

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)  
Executive Director Report  
February 2016 – April 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. OCF continues to work with Contracts and Acquisition to obtain agreements and purchase orders for Ohio University and The Ohio State University Extension Financial Literacy program. OFA/Commission on Fatherhood scheduled interviews for the Project Manager and Research 2 positions. OCF staff participated in a conference call with ODRC staff regarding potential referrals and connections between the ODRC facilities and the NBNF fatherhood programs. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled to ensure that re-entering fathers who meet the criteria under the grant requirements are connected to the fatherhood program serving their areas.

**RECURRING MEETINGS/INITIATIVES**

***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.

***OCPIM (Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality) Steering Committee Conference***

***Call:*** OCF staff participated in the monthly Steering Committee conference call.

Recommendations from the seven strategy groups were drafted to be sent to Senator Jones. The Fatherhood Involvement in the Maternal and Child Health work group recommended the following:

1. Redefine the client in maternal and child health programming as the child rather than the mother/primary caregiver – leading to engagement of all caregivers in child's safety net in education services.
2. Include home visits for nonresidential fathers and other caregivers in all home visiting programs.
3. Provide safe sleep education and resources to all caregivers where infants sleep and/or nap.

**OCF Executive Director Report  
Feb. - April 2016, continued**

***Fatherhood Involvement in Maternal and Child Health Infant Mortality:*** OCF staff participated in the OCPIM (Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality) Fatherhood Involvement monthly conference call. The group discussed the upcoming changes to ODH policy as it relates to home visits. The group also discussed two articles from the Urban Institute regarding Engaging Low – Income Fathers in Home Visiting and Serving Young Fathers in Home Visiting Programs.

***OCPIM (Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality) Quarterly Meeting*** OCF staff participated in the OCPIM (Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality) quarterly meeting and provided updates on the Fatherhood Involvement in Maternal and Child Health Infant Mortality Work group with the Executive Steering Committee co-chairs.

***Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)/Racism in Infant Mortality Phone Conference:*** OCF staff participated on a phone conference with the SDOH/Racism in Infant Mortality workgroup. OCF staff decided to participate on this workgroup as well as co-chairing the Fatherhood Involvement workgroup. The hope is to bring the fatherhood concept to other workgroups created under the OCPIM Task Force.

***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). A call was scheduled to discuss the tablet/iPad purchases by the four sub-grantee fatherhood program. The HHS/ACF/OFA Grant Specialist joined the weekly call on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Also present on some calls is Steve Killpack from Ohio University. One week, Calvin Williams and Steve Killpack joined the call to discuss the training they will provide regarding “On My Shoulders” fatherhood curriculum. 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

***Call with Steve Killpack of OPNFF (Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families):*** OCF staff participated on a phone call with Steve Killpack to discuss “baby Elmo” curriculum and OPNFF’s potential involvement in the next round of the Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative.

***OCF State Grantee Conference Call:*** OCF staff participated in the second of ongoing monthly conference calls. This is opportunity for TANF funded grantees to share challenges and successes as well as learn topics of interest. Darryl Grayson provided a presentation on Recruitment and Retention of Fathers.

***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 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Discussion included how to complete the online registration and when to open registration to the public. These are standing weekly meetings as preparation for the state summit moves forward.

**OCF Executive Director Report**  
**Feb. - April 2016, continued**

***Columbus Urban League (CUL) Site Visit:*** OCF staff participated in a site visit to discuss the ongoing services provided by CUL to Moms2B participants. OCF is providing funding to CUL to provide services to fathers connected with mothers enrolled in the Moms2B Ohio State University program. The program 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).

***ODRC (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction)/OCS (Ohio Child Support) Quarterly Meeting:*** OCF staff participated in the meeting and shared feedback from OCF grantees regarding obstacles incarcerated fathers face regarding child support client data collection. Sub-grantees were asked to submit written feedback on each issue discussed. These meetings are ongoing.

***June is Responsible Fatherhood Month Application Review Meeting:*** OCF staff participated in the application review for the third round of funding for June is Responsible Fatherhood Month. Twenty-one (21) applications were received and eleven (11) were recommended for funding.

***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!

***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.

***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.

***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 a service provider contracted by Talbert House. 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.

**OCF Executive Director Report**  
**Feb. - April 2016, continued**

***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. It is important that OCF stay connected with the changes in the local community transportation system.

***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.

**OTHER MEETINGS AND PHONE CALLS**

***Meeting with Family and Youth Law Center (FYLC) (Capital University Law School):*** OCF staff met with representatives from FYLC regarding referrals to the federal grant program. Youth aging out of foster care. FYLC presented a letter of intent to make referrals in support of the New Beginnings for New Fathers federal grant proposal.

**OCF Executive Director Report**  
**Feb. - April 2016, continued**

***Forever Dads Tribute to Fatherhood:*** OCF staff attended the fifth annual Forever Dads Tribute to Fatherhood during which five exemplary fathers, were recognized and honored at this community-wide event attended by over 400 people.

***Columbus Urban League Father2Father Participant Graduation:*** OCF staff attended the Columbus Urban League's Father2Father and Choose 2 Change graduation ceremony. When possible OCF staff supports grantees and partners for the purpose of promoting fatherhood.

***Discuss Columbus Urban League Budget:*** OCF staff participated in a meeting to discuss amending the Columbus Urban League Budget for the upcoming SFY. Staff will continue to work with OFAM fiscal regarding those amendments.

***Columbus Urban League Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality Presentation:*** OCF staff provided a presentation to CUL practitioners on various Commission on Fatherhood events and initiatives to include information on the OCPIM Taskforce and the Fatherhood Involvement in Maternal and Child Health workgroup. CUL staff are seeking permission to join the taskforce and the Fatherhood Involvement workgroup.

***Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Training:*** OCF Staff attended mandatory PREA training at the Correction Reception Center. This training is mandatory for those who provide services and presentations in the correctional facilities.

***ODRC Restored Citizen Muskingum Event:*** OCF staff presented at the ODRC Restored Citizens event held at Muskingum University. OCF staff provided information regarding the target population of the New Beginnings for New Fathers (NBNF) federal grant.

***Discussion with Irene Varley Trainer from the Dibble Institute:*** OCF staff participated in a phone conference with Ms. Irene Varley, Dibble Institute "Love Notes" trainer. Ms. Varley was interested in discussing logistics regarding the training to be provided in Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Hamilton counties under the New Beginnings for New Fathers grant.

***Love Notes 2 Day Training:*** OCF funded (federal fatherhood grant) the two-day Love Notes training that took place in Franklin County. The training is a requirement prior to providing services to fathers. Services are scheduled to begin June 2016. The next two-day Love Notes training is scheduled in Cincinnati (Talbert House).

***Call with Tanya Howell (Federal Grant Specialist):*** OCF staff participated on a phone call with HHS / ACF Federal Grant Specialist, Tanya Howell to discuss and clarify requirements tied to the New Beginnings for New Fathers federal grant. Ms. Howell will follow-up on the question regarding union dues and the allowable charges against the grant as well as the Director's signature on the quarterly Program Performance Reports.

***HMRF (Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood) Monthly Conference Call:*** OCF staff participated in the second of ongoing mandatory monthly conference calls with all of the HMRF grantees supervised by Tanya Howell. Ms. Howell provided updates on the grant and answers to previously submitted questions by the grantees.

**OCF Executive Director Report**  
**Feb. - April 2016, continued**

***No Kidding Ohio:*** OCF staff participated in a phone call with the program lead of “No Kidding Ohio”. No Kidding Ohio is a peer-to-peer program implemented in various schools in Fairfield County that provides education and information to youth regarding the responsibilities and difficulties that come with having a baby as an unprepared teen. The staff will present the program as the next Commission meeting scheduled for April 21, 2016.

***Call with Region V Fatherhood Program Rep. Lois Rakov:*** OCF staff participated in a call with Ms. Lois Rakov regarding topics for the May 2016 Region V Fatherhood Conference call agenda. OCF staff to follow-up with Cuyahoga County’s “Children of Incarcerated Parents” program to gauge their interest

***Phone Conference with Dr. Brian Moore:*** OCF staff participated in a phone conference with Dr. Moore from Passages. OCF is funding Passages under the New Beginnings for New Fathers federal grant, and the program voiced concerns regarding training and timeframe to hire staff funded by the grant. OCF will not conduct training until all four sites have hired on their specified staff.

***Allen Oakwood Correctional Facility Re-entry Fair:*** OCF staff participated in an ODRC Re-entry Fair. OCF staff provided information and resources to assist the inmates with their successful return to society.

***Meeting with Joseph Hill of OMHAS (Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services):*** OCF staff met with Joseph Hill of OMHAS. He is the newly appointed designee of the OMHAS Director to serve on the Commission. Provided materials, welcome and overview of the work of the Commission and role of commissioners.

***HMRF Webinar on the nFORM system:*** OCF staff participated in a webinar provided by Mathematica, the firm contracted by HMRF to develop the online data collection tool (nFORM) for the federal grant.

***Phone Conference with Jessica Pearson of (FRPN) Federal Research and Project Network:*** OCF discussed the details of the free one day training FRPN will provide at the May 25<sup>th</sup> State Fatherhood Summit. Jessica Pearson, Center for Policy Research, and Rebecca Kauffman, Temple University will present a Special Certificate Program for fatherhood practitioners in which participants can earn a Certificate in Evaluation Practice from Temple University.

***Social Determinants of Health Webinar:*** OCF staff participated in a webinar provided by the Ohio Department of Health on the Social Determinants of Health - A Healthy People 2020 Spotlight on Health Webinar.

***Conference Call to discuss next round of Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative Training and Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (OPNFF)'s involvement:*** OCF staff spoke with Emily Miran of ODJFS Legal and Matthew Cunningham from TANF about using OPNFF as the trainers for the next round of the county mobilization. Miran confirmed that no bid was needed because OPNFF created the training materials that will be used.

**OCF Executive Director Report**  
**Feb. - April 2016, continued**

***Meeting with Freedom CDC/Talbert House:*** OCF staff met with Freedom CDC and Talbert House in Middletown (Butler County), Ohio. The meeting was scheduled to discuss how the Commission on Fatherhood and Talbert House can assist with specific programming for restored citizens (fathers) in Butler and Warren counties. Freedom CDC will be working with ODRC to implement a Re-entry Coalition in Butler/Warren (Joint Effort)

***County Mobilization Call with Katrina Wilson (Butler County Contact) and OCF Staff:*** OCF staff reached out to Contact Persons in seven counties to gauge their interest in OCF and OPNFF's County Mobilization project. Ms. Katrina Wilson, the representative and point of contact for Butler County, had some questions about the parameters of the project that OCF staff was able to answer with a telephone conference.

***MOMS2B and Columbus Urban League Meeting:*** OCF staff met with staff involved in the pilot project to discuss successes and barriers and plans for a May 21<sup>st</sup> Boot Camp for New Dads class at the Columbus Urban League

***Site Visit to Passages:*** OCF staff traveled to Ravenna, Ohio to meet with the staff at Passages one of the TANF funded Responsible Fatherhood grantees. Staff explained their program procedures, partners and challenges thus far. OCF staff was able to offer guidance and assistance with gray-area issues involving data collection.

***Refuge Ministries:*** OCF staff met with Rebekah Linton as requested by the Director. Refuge Ministries is a non-profit faith-based agency that offers housing and detox to the drug and alcohol addicted population. OCF staff attended the orientation and was provided a tour of one of the housing facilities. If the participant is accepted into the program, he is transported to Vinton County to begin detox. The program contains four phases with the end result to include employment and self-sufficiency.