

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Minutes from the Meeting of
Tuesday, January 27, 2009

<p>Commissioners Present: Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman Councilman Kevin Conwell Mr. Cedric Collins Ms. Rose Handon Mr. Thomas “Eddie” Joyce Mr. Steven Killpack Mr. David Kontur Mr. Scott Neely</p>	<p>OCF Staff Present: Mr. J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director Ms. Monica Mahoney Mr. Brandon Smith Mr. Stanley Upton</p>
<p>Commissioners Represented by Designee: Senator Ray Miller (by Lawrence Jackson) Representative Kevin Bacon (by Sean McCullough)</p>	<p>Guests: Pastor Eugene Norris, Summit County Fatherhood Initiative Ms. Karen White, TANF Ms. Sue Cook, TANF Ms. Shannon Keefer, LCFC Intern Mr. Alan Bannister, GOFBCI Mr. Abbas Ahmad, First Cleveland Mosque Mr. Winston Gragg, F.O.O. Fathers Ms. Rhonda “RJ” Frazier, The Transformation Place</p>

Summary of Commission Meeting

I. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:40am by Executive Director J. Tracy Robinson. Chairman Peter Lawson Jones was en route from Cleveland and arrived soon thereafter to chair the meeting. A quorum was achieved.

II. Minutes from December, 2008

Commissioner Scott Neely moved and Commissioner Rose Handon seconded that the minutes from the meeting of December 16, 2008, be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Executive Director Report

A. Budget as of January 27, 2009 (unchanged from December)

Account ID Descriptions	Budget	Encumbrance Balance	Remaining Budget
500 Personal Services Payroll	\$175,000	\$0	\$175,000
510 Purchases Personal Services	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
520 Supplies and Maintenance	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
530 Equipment	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
550 Subsidies and Shared Revenue	\$2,250,000	\$2,249,709	\$219

Executive Director Robinson noted that “500 Personal Services Payroll” includes his salary, but it has not yet been deducted from that line item because he cannot access the budget. Chairman Jones inquired whether Representative Vernon Sykes is aware that the Commission would like a line item budget for the OCF, and the Executive Director suggested that this issue be addressed in executive session.

B. Outreach:

Executive Director Robinson made presentations at the following:

- Annual Fatherhood Celebration, COSI, Columbus, Ohio (December 26, 2008). COSI Director of Community Relations, Azuka MuMin, said this gathering was the most diverse of any COSI event and that there were 1100 attendees including 500 dads.
- Ohio Grantmakers Forum (“OGF”) accepted a proposal to host a “Lunch & Learn” session in Cleveland in May 2009 featuring Roland Warren, President of NFI, and Executive Director Robinson. OGF wants to make a connection between funding

fatherhood programs and families' economic stability. Executive Director Robinson plans to host similar forums both in Columbus and in rural areas throughout Ohio.

Executive Director Robinson met with and briefed the following people:

- Congresswoman Mary Jo Kilroy, (D-Ohio, 15th District) Columbus, Ohio (January 24, 2009). Congresswoman Kilroy was not aware of the “Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Family Act” introduced by Senators Bayh and Obama in June, 2007. Her Chief of Staff, Randy Borntrager, will monitor the legislation as it moves forward.
- State Representative Vernon Sykes (D-44th District), Akron, Ohio (January 5, 2009). Representative Sykes will serve as finance chair of the Ohio House of Representatives, and he would like a fatherhood program in Akron to be funded in the next grant cycle.
- Ms. Sharon Gordon of Urban Trend Setters Magazine, Columbus, Ohio (December 30, 2008). Discussed outreach to African-American community and requested that Executive Director Robinson write an article for the magazine, which was published in the January, 2009 issue.
- Mr. Donald Ross of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Columbus, Ohio (December 30, 2008). Discussed prevention of premature fatherhood among teenage males in the African-American community. Alan Bannister said Omega Psi Phi Fraternity could also be a resource on this issue and that he would provide the name of a contact person.
- Retired Judge Andy Devine, Findlay, Ohio (December 29, 2008). Judge Devine requested that Governor Strickland proclaim 2009 the Year of the Parent. Executive

Director Robinson submitted the proclamation request but was told the Governor does not make yearlong proclamations. Chairman Jones suggested that the state legislators who serve on the OCF jointly sponsor a proclamation declaring June, 2009 Fathers' Month.

C. Administrative:

- Resubmitted PayCard paperwork in order to access supplies and equipment budget line items.
- Developed travel reimbursement process with ODJFS fiscal for OCF staff and Commissioners.
- Went online with the OCF website. The URL is www.fatherhood.ohio.gov.

IV. Grantees Update

Executive Director Robinson hosted a conference call meeting with OFI grantees on January 8, 2009. The minutes from the conference call are incorporated into the subject OCF minutes. Chairman Jones commended Executive Director Robinson for visiting all ten grantees in one month stating that such efforts will favorably impress prospective funders. Chairman Jones requested that OCF staff keep a list of lessons learned from the first round of grant funding.

V. Discussion and Decision

A discussion ensued about revising the RFP for the next budget cycle:

- Executive Director Robinson highly recommended retaining Susan Philliber, Ph.D. of Philliber Research Associates to rewrite the RFP and develop an OCF grantee evaluation.

Dr. Philliber's research on best practices in fatherhood programming was shared at the September retreat.

- Commissioner Handon noted that the current RFP requires each grantee to create its own evaluation. She recommended that the Office of Research and Accountability assist with future evaluations.
- Commissioner Kevin Conwell stated that future RFPs should include quantitative and qualitative measurements.
- Commissioner Steven Killpack volunteered to serve on the OCF ad hoc committee with Commissioners David Kontur and Conwell to review current grantee program reports.

A. Election of Officers

Commissioner Killpack moved that the OCF approve the following slate of officers: Peter Lawson Jones as Chairman, David Kontur as Vice Chairman, and Rose Handon as Secretary. Commissioner Conwell seconded the motion, and the slate of officers was unanimously approved.

- Commissioner Handon noted that she is retiring from the ODJFS effective March 1, 2009, after 31 years of government service. While she wants to continue to serve on the OCF as Secretary, Governor Strickland would have to appoint her as one of the five representatives of the general public provided for in ORC 5101.34(A)(6). While there are currently four vacancies on the Commission, none are Governor appointees.
- Chairman Jones said that he is working to get the vacancies on the Commission filled. He has spoken with Speaker of the House Armond Budish about replacing Representatives John White and Eugene Miller. Legislative Aide Sean McCullough

noted that all of legislators need to be formally reappointed by either the Speaker or the President of the Ohio Senate. Chairman Jones will contact them and make this request.

B. Revision of Bylaws

Commissioner Killpack moved that the Commission approve the Bylaws as amended. Commissioner Joyce seconded the motion, and the Bylaws were unanimously adopted.

C. Revision of OCF Statute

Chairman Jones suggested that discussion of the statute revisions be tabled and be the main topic at the March meeting. Commissioner Killpack will gather discussion notes from previous meetings and work with Chairman Jones, Commissioner Neely and Executive Director Robinson to ensure that all proposed revisions are ready for review and approval at the next OCF meeting.

VI. New Business & Announcements

A. Travel Expense Reimbursement

Monica Mahoney, OCF Staff, reviewed the procedures and paperwork necessary for reimbursement of Commissioners' expenses.

B. Announcements

- Commissioner Conwell announced that, as Chairman of the Cleveland City Council Safety Committee, he has organized a resource fair for young African-American males on March 26, 2009, at the Glenville Recreation Center because of his concern about the high number of black on black homicides in Cleveland. If the March event is successful,

he wants to hold similar fairs throughout Cleveland and involve the Commission on African-American Males.

- Executive Director Robinson announced that he is meeting with OSU Athletic Director, Gene Smith, to discuss father-athletes and how OSU can better support them.
- June marks the 100th anniversary of the celebration of Father's Day in America. To capitalize on this, Executive Director Robinson is working with Al Grimes, Coordinator of the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative, to have a statewide Fatherhood Summit on June 17 - 20, 2009. ODJFS Deputy Director Bernard Houston of the Office of Contracts and Acquisitions has given Executive Director Robinson preliminary approval to begin negotiations with Cuyahoga County for the conference. All OCF grantees will attend and highlight their programs.
- Brandon Smith, OCF Intern, has created a Facebook page for the OCF which will have a link on the website, www.fatherhood.ohio.gov.

VII. Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Place: Lazarus Building

Conference Room A501

50 West Town Street

Columbus, Ohio

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.