

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Virtual MS TEAMS Meeting

Attendance

Commissioners

Wanda Ellis, Deputy Director, JFS Office of Family Assistance (A)
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
Dr. Randy Leite, Ohio University (A)
Rep. Riordan McClain
Director Scott Neely, Children's Hunger Alliance
Ms. Molly Rafeld, JFS Legislation (A)
Director Ann Ream, Summit County
Dr. Michele Reynolds, GOFBCI (A)
Rep. J. Todd Smith (A)
Mr. Socrates Tuch, Esq. (A)
Rep. Terrence Upchurch (A)
Rep. Thomas West
Mr. Tarik White, ODE (A)

OCF Staff:

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

Presenters:

Deputy Director Tia Ramey, GOFBCI – Governor's Office Faith-Based Community Initiatives
Mr. Shawn Crable, Early Childhood Resource Center
Mr. Gary Plauger, Early Childhood Resource Center

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
Ms. Stephanie Watkins
Mr. Jordan Wack, Passages
Mr. David Fluellen, Dads2B, Turnkey

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 July 9, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as submitted with no changes. Rep. Thomas West made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Joseph Hill seconded the motion.

IV. Open Bylaws

10:15-10:20 Chair Scott Neely

Mr. Neely informed the Commissioners that Exec. Director Dent stated she wants to open the Bylaws to change the amount of time the Exec. Committee Officers serve from 1 year to 2 years. Mr. Joseph Hill made a motion to open the Bylaws during the September Meeting and State Rep. Thomas West seconded the motion. The current Statute 5101.341 states that the chairperson must serve one year. The decision was made to not open the Statute at this time. Rep. West and Rep. McClain both said that they would work together to find a place to address the Statute. Rep. West said we should wait until the Statute is changed; then change the By-laws regarding the chair serving two years. Rep. West. made a motion to vote on the vice-chair and secretary positions be held for two years. It was seconded by Rep. Riordan McClain. The chair will continue to serve for one year until the statute can be modified and the by-laws updated accordingly.

Director Dent stated that we want to review the other sections of the By-laws. For example, the Fiscal Funding Committee and Summit Committee are two other OCF standing committees. Currently, the officers of the Fiscal Funding Committee are Commissioner Ann Ream, Commissioner Scott Neely, Commissioner Dean Randy Leite, and Commissioner James Jackson. Dean Randy Leite has not been reappointed by the Governor's Office; therefore, the Fiscal Funding Committee will need another member. Representative West advised that he prefers to be added to the Fiscal Funding Committee. The RFGA will be posted this SFY for the next biennial budget, and that Committee will need to review it. Chair Scott Neely made a motion to leave the Bylaws open and go through them to review or eliminate items in the Bylaws. Director Dent said OCF will put time on the November Commission Meeting agenda to review them. Chair Scott Neely made a motion to keep Bylaws open and Rep. Thomas West seconded the motion. Motion is approved to keep the Bylaws opened.

V. Post State Fatherhood Summit 2020

10:20-10:35 Exec. Director Kimberly Dent and Commissioner Joseph Hill

Director Dent discussed the State Fatherhood Summit, which was held on September 2-3, and 5, 2020. The Commissioners and attendees commented on how successful the Summit was, particularly using the virtual platform Pathable. Chair Scott Neely said it was a great Summit and commented that OCF and OPNFF (Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families) did an excellent job. Director Dent thanked the OCF staff, OPNFF Staff, State Fatherhood Summit Committee, and Mr. Jeff Long with the Office of Workforce Development (OWD). Mr. Joseph Hill stated it was a great Summit, and he heard people commenting that it was well received. Additionally, Mr. Hill advised that people were happy to see so many General Assembly participants on the Fatherhood and Government Panel. Rep. West congratulated Director Dent and all who were involved in the success of the State Fatherhood Summit as well.

Recording will be available soon: Exec. Director Kimberly Dent advised that the recordings of the Summit were being edited by Bartha and will be ready soon. Mr. Joshua Counciller stated that Bartha has them available to view on the Pathable platform and that you have to use your sign in name to listen to them. Bartha informed Mr. Counciller that the videos will be available to view for one year. Bartha may provide OCF Staff copies, and they will be added to the OCF website. OCF Staff will send out an e-Newsletter when they become available. Exec. Director Dent also commented that they will ask Bartha if they are able to provide us with DVD copies.

Practitioner and Grant Writing Training:

Director Susan Brown Said the grants writing training was excellent and that it was the best class she had ever attended. Executive Director Dent advised that Mr. Patrick Patterson with Global Partners for Fathers and Families, did an excellent job and that there were quite a few compliments about the grant writing training. The evaluations were very positive.

Breakfast with Dads. Mr. Elbert "Ickey" Woods (former Pro Football Player for Cincinnati Bengals):

The Breakfast with Dad event was successful.

Mr. Elbert "Ickey" Woods did an excellent job presenting and telling his personal story to everyone who attended the Breakfast with Dad event on September 5th. Director Dent and Director Susan Brown said they were happy to see the youth from the Dept. of Youth Services participating and asking Mr. Woods questions.

Dads had an opportunity to enjoy breakfast with their children, win prizes and be celebrated by the Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families (OPNFF) and OCF. OCF funded program fathers provided comments regarding their experiences in the programs.

10:35-11:05 GOFBCI - Deputy Director Tia Ramey

Deputy Director Tia Ramey, (GOFBCI) Governor's Office of Faith-Based Community Initiatives provided information regarding GOFBCI's priorities, and she showed a digital version of the annual report. Deputy Director Ramey discussed other funding opportunities for 501(c)3 organizations. They provide Faith-Based tours around the state to provide information about funding. There are 7 regions, and leaders attend and serve on panels to address ideas, facilitate and create partnerships with other organizations. Deputy Director Ramey stated there's typically 200-300 attendees who attend each regional tour. The attendees come to learn how to get resources and connect with other people.

GOFBCI had \$13 million budget in SFY 2020. They had received 275 applications from organizations within the State of Ohio. Last year, they provided **Sustainability grants**. They also provided **Governors' grants** which are for policy and children programs. **Capacity grants** are for new businesses/organizations to get their foot in the door. They gave away vans to organizations that had not received any dollars. GOFBCI is looking to serve other counties. They distribute coats to children throughout the year by piloting with community agencies and they also began distributing shoes to children.

Deputy Director Ramey said they host "Faith Friday's" to invite people into the office and collect data from them and learn what their needs are from the non-profit organizations. The attendees usually advised that transportation was a huge barrier for rural counties and urban areas. They were able to share and talk to other non-profit organizations and network with them to see if they have anything in common or in their community to partner with. The last presentation came from Workforce Development.

Rep. West will be on the next scheduled panel and will speak about the legislative updates as it relates to COVID-19 issues, mental health, and how it affects their communities. Deputy Director Ramey stated they want to do round table discussions. They are doing more one-hour virtual format "Ask the Experts" webinars to get the attendee questions answered.

Deputy Director Ramey provided data findings: What are some of the barriers you experience? The attendees stated transportation, food, and employment. The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is funded through TANF funds. Their goal is to fund every county in the State of Ohio.

Question 1: Ms. Savon Gibson stated she has a location on the west side of Cincinnati, and if you want to have a meeting place in 2021, please advise. Deputy Director Tia Ramey commented she will provide Ms. Gibson with her email in the chat and get more information from her to possibly use their facility.

Question 2: Chair Scott Neely asked Deputy Director Ramey, about her comment regarding the start with community action agencies and the distribution of coats and shoes to the children and then to other organizations. Mr. Scott Neely commented that the occasion was a tremendous event and it worked well. Children's Hunger Alliance participated with Faith-based to receive the coats and shoes and distributed them to the childcare centers. Tia said they are working with people and working around COVID-19 concerns. Deputy Dir. Ramey said she will keep everyone informed on how they will distribute them. Operation Warm organization wants to distribute the coats in a larger lump sum to children.

Question 3: Rep. Thomas West asked when you distribute the coats, do you include the state legislators in the area? Deputy Director Ramey advised that she can contact those legislators to inform them the organizations that are receiving the coats in their region to get coats distributed to them. Dep. Director

Ramey stated the coats will be distributed to the non-profit organizations. Mr. Scott Neely, Children’s Hunger Alliance, went to the legislators that were in their region. Deputy Director Ramey said the legislators can partner with them and get the coats out.

Deputy Director Ramey advised that a copy of the annual report can be accessed at GOFBCI website: www.faith-based.ohio.gov

The GOFBCI presentation can be found on our OCF website. www.fatherhood.ohio.gov/Our-Commission/Commission-Meetings

VII. Early Childhood Resource Center
 11:05-11:40 Mr. Shawn Crable, Director and Mr. Gary Plauger, Program Manager

Mr. Shawn Crable discussed the mission of Early Childhood Resource Center which is to promote the healthy development of young children by strengthening families, improving the quality of early learning experiences, increasing school and community readiness, and informing public policy. Mr. Crable also discussed success stories of some community fathers served by ECRC. Mr. Crable discussed, in detail, case management and program demographics of participants. Sometimes fathers need assistance with their child support case; whether it was to reduce the child support payment or get a reinstatement of their driver’s license, and/or getting employed. Mr. Crable also reported that fathers improved their communication with their children. The case management outcome data report showed 236 father responses who exited the fatherhood program. Mr. Crable stated they needed to improve their employment opportunities, training, education, assisting with legal issues such as child visitation, and child support orders reviewed. After six to eight weeks of training the data reflected 115 fathers thought the Fatherhood program services were useful to them. The fathers advised on their surveys that the program was necessary, and the services were helpful to them.

The Father Goal Objectives were met by Early Childhood Resource Center for both Stark and Summit Counties.

Performance Measurement	Expected Goal	Total number of Fathers received Service
Number of Fathers	219	248
Demographic	219	220
Exit Survey	100	114
Bonus Category	100	125
Fatherhood Case Management		101
Fatherhood Classes – 6 to 8 weeks classes.		84

Mr. Crable stated they had one of two community events this year.

Pro Football Hall of Fame Game (Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons Teams): Mr. Crable and staff took fathers and children to see the football game.

2019 Fishing Rodeo: Mr. Crable stated they schedule a yearly event to take the kids fishing with Dad. They were unable to do it this year due to COVID-19. However, he provided photos of their 2019 Fishing trip. Early Childhood Resource Center provides the children with the fishing equipment and they enjoy spending time with their fathers or mentors while catching fish. Photos shown with children who caught the biggest

fish which was around seven pounds. Photos showing children who had caught the smallest. Children also caught two albino fish.

Question 1: Mr. Counciller asked what services do you offer for job development and/or job placement? Mr. Crable said they partner with other agencies. Mr. Plauger said they primarily work with Mr. Clayton at Right path Organization who teaches resume' building and works with employers to get employment for the fathers. The second organization is called "Men's Challenge" who provides job training to fathers. Mr. Plauger said they try to get them a forklift license which will increase their pay if they are a laborer. They make sure fathers are signed up to apply for jobs that fit their skillset or to learn a new skillset to increase their income and career path. Mr. Crable advised he would love to have someone work with their office to provide mental health training and or help fund that type of program. OCF Commissioner representing Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services, Joseph Hill, advised they offer first aid mental health training.

Question 2: Commissioner Joseph Hill advised Mr. Crable and Mr. Plauger that it's good to hear about your program. How do you link these young men to the mental health support and prepare themselves to work in their career that may become stressful?

Mr. Plauger is a counsellor for Early Childhood Resource Center. They communicate with the fathers before 8:00 am and after 5:00 pm. Mr. Crable says he allows the fathers to call him or his staff at any time to resolve any issues and help them try to de-escalate situations as quickly as possible.

For more information you can visit the Early Childhood Resource Center at www.ecresourcecenter.org

The Early Childhood Resource Center presentation can be found on the OCF website.

www.fatherhood.ohio.gov/Our-Commission/Commission-Meetings

VIII. 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.

- **Funding: NKO – No Kidding Ohio- Teen Parents in Cuyahoga County.** Mr. Amir Saleem is heading this project with the Cleveland City School district. He is also working with PEER Educators. 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 County too. 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.
- **June is Responsible Fatherhood Month:** Everything is completed per Joshua Counciller. Morrow and Montgomery counties had their events last month. Butler and Miami counties just finished their events. Director Dent advised that there were 22 organizations that were chosen to receive the funding, and COVID-19 canceled or modified funded program plans. Any program that decided to move forward either virtually or following the state's face covering, mass gathering and social distancing orders, are required to have their events completed by September 30, 2020.
- **Dibble Institute Training:** Love Notes 3-Day Training was held on August 17-19, 2020.
- **Train Practitioners:** OCF funded Nurturing Fathers and Love Notes Curriculum (OCF paid for 25 people to attend each training).

- **Mahoning County Fatherhood Mobilization Initiative:** They completed their County Fatherhood Mobilization and received the \$10,000 seed money. All Metro Counties have completed the mobilization project. A total of 29 counties have completed the mobilization initiative.
- **Recovery Ohio Recovery Support Group:** Exec. Director Dent discussed various strategies assigned to the subcommittee under the charter.

To read the Executive Directors Report, please go to our OCF website.

V.	Announcements and New Business
11:50-12:00	Chair Scott Neely

- On the September 15, 2020 – Rep. Thomas West is hosting a Press Conference alongside Greater Stark County Urban League in Canton, Ohio. It will be a virtual meeting discussing a new workforce development pilot program aimed at addressing poverty and unemployment in Stark County.
- West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church Virtual Training is scheduled for Oct. 1 – 2, 2020. They work closely with ODRC on Prison Reform dealing with rural or large counties and will have training provided for up to 500 people.
- Director Dent announced that there will be another virtual training by Mr. Erik Vecere of the National Fatherhood Initiative called “InsideOut Dad” on October 14-15, 2020. OCF is paying for 25 people to attend the training. Please visit the OCF Website and ensure your e-mail address is registered to receive mailings from OCF. An e-newsletter regarding the about the training will be sent via Constant Contacts.
- Micro Soft (MS) Teams Handout: Mr. Joshua Counciller reminded everyone to use and download the desktop version to use MS Teams. You will have to register in Microsoft Teams so that you can participate and attend our meetings with audio/video capabilities.

VI.	Adjournment
12:00	Chair Scott Neely

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

The next Virtual Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. - noon.