

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)
Executive Director Report
September-November 2015**

Funding:

New Pathways for Fathers & Families Federal Grant:

OCF was awarded the Federal Fatherhood grant from HHS / AFC to implement services in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Clark, Montgomery, and Hamilton counties. Services will focus on economic stability, responsible parenting and healthy marriage and relationships. The grant is scheduled to be funded for 5 years with approximately \$2 million per year.

RECURRING MEETINGS/INITIATIVES

Meeting with OPNFF regarding 2016 State Fatherhood Summit: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with OPNFF (Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families) regarding next year's State Fatherhood Summit. The tentative dates are May 25th-26th 2016. The committee plans to meet weekly via conference call to continue momentum of the planning.

Meeting with Bartha Representative: OCF staff met with a representative from Bartha. Bartha is the audio visual company that provided the audio visual services during the 2014 State Fatherhood Summit. Bartha is scheduled to provide the services during the 2016 State Fatherhood Summit.

OCPIM (Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality) Quarterly Meeting: OCF staff attended and participated in OCPIM quarterly meeting held at the Vineyard Church. Dr. Anthony Iton from the California Endowment was the guest speaker. The focus was on the subject matter regarding social determinants and health disparities.

OCF Commission Meeting: OCF staff participated in the quarterly commission meeting. Presenters included OCF grantee Action for Children and a representative from the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI). OFAM Deputy Director and the Office of Legislation Deputy Director provided a presentation on TANF Reauthorization as it relates to the Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2015.

OCPIM Fatherhood involvement Phone Conference: OCF staff participated on the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality Fatherhood Involvement workgroup monthly call. The members discussed strategy 7.1 during the call as well as introduced new members of the workgroup. *Strategy 7.1 Increase awareness with individuals and organizations across all sectors of society (business, civic, government, faith) regarding the importance for children to have involved and committed fathers present.*

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OCPIIM Steering Committee Meeting: As part of the leadership team, OCF Director participates in monthly Executive Steering Committee conference calls. The various OCPIIM Reduction Plan workgroups are provided an opportunity to report out regarding the activities in the seven focus area.

OCPIIM Promoting Fatherhood Subcommittee Meeting: OCF staff participated in the monthly phone conference to discuss how the subcommittee will address the strategies developed to address the infant mortality rates in Ohio. The OCF executive director co-chairs the OCPIIM Fatherhood Involvement subcommittee.

Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team (formerly Safe Schools Healthy Students): In September, OCF staff participated in monthly HSCRT meeting and the University of Dublin location. Three grantees also attended the meeting to discuss how the local fatherhood practitioners can assist with the implementation of grant activities. The grant was awarded to the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Mental health and Addiction Services. In October, Ohio's Family and Youth Involvement Committee as part of the Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team held a meeting to continue discussions regarding how the various local community programs to include fatherhood programs can assist with local implementation efforts.

OERC Meeting Fremont, OH Updates from ODJFS: OCF Executive Director attended the quarterly Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition meeting to provide updates from ODJFS. Updates were provided by Workforce Development, Office of Families and Children, State Office of Child Support and the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood.

OCS, DRC, OCDA Quarterly Meeting: OCF staff, as members of the committee, provided a presentation regarding the history of OCF and various activities implemented by the commission. The committee members were also provided information on the 2015-2017 OCF grantees as well as a high-level presentation on the New Beginnings for New Fathers newly awarded federal grant.

Conference Call to discuss NBNF federal grant: OCF staff hosts a weekly conference call with sub-grantees on NBNF grant: Action for Children (Judy Williams / Dana Wright), Passages (Dr. Brian Moore), Talbert House (Harold Howard), and Urban Light Ministries (Darryl Grayson and Eli Williams). Also present on the calls are representatives from Ohio University (Randy Leite) and OPNFF (Steve Killpack). OCF staff uses this as an opportunity to update sub-grantees and allow them to ask questions to clarify service delivery.

OTHER MEETINGS AND PHONE CALLS

Meeting with Representative Celebrezze: OCF executive director met with the commission's newest member from the House of Representatives, Representative Nicholas Celebrezze. The executive director provided pertinent information to include the role of the commissioner, the bylaws, the upcoming meeting agenda and information regarding the October retreat.

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Meeting with Ann Ream: OCF executive director met with the commission's newest member from Summit County Children's Services, Ann Ream. Ms. Ream has been appointed by the governor. The executive director provided pertinent information to include the role of the commissioner, the by-laws, the upcoming meeting agenda and information regarding the October retreat.

Call with Mr. Tim Hendricks: OCF executive director met with Mr. Tim Hendricks (from California) who developed "Daddy's Tool Bag". The information contained in "Daddy's Tool Bag" assists new fathers with essential tools to caring for a newborn. Mr. Hendricks works closely with the WIC (Women Infant and Children) program in California.

Phone Conference with Fathers' Rights Organization: OCF executive director met with the founder of Father's Rights Organization (Toledo, Ohio), Beth Incorvaia, and discussed the services provided by the organization in Lucas County. Ms. Incorvaia attended the quarterly commission meeting and communicated her wish to continue to connect and collaborate with OCF.

Akron Children's Hospital Breastfeeding Summit: OCF staff provided vendor information during the Summit County Breastfeeding (Lactation) Summit. OCF shared a resource table with the Summit county Fatherhood Initiative.

Start Talking Ohio Youth Drug Prevention – OCF staff met with Adria Troyer, Assistant Director of "Start Talking", the Governor's Youth Drug Prevention Initiative. OCF and Start Talking will partner to engage fathers and communities regarding the Start Talking activities implemented throughout Ohio. The link to the Start Talking website is on the OCF web homepage.

OCF Grantee Orientation: OCF staff met with fatherhood program staff from the eight new OCF grantees and provided all day training on contract deliverables and expectations. Grantees also received a presentation from the State Office of Child Support Report Section, Start Talking (The Governor's Youth Drug Prevention Initiative) and Workforce Development's OMJ tool.

Phone Conference with ODH Regarding Safe Sleep Report: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with ODH staff regarding the error on the Safe Sleep (SIDS Network) Report. The error informed the reader that father involvement increased the likelihood that an infant would not reach his/her 1st birthday as a true statement. The SIDS Network corrected the typo; however, the disbursement is not as far reaching as the original report.

Meeting with ODJFS Facilitators (EBS): OCF staff met with two ODJFS EBS Facilitators regarding the upcoming Commission Retreat. Information regarding the commission and the flow of the meeting were provided to the facilitators. Another meeting is planned prior to the October 15th retreat.

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Fatherhood Columbus Forum: OCF staff attended the Fatherhood Columbus Event held at The Ohio State University, Ohio Union Multicultural Center (Alonso Family Room). The forum and discussion included faith-based, organizational and business members in Columbus interested in advancing the fatherhood movement in Columbus. Meeting will be held quarterly.

Stark County Fatherhood Coalition: OCF staff attended the SCFC meeting in Canton, Ohio. Rob Pierson, Director of the Stark County Child Support Enforcement Agency is chair of the coalition. The coalition provided updates on the successful “Dad Walk Your Child to School Day” in various districts in Stark County. Mr. Pierson is scheduled to provide a presentation at the next OCF meeting regarding his success including fatherhood in area schools. OCF staff provided updates from the Commission on Fatherhood.

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Pre-Retreat Meeting: OCF staff met with Cathy Jordan and David Massie, ODJFS Training Officers, to discuss agenda and expectations for upcoming commissioner retreat. Ms. Jordan and Mr. Massie facilitated the retreat topic discussions.

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Retreat: OCF staff met with all commissioners for an all-day retreat. Topics considered included revision of OCF bylaws, responsibilities of commissioners and the RFGA process. As a result of the retreat, various topics will be voted on during the next OCF commissioner meeting scheduled for November 19, 2015.

Meeting with Fred Crum, Eli Williams and Fatherhood Ohio: OCF executive director met with Mr. Fred Crum, Stefan Dunn and Eli Williams as well as other business owners in Columbus to discuss how OCF can work with Fatherhood Ohio collaboratively toward like goals. The outcomes and measures regarding the newly awarded federal grant was also provided to the group.

MDRC Phone Conference (Building Bridges Bonds (B3) Inquiry with ODJFS) New Beginnings for New Fathers (NBNF) Federal Grant: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with federal evaluators for NBNF grant. They were considering our grant as one of the six sites selected for special innovative testing/evaluation and have since confirmed that we have been pre-selected as one of the six sites. This selection may allow for additional dollars and technical assistance for our programs.

Phone Conference with David Mandel: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with David Mandel who provided the NBNF (New Beginnings for New Fathers) sub-grantees training on a domestic violence tool/protocol “Safe and Together”. The “Safe and Together” program is also used by the Office of Families and Children.

Phone Conference with OSU Extension: OCF staff discussed the New Beginnings for New Fathers financial education piece with The Ohio State University Extension staff. The staff will provide financial education services to fathers serviced by the federal grant. The curriculum that will be implemented is Money Smart.

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Meeting with Darren and Richard Lundy: OCF staff met with Darren and Richard Lundy regarding their newly written book regarding fathers and sons. The book contains their personal experiences related to Mr. Richard Lundy's reconnection with his son Darren during Darren's adulthood. OCF staff also provided ways in which the Lundy's can become more engaged in community fatherhood work.

Site visits to Moms2B Classes: OCF staff attended Moms2B classes at the following locations: John Maloney Health Center, Weinland Park, Mount Carmel West, and OSU East. The Columbus Urban League (CUL) is providing services to fathers connected to the moms who are being serviced by the Ohio State University Moms2B Program. OCF is providing pilot project dollars to CUL.

Site Visit to Action for Children: OCF staff performed the first of 8 scheduled site visits to one of the 2015-2017 OCF funded grantees. The visit provided an opportunity for Action for Children to demonstrate their programming as well as ask questions. OCF staff was also provided an opportunity to meet the staff connected to the grant.

Prison Outreach

OCF staff provided Responsible Fatherhood presentations at a number of Correctional Institutions. The Responsible Fatherhood presentation is provided prior to the Child Support presentation. Staff presented at the following correctional institutions:

1. Mansfield Correctional
2. Warren Correctional
3. Lebanon Correctional
4. Lucasville Corrections
5. Marion Correctional

OCF staff attended prison reentry fairs at:

1. Belmont Correctional
2. Warren Correctional
3. Ross Correctional
4. Chillicothe Correctional