

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (“OCF”)**

**Minutes from the Meeting of**

**Thursday, June 3, 2010**

<p><b>Commissioners Present:</b></p> <p>Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman</p> <p>Mr. David Kontur, Vice Chairman</p> <p>Mr. Robert Boykins</p> <p>Mr. Robert “Bo” Chilton</p> <p>Mr. Cedric Collins</p> <p>Mr. Kevin Conwell</p> <p>Ms. Kimberly Dent</p> <p>Thomas Eddie Joyce</p> <p>Dr. Diane Karther</p> <p>Mr. Steven Killpack</p> <p>Mr. Scott Neely</p>	<p><b>Guests:</b></p> <p>Dr. Diana Leigh Morgan National Center for Urban Solutions</p> <p>Ms. Christina Hutchins National Center for Urban Solutions</p> <p>Ms. Necia Boone Guest of Commissioner Conwell</p> <p>Winston Gragg Guest of Commissioner Conwell</p> <p>Robert Prince Stark County Community Action Agency</p>
<p><b>Commissioners Represented by Designee:</b></p> <p>Director Angela Cornelius-Dawson (by Jewel Smith)</p> <p>Representative Marian Harris (by Nicole Robinson)</p> <p>Director Greg Hargett (by Kenneth Janosko)</p>	<p><b>OCF Staff Present:</b></p> <p>Mr. J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director</p> <p>Ms. Monica Mahoney</p> <p>Ms. Whitney Logan</p>

## **I. Call to Order & Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am by Vice Chairman David Kontur. Chairman Peter Lawson Jones was en route and arrived shortly thereafter. A quorum was achieved.

## **II. Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests**

Vice Chair Kontur introduced himself and welcomed our guests to the meeting. He welcomed new Commissioner Kimberly Dent, Program Administrator for Outreach, Education and Grants Management of the State Office of Child Support. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (“ODJFS”) Director Lumpkin appointed Commissioner Dent to serve as his designee. New Commissioner Greg Hargett was not able to attend the meeting but Kenneth Janosko of Governor’s Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives (“GOFBCI”) attended on his behalf. Commissioner Hargett replaced former Commissioner Greg Landsman as the Director of GOFBCI and will serve as Governor Strickland’s designee on the Commission.

## **III. Approval of February 4, 2010 Minutes**

Commissioner Cedric Collins moved, with Commissioner Scott Neely seconding, that the minutes from the meeting of February 4, 2010, be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

## **IV. Executive Director’s Report**

Director Robinson provided a written summary of his activities in February, March, April and May, a synopsis of which has been incorporated in these minutes. Director Robinson highlighted the Commission’s and/or his involvement in the following events and activities:

- Presented and participated on “My Brother's Keeper” panel at Columbus State Community College, Columbus. (February 17, 2010)

- Co-sponsored and presented at Franklin County Children Services' Black History Month event entitled, "Black Fathers...the Best Kept Secret: the History, the Perceptions, and the Love." (February 25, 2010)
- Met with Councilman Kevin Conwell and Winston Gragg at Cleveland City Schools in Cleveland. (March 5, 2010)
- Presented at Greater Columbus Helping Hands Gala and distributed OCF "Committed Father" lapel pins and pledge cards. (April 10, 2010)
- Partnered with Ohio Child Support Enforcement Agencies ("OCSEA") Directors' Association to host Fatherhood Seminar at OCSEA Annual Conference. Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement Commissioner Vicki Turetsky participated on fatherhood panel. (April 20, 2010)
- Conducted grantee orientation conference call with funded programs HARCATUS and Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative. (February 22, 2010)
- Held first monthly conference call with grantees. (April 6, 2010)

## **V. Legislation & Policy: HB 349 Update**

Ms. Monica Mahoney briefed the Commission on the progress of HB 349 since the last Commission meeting. The House of Representatives approved the bill on February 17th, 71 votes in favor, 23 votes in opposition. Thereafter, the House referred HB 349 to the Senate which assigned the bill to the Health, Human Services and Aging Committee ("HHSa"). Prior to hearings being scheduled, Director Robinson and Ms. Mahoney met with and briefed every member of the Senate HHSa Committee on the provisions and impact of the bill.

- At the March 23<sup>rd</sup> hearing of proponent testimony before the HHSa Committee, Representative Tim Derickson and Director Robinson testified. Commissioner Scott Neely was also present

and provided written testimony. No opponent testimony was offered during subsequent hearings.

- On May 12<sup>th</sup> the HHSA Committee unanimously recommended passage of the bill by a 9 to 0 vote.
- On May 19<sup>th</sup> HB 349 first appeared on the Senate calendar below the black line. Chairman Peter Lawson Jones called and left messages for the Senate Rules Committee Chair, President Bill Harris and Vice Chair, Senator Tom Niehaus.
- As a follow up to the Chairman's calls, on May 26<sup>th</sup> Ms. Mahoney drafted and hand-delivered a letter to President Harris requesting that he schedule HB 349 for consideration and vote by the Senate prior to their summer recess.
- The day of the Commission meeting is the last scheduled day of Senate session and HB 349 is still below the black line. Commissioners Scott Neely and Cedric Collins both think that the Senate will adjourn for the summer after a marathon final session today. Chairman Jones said that he would call President Harris before leaving Columbus and Commissioner Diane Karther who resides in President Harris' district said that she would go to President Harris' office today and request a Senate vote on HB 349. Chairman Jones said he is confident that the bill will pass and that we need to remain patient.

## **VI. Fatherhood Program Funding**

### **A. 2010-2011 Grantees**

Director Robinson provided a handout summarizing the current grantees' invoices and the number of fathers engaged in their programs. According to the terms of their contract, grantees are required to enroll at least thirteen new fathers each month in their fatherhood courses. Moreover, all fathers participating in fatherhood courses are required to complete the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory ("AAPI") before and after receiving curriculum. The AAPI is an evaluative tool that is used worldwide

to assess child-rearing attitudes and behaviors, the results of which will provide measurable data on the impact of fatherhood services on the recipients' attitudes over time. Director Robinson will email a copy of the AAPI assessment to the Commissioners.

Director Robinson noted that HARCATUS, Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative and OSU Greene County have just received funding and will complete their first program reports and invoice submissions by mid-June.

#### **B. Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative**

Director Robinson presented an overview of the Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative described on the OCF website. The long-term goal of the initiative is for all eighty-eight Ohio counties to have a fatherhood program and for OCF funding to flow through the county to local programs. Each five member county leadership team is to include a county commissioner or state representative, a judge, the county directors of child support and child welfare as well as a leader from a faith-based entity and/or local business. All members of the leadership team must sign and submit a commitment letter. The OCF will allocate funding for planning and/or an initial pilot program. Director Robinson emphasizes that this is a one-time funding source for counties to begin fatherhood programs. Counties will be selected based upon when they submit a commitment letter signed by all leadership team members.

Director Robinson participated on a review team that considered proposals from national consultants to assist with the Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative. All that remains is for ODJFS Contract Office to issue an award letter to the winning proposal and further details cannot be discussed until the Contract Office releases this information.

#### **C. Child Support Enforcement Grant**

Commissioner Steve Killpack briefed the Commission on a grant proposal submitted to the US Department of Health and Human Services to create a "Healthy Parenting Resource Center".

Commissioner Killpack, Commissioner Dent, Athena Riley from the Office of Child Support and Monica Mahoney all wrote sections of the grant. The grant provides up to \$200,000 in funding over three years.

According to the grant abstract which was provided to the Commissioners: The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services through the Office of Child Support and the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, in partnership with the Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families propose to create internet and mobile phone databases that contain information that will assist low-income families with developing and maintaining the emotional, medical, and financial support of their children. The database will be created and maintained by ODJF staff and based on the OCF website with links to the websites of OPNFF, the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks and the Ohio Supreme Court.

This would be the first comprehensive state website in Ohio with links to information regarding child support, visitation, fatherhood programs and work force development. Commissioners Killpack and Dent believe the proposal is likely to be funded because of the unique collaboration between the Office of Child Support and fatherhood organizations.

## **VII. Engagement: OCF Outreach**

### **A. Online Request for Funding**

Director Robinson presented information about a new avenue of funding posted on the OCF website. Community or faith-based organization can seek OCF co-sponsorship and funding up to \$3000 for community events that promote the importance of fathers' involvement in their children's lives. There is an online form and guidelines on the OCF website. Director Robinson emphasized that this is not a formal request for proposals but merely a another way that the OCF can further its mission. All proposals will be reviewed in light of the OCF mission, budget and time constraints. Director Robinson

asked for two Commissioners to help him review and make decisions regarding these requests for funding. Commissioners Robert Boykins and Dent volunteered.

## **B. Website**

Director Robinson presented the newly designed OCF website highlighting the speaker request form, outreach funding request and the Commissioners' page. Director Robinson requested all Commissioners who have not yet submitted their biographies to please do so in a timely fashion. Chairman Jones said the website seemed very easy to navigate and contains valuable information.

## **VIII. Training: Child Welfare**

Director Robinson will be conducting trainings in Summit and Franklin Counties for child welfare employees on how to locate and engage non-resident fathers. Social workers will learn strategies designed to encourage partnerships with fathers and promote positive outcomes of safety, permanency and well being for children. Participants will: 1) review the benefits to children when fathers are involved; 2) introduce participants to strategies for engaging non-resident fathers in the child welfare cases; 3) learn about diligent search promising practices; 4) better understand the cultural needs of men and fathers; 5) increase their agencies' fatherhood cultural competency; and 6) examine their own biases and assumptions about fathers.

## **IX. Announcements & New Business**

Chairman Jones announced that the Sixth Annual Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Conference will take place in Cleveland on June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited and registration is free.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Chairman Jones wished everyone a Happy Fathers' Day. The meeting adjourned at 1:17 pm.