kevin Shepherd, Bureau Chief

Mr. Kevin Shepherd gave a presentation called “Every Child Matters.” He explained the mission and purpose of the program and how it impacts teenagers who are young fathers who are trying to establish a positive relationship with their child while living in the juvenile justice system.

Mr. Shepherd said his agency created a “Second Chance Act Program” which showed that 20 percent of youth were impoverished, 44 percent were victims of disruptive family environments, and 76 percent of youth were exposed to both problems. According to the Dept. of Youth Services, 15 percent of youth that are in the DYS system, admitted to knowing they were a parent; but did not have visitation or access to their child because the mother was not allowing them to be involved.

ODYS has invested \$750,000 dollars to create partnerships with six agencies. Those were developed in February 2019. The following agencies are in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of collaborating and working with the ODYS: Action for Children, Passages, The Ridge, Unlocking Futures, and Capital University Family and Youth Law Center

Mr. Shepherd said the fathers are happy to see their children and to be able to bond is beneficial to both father and children. Fathers have changed their behaviors and attitudes as a result of having access to their children. Increased access to their children has also improved the young fathers’ relationships with the mothers of their children. The fathers are teaching and reading to their children and creating new memories with them. By taking parenting classes the young fathers are also learning how to care for their children. The fathers want a better future for their children and for themselves.

Mr. Shepherd said the Second Chance Act Program has shown positive outcomes. Thirty-three youths successfully completed the “Every Child Matters” program. The number of family visitations have increased, and fathers expressed that they were being more involved in their child’s life.

The Power Point presentation is posted on the OCF website.

II.	Talbert House
11:05-11:40	Mr. Harold Howard, Director and Mr. Alexander Rulon, Assoc. Director

Mr. Alexander Rulon shared the mission of Talbert House which is to empower children, adults and families to live healthy, safe, and productive lives. He also discussed the services that they provide to fathers and children in Hamilton, Brown, Butler, Clinton, and Warren Counties. They partner with the Hamilton County Job and Family Services as well as the city of Cincinnati.

Talbert House provides services which include second chances for fathers and children, housing, employment, mental health and addiction, central services, community corrections and legal assistance. They also hold community events throughout the year for fathers and children such as “June is Responsible Fatherhood Month,” sponsoring fathers and children to attend a sports game together, fishing trips, father daughter dances, etc.

Mr. Harold Howard stated that the Talbert House has provided services to over 24,200 children, adolescents, and adults. They also have a prevention and hotline services that has reached over 78,200 families. Talbert House started as a program of Services United for Mothers and Adolescents (SUMA) back in 1988. Its original purpose was to serve teen fathers. They were funded by the O’Neill Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio. United Way was also one of the first sponsors for the program. Talbert House’s fatherhood program was created in July 2008.

Talbert House offers programming to all fathers including new and expectant fathers. Talbert House is a place where fathers can come to discuss personal matters, relationships, financial concerns, employment, and talk with other fathers about their life experiences.

Talbert House has already met their 2019-2020 service goals for the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Grantee program. They continue to strive for excellence by providing services to as many fathers and children as they can.

Talbert House’s Power Point presentation can be found on the OCF website.

III.	Executive Director’s Report
11:40 – 11:50	Executive Director Kimberly Dent

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

**Future Federal Healthy Marriage Responsible Fatherhood Grant Discussion with OPNFF:** Director Dent participated in a phone conference with Mr. Steve Killpack of OPNFF to discuss recommendations to provide to HHS/ACF Office of Family Assistance for the next round of federal grant funding. The next Funding Opportunity Announcement is scheduled to be released in June/July 2020.

**Conference Call to discuss New Fatherhood Grant with New Grantees:** Director Dent facilitated two calls with the two newly funded grantees, Starts Within and Williams Challenge/Man2Man. She congratulated them on being selected for funding, discussed compensation for pay for performance services start, and plans for site visits to ensure data properly collected ETO (Efforts to Outcomes) system once purchase orders are dispatched.

The upcoming **Nurturing Fathers Training Class** is scheduled for March 31, April 1, April 2, 2020 and registration filled up in one day so additional spaces were added. OCF is paying for 35 people to attend the training which will be held at Ohio University's Dublin campus.

OCF Single County Implementation Grant application was reposted by OCA contracts with the hope that fatherhood programs located in northwest, west, south and southeast Ohio will apply for this grant.

OCF plans to have an annual election to vote for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary at the next Commission Meeting scheduled for May 14, 2020.

VIII.	<b>Announcements and New Business</b>
11:50-12:00	Chair Scott Neely

Mr. Scott Neely announced that there will be an upcoming luncheon sponsored by the Children's Hunger Alliance, 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Menu of Hope Luncheon scheduled for Friday, February 28, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. located at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. The sports icon Sugar Ray Leonard will be the special guest speaker. The tickets cost \$25.00 per person.

IX.	<b>Adjournment</b>
12:00	Chair Scott Neely

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

The next Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in the Riffe Building, Conference Room South A.