

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)
Executive Director Report
December 2015-February 2016**

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. OCF continues to make progress during the planning phase. Purchase orders have been sent to the fatherhood programs selected to provide local services. OCF continues to work with contracts and purchase orders for programs selected to provide curricula training. The Project Director has been selected and has begun the state on-boarding process.

RECURRING MEETINGS/INITIATIVES

ODRC (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction) Family Engagement

Conversation in Dayton Correctional Facility: OCF staff participated in facilitating the family engagement conversation at the Dayton Correctional Women's Prison. The conversation included topics related to how family engagement is successful as well as how family engagement can be challenging in the correctional facilities. OCF staff provided a presentation on child support/visitation and custody services as well. These family engagement conversations are ongoing in both selected prisons and communities.

Meeting with OCDA (Ohio Child Support Director's Association) Director: OCF staff met with the director of OCDA regarding various fatherhood/child support successes and challenges. Ongoing conversations regarding how the county child support agencies can assist in the federal New Beginnings for New Fathers (NBNF) grant as well as the state funded fatherhood programs have been planned. OCF will provide a New Beginnings for New Fathers presentation during an upcoming OCDA membership meeting. These meetings are ongoing through the planning and implementation of the NBNF grant cycle (five years).

ODRC (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction) Family Engagement

Conversation in Lorain County: OCF staff participated in facilitating the family engagement conversation in Lorain County. The conversation included topics related to how family engagement is successful as well as how family engagement can be challenging in the correctional facilities. OCF staff provided a presentation on child support/visitation and custody services as well. These family engagement conversations are ongoing in both selected prisons and communities.

Meeting with Representative from The Law Firm of Doty and Obenour LLC: OCF staff participated in a conversation to assist the Judicial College's Parents and Children Together and Judge Jamison (Franklin County) with a CLE program focused on the importance of fatherhood.

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Ongoing conversations are planned with outreach to OCF funded fatherhood programs (practitioners) to join in the effort.

Conference call with OCF Staff & Passages Staff to Discuss Federal Grant Deliverables: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with Passages Fatherhood program. Passages will provide services to fathers and families in Cuyahoga County under the federal Pathways grant. These meetings are ongoing.

Conference call with OCF Staff & ULM Staff to Discuss Federal Grant Deliverables: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with Urban Light Ministries (ULM) Fatherhood program. ULM will provide services to fathers and families in Clark and Montgomery Counties under the federal Pathways grant. These meetings are ongoing.

Conference call with OCF Staff & Talbert House Staff to Discuss Federal Grant Deliverables: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with Talbert House Fatherhood program. Talbert House will provide services to fathers and families in Hamilton County under the federal Pathways grant. These meetings are ongoing.

Meeting with MDRC: OCF staff met with representatives from MDRC, a federal evaluation team hired to work with six of the HMRF (Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood) programs on cognitive behavioral interventions. Ohio is currently being considered for the cognitive behavioral intervention in employment component. These on-site meetings will be ongoing until a decision is made.

OCPIM Fatherhood Involvement: OCF staff participated on the monthly OCPIM Fatherhood Involvement phone conference. Fatherhood Involvement in Maternal and Child Health is one of seven workgroups as part of the state OCPIM Reduction Plan. The Fatherhood Involvement workgroup has decided to address five strategies that focus on father involvement and how it relates to maternal and child health. A large percentage of the New Beginnings for New Fathers grant activities will address the five strategies. The OCF executive director co-chairs this workgroup. These meetings are ongoing.

One on One Call with Action for Children: OCF staff had a conference call with staff from sub-grantee site: Action for Children. The call is intended to discuss the reallocation of state budgeted funding, to answer any questions sub-grantees may have concerning advance funding and incentives, and inform them of how OCF plans to move forward with tablets intended for client data collection. Sub-grantees were asked to submit written feedback on each issue discussed. These meetings are ongoing.

OCF Facebook Page Launch: OCF has an official Facebook page. The intent is to connect with and inform other fatherhood communities and initiatives for the purpose of strengthening our reach as a fatherhood entity in Ohio. Please like us on Facebook!

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Call with Ohio University: OCF spoke with Dr. Randy Leite and Prof. Solveig Spjeldnes about changes to the local evaluation requested by the federal grantor. These calls are ongoing as we determine the role of Ohio University as it relates to state data collection goals.

Conference calls with NBNF Federal Sub-grantee: OFC staff hosted weekly conference call with sub-grantees on federal fatherhood grant, New Beginnings for New Father: Passages (Dr. Brian Moore), Talbert House (Harold Howard), and Urban Light Ministries (Darryl Grayson and Eli Williams). Also present on the call was Steve Killpack from Ohio University. OFC staff gave sub-grantees an opportunity to ask questions about the feedback OCF requested in order to revise the state budget and provided update to sub-grantees about MDRC's plans for additional evaluation of two innovate curricula. These are now standing weekly calls.

Presentation to Baby Elmo Planning Committee (NBNF): OCF staff met with staff from Department of Youth Services to discuss implementation of the Baby Elmo curricula at all three DYS facilities and follow up services to be provided by OCF grantees. These are ongoing meetings through the implementation of the New Beginnings for New Fathers grant activities.

Building Bridges and Bonds Meeting: OCF staff participated in conference call with MDRC staff regarding possible participation of OCF in piloting innovative curricula. Site visits to sub grantees are scheduled January 12-14, 2016. These calls are ongoing until a decision is reached.

Meeting with OPNFF regarding 2016 State Fatherhood Summit: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with members from OPNFF (Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families) to plan the upcoming state Fatherhood Summit, scheduled for May 25th and 26th. These are standing weekly meetings as preparation for the state summit moves forward.

Call with Ohio University: OCF spoke with Dr. Randy Leite and Prof. Lesli Johnson of the Voinovich School for Leadership and Public Affairs about the process evaluation required for the federal responsible fatherhood grant. Ohio University has decided to assign Dr. Lesli Johnson to the New Beginnings for New Fathers project. Dr. Johnson provided a scope of work document that addressed the components of the grant proposal.

Conference calls with NBNF Federal Sub-grantee: OFC staff hosted weekly conference call with sub-grantees on federal fatherhood grant, New Beginnings for New Father: Passages (Dr. Brian Moore), Talbert House (Harold Howard), and Urban Light Ministries (Darryl Grayson and Eli Williams). Also present on the call was Steve Killpack from OPNFF and Nate Lett from Beech Acres. OFC staff and sub grantees discussed concerns about the federal requirement to provide fathers services in all three required areas, whether or not the fathers needs them. The plan is to invite the federal grant coordinator assigned to Ohio.

Building Bridges and Bonds Meeting: OCF staff met with Dina Israel and Doug Phillips of MDRC to discuss their site visits with staff at Urban Light Ministries, Talbert House and Forever Dads. MDRC is still considering Ohio for both the 'Just Beginning Baby Elmo' project and the "Cognitive Behavioral Employment" project.

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OCPIM (Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality) 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 executive director co-chairs the OCPIM Fatherhood Involvement subcommittee.

Meeting with OPNFF regarding 2016 State Fatherhood Summit: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with members from OPNFF (Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families) to plan the upcoming state Fatherhood Summit, scheduled for May 25th and 26th.

Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team (HSCRT) Phone Conference Meeting:

OCF staff participated in the monthly HSCRT conference call. The grant was awarded to the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services. The grant activities now include implementation in the local communities. OCF continues to be a part of the discussions regarding father engagement.

Call with OSU Extension: OCF staff spoke with Susan Colbert and Kathy Groeniger of OSU Extension Franklin County about deliverables for contract. OSU Extension staff in Franklin, Hamilton and Cuyahoga Counties will teach classes on Money Smart FDIC financial education curriculum to fathers served by the sub grantees as part of the New Beginnings for New Fathers federal responsible fatherhood grant. These meetings are ongoing through the planning and implementation stages of the federal grant.

COTA Mobility Advisory Board Meeting: OCF staff attended The COTA Mobility Advisory Board quarterly meeting. Information regarding public transportation in Central Ohio is discussed during these meetings. Transportation continues to be a major challenge for the population OCF serves. These meetings are ongoing. OCF Executive Director is secretary of the advisory board.

Child Support Strategic Workgroup: OCF staff participated in the quarterly Child Support Strategic Workgroup meeting. The meeting participants include members from OCDA, metro, large and small county Child Support Agencies and ODJFS staff (Child Support and Fatherhood). Topics included upgrade to child support technology, paternity establishment, child support arrears and the pending child support guidelines changes (S.B. 262).

Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team (HSCRT) On-Site Meeting: OCF staff participated in the monthly HSCRT meeting at the University of Dublin, Dublin location. Discussions were held regarding how the local resources can assist with the implementation of the grant in the various school districts. The grant was awarded to the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services. The plan is for three of the fatherhood programs (Passages, Urban Light Ministries and WSOS) to assist with father engagement at the local level.

Columbus Urban League (CUL) and Moms2B Meeting: OCF staff participated in an update CUL/Moms2B meeting. OCF is providing funding to CUL to provide services to fathers connected with mothers enrolled in the Moms2B Ohio State University program. The program

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is being implemented in four specific target areas of Columbus that demonstrate high infant mortality rates. These meetings are ongoing through the pilot project period (SFYs 2016-2017).

OTHER MEETINGS AND PHONE CALLS

Conference Call with Virginia Contingency: OCF staff participate in a phone conversation with a representative from the Virginia group that visited Ohio searching for guidance regarding how to best mobilize fatherhood statewide. Virginia fatherhood stakeholders continue to have an interest in Ohio's Fatherhood structure.

Conversation with Artis Gains: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with The Centers for Families to assist with participants concerns regarding child support arrears monthly payment.

Call with Tanya Howell: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families/Office of Family Assistance to discuss preliminary grant activity and upcoming entrance conference requirements.

Federal Entrance Conference: OCF staff attended the Federal HMRF (Healthy Marriage Responsible Fatherhood) Entrance Conference. Attendance to the Entrance Conference was required by each program funded during the grant cycle. HHS/ACF required five participants to attend: Authorizing Official, Fiscal Officer, Evaluator, Program Director, and Data Manager. Various workshops and plenary sessions provided essential information regarding grant activities.

Meeting with Solveig Spjeldnes: OCF staff met with Solveig Spjeldnes from Ohio University. Solveig will provide rigorous data measure services for the New Beginnings for New Fathers federal grant. Subsequent meetings have been scheduled to discuss the parameters of these services. A contract will be developed between ODJFS and Ohio University.

Meeting with Aaron Larson-Dibble Institute: OCF staff met Mr. Aaron Larson from the Dibble Institute. The Dibble Institute will provide curricula training for "Love Notes" and "Relationship Smarts Plus" which will be provided to teen fathers and mothers throughout the five year federal grant activities.

Pickaway Correctional Institution Q&A: OCF staff visited the Pickaway Correctional Institution with the Office of Child Support staff to provide a question and answer session to inmates at PCI. The session entailed information and resources from the Commission on Fatherhood and Child Support 101 from paternity to terminating support.

Call with Tanya Howell: OCF staff participated on a phone conference with Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families/Office of Family Assistance to discuss preliminary grant activity and upcoming entrance conference requirements.

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Lebanon and Warren Prison Q&A: OCF staff visited the prisons in Lebanon and Warren with the Office of Child Support staff to provide a question and answer session to inmates at both prisons. The session entailed information and resources from the Commission on Fatherhood and Child Support 101 from paternity to terminating support.

Call with Senator Beagle: OCF staff communicated with Senator Bill Beagle concerning specific applicants for the two new federal OCF positions.

Call with Summit County Fatherhood Initiative: OCF staff spoke with Bill Macchione of Summit County Fatherhood Initiative to provide insight on the best way to engage fathers who are not part of the mandatory and captive population, however, fathers who may want services on a voluntary basis.

Plan Commission on Fatherhood Agenda: OCF staff participated in a phone call with Senator Beagle and Luis Vazquez, the chair and secretary of the OCF Commission regarding the agenda for the February 11, 2016 Commission Meeting.

Site Visit to LACCA (Lima Allen Council on Community Affairs): OCF staff provided a site-visit to Lima Allen Council on Community Affairs. OCF provides TANF Fatherhood funding to the LACCA Fatherhood Program. OCF staff observed a workshop as well as discussed the following topics: recruitment, retention and reporting.

Guernsey Fatherhood Coalition Meeting: OCF staff attended the Guernsey Fatherhood Coalition luncheon to discuss re-surgng fatherhood activities in Guernsey County. Guernsey County was one of the eleven pilot counties to receive the Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative Mobilization dollars. Representatives from the Faith-based Community, the business community, Children's Services, the Mayor of Byesville and other stakeholders were in attendance.

Discussion with OCDA (Ohio Child Support Director's Association): OCF staff participated in a call with OCDA, Amy Roehrenbeck to discuss the agenda for the March 2016 ODRC (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction /OCDA/OCS (Office of Child Support) Meeting. Time has been reserved on the agenda to discuss challenges faced by fathers in the Child Support and Justice Related systems.