

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Minutes from the Meeting of Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018

Attendance	
Commissioners	Senator Bill Beagle Deputy Director Kara Bertke-Wente Director Susan Brown Representative Nicholas Celebrezze Dr. Mike Davis, PhD Mr. William Dodson Mr. Chad Hibbs Mr. Joseph Hill Representative Darrell Kick Dr. Randy Leite, PhD Mr. Scott Neely Director Ann Ream Mr. Socrates Tuch, Esq.
Presenters	Dr. Solveig Spjeldnes, PhD, Ohio University Dr. Jennifer Shadik, PhD, Ohio University Mr. Daniel Kloepfer, Ohio University Lisa Merkle, Director of Allen County CSEA Ms. Julian Greisheimer, Coleman Professional Services Ms. Katrina Walker. Coleman Professional Services
Guests	Shannon Crable, Early Childhood Resource Center Amir Saleem, Man Talk United Terrance Walton, New Day Academy Traci Bell-Thomas, Ohio Department of Medicaid Christopher Gherman, YMCA of Central Ohio Danyll Lockhart, Urban League of Greater Cleveland
OCF Staff	Director Kimberly Dent Ms. Monica Mahoney Ms. Terri Simons

I. Call to Order & Welcome New Commissioner	
10:00-10:05	Senator Bill Beagle
II. Approval of May 24, 2018 Minutes	
10:05-10:10	Scott Neely
The minutes were approved as submitted.	
III. Ohio University Researchers	
10:10-10:50	Solveig Spjeldnes, Jennifer Shadik and Daniel Kloepfer

- The Ohio University (OU) staff has been contracted by FRPN (Fatherhood Research Practice Network) to do an analysis of the OCF data collected by the seven grantees.
- **(FRPN)Fatherhood Research Practice Network:** Awarded Temple University a grant in 2013 for five years. They wanted them to conduct research, observations and data collection of the fathers who participated in the federally funded fatherhood programs. The focus of the studies includes behaviors and habits of fathers who are trying to take care of their children and determine the need for additional assistance or guidance with children; to research the fathers who were not currently in the children’s lives due to incarceration and/or unable to see or visit their children; and collecting data on fathers who were paying child support to the mother or guardian.
- **Challenges for Fathers and Data Collection:**
 - The OU researchers stated that the fathers do not always complete the fatherhood program due to many variables such as: incarceration, drug or mental health abuse, fathers are unable to miss work because they just became employed; or taking educational courses or receive on the job training.
 - All of the grantees are required to record the data they collect in an online case management system called Efforts to Outcomes (ETO).
 - The fathers must take a pre/post survey. The fathers are in the program with other fathers dealing with the same issues and discussing their frustrations and asking questions about how to become a better father, receive information about getting their finances in order (i.e., money, employment, housing, food etc.) The fathers will learn how to re-establish and develop a better relationship with their children and parenting partner. The child will notice over time that both parents are willing to participate and share the same common goal of taking care of the child’s needs first. To assist with barrier removals, grantees provide the fathers with bus tokens.

Question 1: Were there any staff changes and challenges grantees face due to location, funding, or resources?

- (A) OU staff audio taped the program managers during the site visits. OU hopes to be able to identify any challenges grantees face when they do data analysis.

Question 2: Do you know if there was a consistency of data collected? Does it compare apples to apples? Programmatic services, how did you rank them? What types of programs should be funded?

- (A) OU response: All grantees are required to provide the same key services, although there is variation among programs. In addition, policies affect the families served. For example, under the federal Housing Urban Development (HUD) program, if the father is an ex-offender, he will not be allowed to live with the family in HUD housing.
- According to Commissioner William Dodson, families are located far away from jobs and transportation. The parents living in urban areas cannot get to jobs that are in the rural areas due to lack of transportation. The Whitehall area did a study showing there were 400 families in public housing. Because of the high crime rate, private investors evicted many families and there were no advocates for those families who were displaced. Some families were moved to 700 different motels temporarily in Ohio until they had to go to shelters. It's hard to reach these families to provide services to them. The furniture bank also helps families. Some are funded by homeless shelters. Lack of employment and access to transportation are significant barriers. First Mile and Last Mile Organization assists fathers and mothers with transportation getting them to and from work. They have asked the state to try to use PRC funds to pay for it.

Question 3: What are the desired goals of the research?

- (A) The level A grantees are required to serve 200 fathers a year. OCF anticipates that over 1,000 participating fathers will be served. Director Dent stated that 100% of fathers are required to complete intake paperwork prior to receiving services. The goal is for 80% of fathers to complete cohort classes and 50% to achieve case management goals.
- OCF funded grantee provided a presentation about the fatherhood program and support services they provide. Their PowerPoint presentation is available on the OCF website.

IV. Coleman Professional Services	
10:50 -11:35	Julian Greisheimer, Katrina Walker and Lisa Merkle

Fathers Accountable for Children’s Tomorrow (FACT) - brochure

- Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) – This is a 12-step program evidence-based cognitive behavioral intervention. The staff listens to father’s concerns dealing with different challenges at home. The staff coordinates and determines father’s eligibility for services provided by the county including drug/alcohol related treatment. They give the father opportunity to talk and provide information about his kids and/or the mother of his children. Fathers must complete the class, find employment, and pay child support.
- Nurturing Fathers for Life (NFL) – This is a parenting class helping train fathers on how to achieve economic stability, create healthy relationships, and make a positive impact on their children.
- Pre-Employment Training (PET) – These are educational classes for fathers that teach them how to obtain and retain employment. **GED/ABLE** classes are also offered. The staff is seeing third generation families that are without fathers in the home. If they have mental health issues or substance abuse they are not sent immediately to do the drug

testing/screening until they have resolved it. Fathers must be trained and demonstrate how to support themselves and their children. Sometimes fathers must make work schedule changes to attend the group class.

Outcomes that Coleman has seen fathers achieve include:

- A dramatic increase on fathers paying child support up to \$27,000
- 39 job placements
- 109 people served
- 4 received high school diploma
- 5 new parenting time orders established
- CSEA waived or modified 7 child support orders
- 70 out of 109 fathers completed fatherhood classes

V.	Update on Annual Report Meeting
11:35-11:40	Monica Mahoney

Monica thanked the nine commissioners who attended the voluntary August 22nd meeting to discuss changes they would like to see in the 2018 annual report. Suggestions included:

- Focus on outcomes achieved by fathers
- Shorten the length of the report
- Use more bullets and fewer full sentences
- Send interested commissioners the draft Annual Report so they can make comments and suggestions before the final report is printed
- Do a snap shot of grantees

VI.	Executive Director’s Report
11:40-11:50	Kimberly Dent

Director Dent shared her Executive Director’s Report which is posted on the OCF website. Some of the highlights include:

- **Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative Projects:** Director Dent is in conversation with leaders from Ross, Morgan, Scioto, and Warren counties. They are all required to have a leadership team that includes the county director of child support, child protective services, judicial, elected official, business or faith-based or both, a father in the community. OCF is waiting for the four counties to agree and confirm that they are ready to take on this project. The contract will be for November 2018 – June 30, 2019.
- **Fatherhood Summit at Lorain Corrections:** Director Dent plans to attend the first Fatherhood Summit for incarcerated dads in Ohio. Fox News may cover the event. Director Dent will provide an update at the next Commission meeting.

- **Meeting with Columbus Public Schools** – Director Dent and Commissioner Susan Brown met with school officials to explore the possibility of adding curriculum to middle and high schools that address preventing unwanted pregnancy and premature fatherhood. The curriculum under consideration are “The Consequences of Teen Pregnancy Curriculum” and “No Kidding Ohio.” Cleveland is considering it. According to Senator Beagle, there is no statewide health curriculum that addresses these issues.
- **Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality (OCPIM):** Director Dent attended the OCPIM Meeting. The state OCPIM Summit is scheduled for December 11th and 12th, 2018.

VII.	Announcements and New Business
11:50-12:00	Monica Mahoney

- Monica Mahoney shared the upcoming 2019 commissioner calendar dates and requested that commissioners who are appointed as agency designees to consult their agency directors as to their availability to speak at one of the upcoming commission meetings. At the November 15th Commissioner Meeting - a photo will be taken of the group for the Annual Report.
- Ann Ream of Summit County Children’s First spoke about the upcoming levy in Summit County to fund Children’s Services. There has not been an increase in 30 years. If the levy does not pass, Summit County Children Services will have to cut its budget by over 30% and displace 100 employees. Ann stated that there will be a levy on the ballot this November regarding Issue 8 which is a property tax renewal of 2.25% increase. The levy will help address the Opioid crisis; There has been a 30% increase in custody cases. If it fails, Summit County will have to make a 34% staff cut and lose \$60 million dollars in revenue.

VIII.	Adjourn
12:00	

The meeting adjourned at noon.