

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Minutes from the Meeting of

Thursday, February 2, 2012

<p>Commissioners Present:</p> <p>David Kontur, Vice Chairman</p> <p>Senator Bill Beagle</p> <p>Mr. Robert Boykins</p> <p>Director Susan Brown</p> <p>Mr. Cedric Collins</p> <p>Ms. Kimberly Dent</p> <p>Ms. Kimberly Hettel</p> <p>Mr. Thomas Joyce</p> <p>Mr. Steven Killpack</p> <p>Dr. Randy Leite</p> <p>Mr. Scott Neely</p> <p>Representative Carlton Weddington</p> <p>OCF Staff Present:</p> <p>Ms. Monica Mahoney</p> <p>Ms. Whitney Logan</p>	<p>Guests:</p> <p>Ms. Sue Bobson, Action for Children, Program Director</p> <p>Deputy Director Trudie Bormann, ODJFS Office of Family Assistance</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Brown, The Ridge Project, Family Program Coordinator</p> <p>Mr. Matthew Cunningham, TANF Section Chief</p> <p>Ms. Jenelle Donovan-Lyle, ODJFS Legislative Liaison</p> <p>Mr. Aldonis Grimes, Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative</p> <p>Mr. Glenn Harris, Columbus Urban League, Program Director</p> <p>Mr. Vincent Harris, Light House Youth Services, Volunteer</p> <p>Mr. Alton Howard, Light House Youth Services, Program Director</p> <p>Dr. Teresa Julian, Ohio University</p> <p>Mr. Michael Middendorf, Action for Children, Grants Manager</p> <p>Mrs. Cathy Tijerina, The Ridge Project, Co-Executive Director</p> <p>Mr. Ron Tijerina, The Ridge Project, Co-Executive Director</p>
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I. Call to Order & Welcome

Vice Chairman David Kontur, (“Vice Chairman Kontur”) called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Vice Chairman Kontur introduced himself and welcomed our guests. He said that moving forward he would like the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF) to focus on fatherhood activities and programs happening throughout Ohio, whether or not they are funded by OCF.

II. Approval of December 1, 2011 Minutes

Commissioner Steve Killpack moved with Commissioner Randy Leite seconding, that the minutes from the meeting of December 1, 2011 be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Election of Officers

Pursuant to the OCF by-laws, the annual election of officers took place. Commissioners were notified by email prior to the meeting that the election would take place and unless they opted out, all commissioners would be considered for the offices of chairman, vice chairman and secretary. Accordingly, ballots were distributed to all of the commissioners present at the meeting and each commissioner cast an anonymous ballot. Commissioner Leite moved with Commissioner Kimberly Dent seconding, that Monica Mahoney email ballots to commissioners not present at meeting so everyone has an opportunity to vote for officers. After the meeting, Ms. Mahoney tallied the votes and contacted those chosen to confirm that they were willing to serve. Thereafter she notified all commissioners of the election results: David Kontur was elected Chairman, Steve Killpack was elected Vice Chairman and Kimberly Dent was elected Secretary.

IV. Update on Executive Director

Deputy Director Trudie Bormann, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS), Office of Family Assistance informed the commission that the Governor’s office is in the process of selecting someone to fill the vacant position of OCF Executive Director. Deputy Director Bormann did not know whether Ohio Governor John Kasich has a specific individual that he is considering for appointment. Several people have contacted Deputy Director Bormann to

recommend people for the position and she has passed this information along to the Governor's office. She follows up weekly with the Governor's office for updates on the progress of the search for a new Executive Director. She is aware that there are also three vacancies on the commission for public members to be appointed by the Governor. Deputy Director Bormann is anxious to get replacements and understands that there is a need for leadership of the OCF in order to advance fatherhood-related items in other ODJFS programs in addition to the on-going work of the OCF.

V. House Bill 145 and the Legislature

Members of the OCF Legislative Subcommittee met by conference call on January 19, 2012 to discuss the status of House Bill (HB)145 which is pending before the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee. There was consensus that there was little to be gained by pursuing HB 145 at this time in light of the changes made to the OCF statute by the budget bill this summer. Senator Bill Beagle said that during summer negotiations on the Ohio budget bill many senate republicans were on the fence about continued funding for OCF. Representatives Timothy Derickson and Carlton Weddington, as the co-sponsors of the bill, agreed to contact the Committee Chairman Senator Scott Oelslager, to notify him that they would not pursue the bill nor request hearings on HB 145.

Jenelle Donovan-Lyle, ODJFS Legislative Liaison, participated in the conference call. ODJFS would like her to represent the OCF to the Ohio legislature moving forward. At the commission meeting Ms. Donovan-Lyle said that she spoke with Deputy Director Bormann about options on how to let the General Assembly know about the work of the OCF and its grantees. When the General Assembly reconvenes in March 2012, Ms. Donovan-Lyle will try to arrange an information session for legislators and their staff to learn about the OCF and Race to the Top issues.

VI. OCF Fatherhood Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) 2011-2013 Update

Matthew Cunningham, TANF Interagency Section Chief, spoke about the recent RFGA. There were sixteen applicants from across the state. The review team consisted of staff from TANF, OCF and one OCF Commissioner. Based on consensus scoring, eight programs were awarded funding in total of \$600,000 at \$75,000 per year for two years. Mr. Cunningham expects the first contract to be issued this week and all eight contracts should be finalized within the next ten days.

Mr. Aldonis Grimes, Director of Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative (CCFI) applied for funding but was not one of the eight programs awarded. According to Mr. Grimes, CCFI served more fathers than any other program and one of the programs selected for funding in this RFGA served the fewest number of fathers in the last RFGA. He suggested that the success of programs previously-funded by the OCF should be incorporated into the scoring scale in future RFGA's. Vice Chairman Kontur said that he appreciates Mr. Grime's concerns as well as the time constraints ODJFS was under. In the future, he would like to see the RFGA process be as user friendly as possible. Mr. Cunningham noted that the OCF wants to include objective performance standards in future RFGAs. Hiring an evaluator to create evaluation tools and collect and analyze data will help OCF to select and fund the most impactful programs.

Commissioner Robert Boykins asked whether there is transparency as to how the RFGA review team scored and selected the programs for funding. Mr. Cunningham explained how the selection process works. The RFGA describes deliverables and includes the scoring sheet that will be used by the review team. Applicants should use the scoring sheet as the outline and the tables of contents for their grant proposal. The scoring sheet defines the criteria and how many points each question is worth. The RFGA review team works behind closed doors for as many days as are necessary to review and score all of the proposals. They must come to a consensus on the score for each grant proposal. If anyone would like to see the scoring sheet it can be requested from the ODJFS Office of Contracts and Acquisitions.

Vice Chairman Kontur asked whether there was a bidders' conference. Mr. Cunningham responded that there was no bidders' conference but people could submit questions by email and the Contracts Office responded in writing and posted all of the questions and answers on the ODJFS website. The RFGA was released and open for one month with the "Q&A" period closing at the mid-point which is the normal practice and timeline at ODJFS.

Representative Weddington asked if any new programs were funded and which previously funded did not receive funds in this RFGA. Mr. Cunningham responded that the newly funded programs are Light House in Cincinnati and Urban Light Ministries in Springfield; both programs were funded two RFGA cycles ago.

Mr. Grimes informed the commissioner that former OCF Chairman Peter Lawson Jones is working on a documentary called, "Fatherhood 101." They are interviewing fathers throughout Ohio on the importance of fatherhood. The documentary, which is to be co-produced by Greenhouse Studios of Burbank, California, and Cinema 2:16 of Cleveland will feature interviews with everyday dads, celebrities and subject matter experts. The film is scheduled to premiere on Father's Day Weekend 2013. Plans are for the documentary to enjoy a theatrical release, be viewed at major film festivals and to be available on the internet.

VII. Review of AAPI data

Dr. Teresa Julian from Ohio University provided a follow-up on her review of the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI) assessment data obtained from OCF grantees funded by the last RFGA. Before and after a father participated in an OCF funded program, grantees were required to administer the AAPI which assesses parenting and child-rearing attitudes of adult and adolescent parent and non-parent populations. Since the December 2011 OCF meeting, Dr. Julian contacted the grantees and reviewed the actual AAPI forms they completed. Her review of the forms confirmed her belief that the AAPI was not the best assessment tool to evaluate fatherhood program effectiveness. Much of the data obtained is unreliable because the AAPI was not administered uniformly. Dr. Julian provided the commissioners with her preliminary findings

which she asked them not to share or disseminate. All of the work Dr. Julian did was performed at no cost to the OCF simply because she felt the commission's work had merit and she wanted to assist.

According to Dr. Julian, all providers implemented programs with the over-riding goal of helping men to be good fathers and productive citizens via various initiatives. Some of these programs were new in 2010 and some were established programs with seasoned personnel and facilitators. Some had a history of using the AAPI-2 while others were not aware of some of its nuances. Because no control group was utilized only descriptive statistics can be used and we cannot determine whether the treatment had any positive effect. We can only determine if the treatment had no effect. Program outcomes can only be determined by agency (versus aggregating the data). Preliminary findings may be useful to determine if there are differences in outcomes by agency and what are the lessons learned. If there are differences by agency it may become part of the conversation about how to best serve fathers and their children via future educational programming.

Dr. Julian shared the following "Lessons Learned" based upon her review of the AAPI data:

1. Sharing AAPI-2 results with clients will interfere with the study's internal validity. Another outcome measure will need to be used with these agencies.
2. Testing the reliability and validity of the AAPI-2 constructs "sten" scores needs to be done on this population (e.g., especially high risk groups).
3. Agencies that had a prior history with the AAPI-2 website were not able to merge their men's data with their previous website housed, data set. The developers of the website need to resolve this issue.
4. Agencies new to the AAPI-2 would benefit from a user friendly handbook on how to optimally interact with the assessing parenting. For example, missing data on a client's questionnaire led to greater work issues/demands. Knowing up front that the website could not handle missing data is critical.
5. Due to the sensitive nature of the AAPI-2 questions, it is important to build a trusting relationship before men fill out the AAPI-2

6. Because some men had difficulty reading the AAPI-2, one-on-one administration of the AAPI-2 would probably provide better information.
7. Many agency leaders report that having male, seasoned facilitators with the same program philosophy is critical. New programs were at a greater disadvantage.
8. Where you obtain your clients is critical. For example, some men started their programs when they were in jail, once released from jail it was difficult to get them back into the program.
9. It is imperative to develop methods to maintain confidentiality of the data. Data needs to be de-identified.
10. Development of its own agency program outcome(s) was necessary. Not all felt the AAPI-2 was comprehensive enough to assess their programs.
11. Greater communication between funder and some agencies was needed on how best to access more AAPI-2 Forms and data entry space on the “assessingparent.com” website.
12. Utilization of control groups would best determine if the treatment was effective.
13. To aggregate all outcome data, every agency needs to have similar treatment protocols.

According to Dr. Randy Leite, any future evaluation used by OCF has to be multi-method. A single instrument will not work because of the differences among programs and populations served. The evaluation needs to include a standardized and customized component. Dr. Leite also suggests that OCF give programs feedback that they can use moving forward. That will allow OCF to determine best practices in the future.

The OCF staff has been working with Mr. Cunningham in developing a letterhead bid to select an evaluator for the fatherhood programs funded in the future.

VIII. Grantee Experience

Two OCF grantees located in Columbus were invited to present information about their fatherhood programs.

A. Action for Children

Sue Bobson said that the mission of Action for Children is to promote quality early learning environments for young children. They serve mothers and fathers in seven central Ohio counties: Franklin, Union, Delaware, Licking, Fairfield, Pickaway, and Madison. Their program uses

several different parenting curricula including *Art of Positive Parenting*, *Parents to Parents*, and *Father Factor*. Action for Children also works with the court system by providing the “Putting Children First” program. Franklin County Family Court requires all divorcing parents to complete the program. The Columbus Foundation awarded Action for Children a grant to translate materials into Spanish and provide the Father Factor program in Spanish.

Commissioner Boykin asked how many fathers Action for Children served. Ms. Bobson responded that they served 50 fathers during the first grant cycle and 150 during the second grant. They intend to serve 90 fathers over the next six months and 180 during the following grant cycle. Action for Children targets specific zip codes to make sure they serve low income fathers and they work closely with the Columbus Urban League to make sure they are not duplicating services.

B. Columbus Urban League

Glenn Harris shared a power point presentation about the services offered to fathers at the Columbus Urban League (CUL). Even though their fatherhood program is called the African American Male Initiative, they serve fathers of all races. The CUL works closely with the Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) and has CSEA staff working at the CUL. The CUL “Father 2 Father” program supplements their curriculum by inviting outside experts to present at their weekly fatherhood classes. The philosophy of the CUL is that you must, “change circumstances (get fathers access and visitation) to change attitudes (many fathers ask why they should pay child support if they can’t see their kids) to change behavior (get fathers to pay child support).”

Quarterly free activities (such as bowling, fishing, and skating) are offered for fathers and children to interact; these become mentoring opportunities because past graduates also participate.

All services CUL provides are free. Franklin CSEA refers about 20 % of their clients; the remaining 80% are walk-ins. Commissioner Susan Brown said that CUL and Franklin CSEA

partner on so many projects that she and Mr. Harris speak on a weekly basis. One of the things CUL has been able to track by working with Franklin CSEA is how child support payments have increased once a father graduates from the CUL program. Fathers who participated in the “Father 2 Father” program in 2008-2009 contributed more than \$295,000 to their children’s household. In the six months prior to starting the class, this same group contributed just \$78,752. Data like this shows the return on investment Ohio receives from funding fatherhood programs.

IX. The Ridge Project

Vice Chairman Kontur invited Ron and Cathy Tijerina, co-directors of The Ridge Project to present at the meeting. Vice Chairman Kontur also serves as the Chair of Reentry Coalition of North West Ohio where the Tijerinas are active members. They created The Ridge Project which works with incarcerated fathers and their families while Ron was serving 15 years in prison for a felony conviction. Mrs. Tijerina said that when you label and shame a father, you do that to his entire family who are the forgotten victims of incarceration. Their two sons speak in the community about what it was like to grow up with a father in prison.

The federal government recently awarded The Ridge Project \$4,000,000 for their reentry and fatherhood programs. In addition to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC) they work with the Ohio Department of Youth Services and schools to identify at risk youth. They currently have programs in 25 prisons throughout Ohio and plan to be in all Ohio prisons by the end of the year. According to Mr. Tijerina, the recidivism rate is low for fathers who participate in their programs.

X. Announcements & New Business

Mr. Alton Howard, Program Director of Light House Youth Services, attended the meeting.

Light House was the recipient of a five-year federal grant for a fatherhood demonstration project in Cincinnati but they did not receive new federal funding so they had to suspend their fatherhood program. The OCF recently selected Light House as one of its eight grantees but the funding has not yet been disbursed. Light House has a Memo of Understanding with their local CSEA and child support staff comes to Light House to work directly with fathers.

Commissioner Kimberly Dent shared a new video about how to establish paternity. This is the first of several videos the Office of Child Support is creating in partnership with ODRC.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 12:25am.