

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Minutes from the Meeting of Thursday, February 11, 2016**

Attendance	
Commissioners	Senator Bill Beagle Representative Michael Ashford Director Kara Bertke-Wente Mr. Cedric Collins Representative Bill Hayes Director Kim Hettel Director Chad Hibbs Representative Stephen Huffman Dr. Randy Leite Mr. Scott Neely Director Ann Ream Mr. John Silverman Mr. Socrates Tuch Mr. Luis Vazquez Mr. Tarik White
Presenters	Lilleana Cavanaugh Mark Hardin Katrece Lee Michael Massey Eric Vial
Guests	Ethan Zucal, Legislative Aide to Senator Beagle
OCF Staff	Director Kimberly Dent Ms. Monica Mahoney

I. Call to Order & Welcome New Commissioners	
10:00-10:10	Senator Bill Beagle, Scott Neely
Senator Beagle called the meeting to order, welcomed our guests, and invited all attending to introduce themselves.	
II. Approval of Nov. 16, 2015 Minutes	
10:10-10:15	
The minutes from November 16, 2015 were approved as submitted.	
III. OCF Grantee, Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron and Richland Counties	
10:15-10:45	Mark Hardin, Katrece Lee, Michael Massey and Eric Vial
<p>Mark Hardin and Katrece Lee from Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron and Richland Counties (CACEHR) presented the grantee report for the fatherhood programs at their agency. The Power Point presentation can be found on the OFC website. Topics covered in the presentation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Program • Program Mission • Target Demographic • Referrals • Curriculum • Program Services <p>CACEHR started the “Father’s Matter” program in 2011 in response to an identified need for fatherhood programming for the target population of fathers returning to the community from prison or jail. Courts were ordering fathers to enroll in parenting classes but they did not exist in the community at the time.</p>	
IV. Ohio Latino Affairs Commission	
10:45-11:15	Lilleana Cavanaugh
<p>Lilleana Cavanaugh, Executive Director of the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission presented information about the commission. The Power Point presentation can be found on the OCF Website.</p> <p>The purpose of the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission is to advise state government on issues affecting Hispanic Ohioans, to connect the diverse Latino communities across the state, and to build the capacity of community organizations so they may better serve the fast growing population of Ohio. The commission serves as a liaison between government and the Hispanic/Latino community in Ohio and advocates the development and implementation of policies and programs to address the needs of the Hispanic/Latino Ohioans, especially but not limited to education, employment, economic development, health and housing.</p> <p>Director Cavanaugh shared demographic data about Ohio’s growing Hispanic population Hispanic/Latino population is 383,000 people, which accounts for 3.3% of Ohio’s population.</p>	

V. OCF Director's Report

1:15-11:30

Kimberly Dent

Director Dent's report is posted on the OCF website. The main item the Director highlighted was actions related to the New Pathways for Fathers & Families Federal Grant. OCF is one of two recipients in Ohio of a federal fatherhood grant from HHS/AFAC. The OCF project is called "New Beginnings for New Fathers" (NBNF). OCF will partner with four fatherhood programs (Action for Children, Passages, Talbert House and Urban Light Ministries) to provide 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 OCF to receive 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 for NBNF has been selected and Director Dent hopes to introduce him at April commission meeting.
- OCF continues to hold weekly conference calls with the 4 fatherhood programs and their community partners who will be serving fathers for the NBNF federal grant
- MDRC, an outside evaluator selected by the HHS/ACF to select six fatherhood grantees to participate in two special evaluations of curricula is considering our grantees. They have done site visits with six OCF-funded programs. They plan to make their final selection in April.
- Ohio University will be the local evaluator for the NBNF federal grant

Commissioner Scott Neely asked what is the other Ohio program that received a federal fatherhood grant. The Economic Opportunity Planning Association Of Greater Toledo was awarded \$1,655,600 per year. They are new to fatherhood but are a past recipient of a Healthy Marriage grant from the feds. OCF staff met with them during the federal entrance conference in Washington, D.C. in December.

Other items from the Director's Report that Director Dent highlighted include:

- OCF staff has been participating in ODRC-sponsored "community conversations"
- Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality (OCPIM): Director Dent and former OCF commissioner Steve Killpack co-chair the "Father Involvement Workgroup" for OCPIM. They are ensuring that the voices of fathers as protective factors is heard
- Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team - OCF serves on this joint grant initiative sponsored by the Ohio Departments of Health and Mental Health and Addiction Services. The project is designed to address non-academic barriers to education and specifically address school cultures that promote mental and behavioral wellness. OCF has linked our local grantees with the initiative so they can be part of implementation phase.

VI. OCF Bylaw Revisions

11:30-11:50 Senator Bill Beagle

The commissioners discussed the proposed addition of a Fiscal/Funding Committee adding:

The purpose of the Fiscal/Funding Committee is to provide feedback to the Commission on proposed RFGAs and applicants for OCF funding. This Committee will also provide guidance on how OCF accepts and solicits financial gifts to support the work of the Commission as provided for in Bylaw 1.02.

The OCF statute permits OCF to accept donations and gifts. Once Terena Arnold returns from her maternity leave Director Dent plans to pursue this; it is a detailed process and she wants Ms. Arnold to be responsible for overseeing it.

Commissioner Luis Vazquez asked who currently makes decisions about which fatherhood programs are selected for funding through the RFGA. Director Dent said that decision is made by ODJFS.

Commissioner John Silverman asked whether the commission should report back to ODJFS about all the people and organizations that present information during OCF meetings. Director Dent said that she shares this information with her supervisors in her bi-weekly report.

Commissioner Vazquez said the commission should be cautious about outside organizations who present at the OCF meetings and later may apply for funding. Those not given the same opportunity may claim an unfair advantage. Director Dent said RFGA selection committee does not take that into account.

In the future, Director Dent will inform commissioners who applied for funding in response to the RFGA and how they scored in the RFGA review before final selections are made.

Commissioner Silverman would like commissioners to have some formal interaction with the RFGA selection committee. Director Dent said she would contact Lew George from ODJFS Legal to see if this would be permissible.

Commissioner Socrates Tuch advised that OCF is essentially an agency within an agency (ODJFS). According to the Ohio Ethics Committee, when you discuss decision making you are part of the decision. If commissioners give feedback on the RFGA selection process they become part of the decision making process and this could create a conflict.

Commissioner Scott Neely said that this issue was discussed in the previous meeting. He is also concerned that a potential conflict could arise especially if a commissioner is affiliated with an applicant for OCF funding.

Director Dent asked if the commissioners wanted to vote on the proposed language adding the Fiscal/ Finance committee to the OCF Bylaws. Commissioner Silverman made a motion to accept changes to By-law section 4.01 and Commissioner Tuch seconded the motion.

VII. Action Items	
11:50-11:55	Luis Vazquez
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OCF will contact ODJFS Legal about whether retreats can be closed to the public 2. Follow up with ODJFS Legal on role of commissioners in grantee selection and for guidance on gift acceptance by the commission 3. How many Ohio Counties have fatherhood programs? Commissioner Silverman requested this information 	
VIII. Announcements and New Business	
11:55-12:00	
<p>OCF and OPNFF will hold a free State Fatherhood Summit on May 25 and 26. A registration link will be sent before the next meeting.</p> <p>Applicants will be selected for “June is Responsible Fatherhood Month 2016”. OCF would like commissioners to attend these events and speak about the work of OCF and the importance of fathers.</p> <p>OCF has posted the Data Manager position for the NBNF grant and hopes to make a selection before the next commission meeting.</p>	
IX. Adjourn	
12:00	Meeting Adjourned