

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)
Executive Director Report
May-June 2014**

Responsible Fatherhood Month Events

In celebration of fathers, OCF is funding and co-sponsoring fatherhood celebrations and responsible fatherhood campaigns throughout Ohio during the month of June. Thanks to the partnership of many community-based agencies and organizations, these celebrations are reaching into urban, suburban and rural areas. Please see list of events attended by OCF staff and fellow Commissioners thus far below.

June 6 - Passages, Inc. Father's Day Conference
June 13 - Esperanza, Inc. Let's Play Together
June 13 - Montgomery County Job & Family Services Fatherhood Resource Fair
June 14 - Columbus Urban League Fishing with Dad
June 14 - Family Works Fatherhood & Co-parenting 1-Day Workshop
June 14 - Montgomery County Job & Family Services My Dad Rocks
June 14 - Seneca County Family & Children First Council Dad Fest

OCF Grantees

FameFathers Fatherhood Graduation: OCF staff attended FameFather's fatherhood graduation ceremony with over 20 father's participating. These fathers completed the 24/7 Dads curriculum at the Summit County Children Services.

Nationwide Children's Teen Parent Clinic and Action for Children: OCF participated in a meeting to connect Nationwide Children's Teen Parent Centering staff with Action for Children staff. The goal was to discuss a venue/curriculum and services to provide to teen fathers and their families.

Urban Light Ministries (Eli Williams): OCF staff participated in a phone conference with Urban Light Ministries on "Cause Marketing". The discussion focused on ideas regarding marketing Responsible Fatherhood throughout the state.

Trainings, Conferences & Retreats

State Fatherhood Summit: OCF staff co-hosted its first State Fatherhood Summit with Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families at Crowne Plaza North – Worthington. The summit, which began on May 21st and ended on May 22nd, provided workshops, plenary sessions, vendors and networking opportunities for fatherhood practitioners and social and human services professionals throughout the state.

Center for Family Safety and Healing-Family Violence Training: OCF staff and Center for Family Safety and Healing Domestic Violence Trainers debriefed on the April 22nd training. We discussed takeaways from the training and possible follow up training to complement the first training.

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Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative Training: OCF staff and OPNFF staff conducted training to Richland, Licking and Coshocton county representatives on how to mobilize their counties to begin or continue fatherhood programs in their county. The three counties also participated in a webinar to welcome them to the project.

County Meetings

Meeting with leadership in Delaware County: OCF staff met with Delaware County leadership to discuss their plans to apply for the Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative Mobilization dollars. A representative from Action for Children was also in attendance to provide information on the direct services that are being provided in Delaware County as a result of the funds awarded by OCF (Ohio Commission on Fatherhood).

Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative-Richland County Community Conversation: OCF staff facilitated the Richland County Community Conversation. The Community Conversation is an opportunity for stakeholders interested in making a difference in the lives of fathers and children, learn about the problem of father absence and brainstorm about solutions in their local communities.

Stark County Fatherhood Coalition: OCF staff attended the Stark County Fatherhood Coalition Meeting to provide updates on OCF statewide activities as well as provide feedback and suggestions on sustaining the Fatherhood activities in Stark County.

Building Assets for Fathers & Families (BAFF)

Building Assets for Fathers and Families (Evaluation and Billing): OCF staff participated in a meeting with the OCS staff, the project manager and the evaluator for the BAFF project. The discussion was based around the type of information that the committee would like to request from the Support Enforcement Tracking System (Reports Section) as it relates to the BAFF non-custodial parent participant. An additional meeting was held with staff from OSU Extension to discuss billing.

Prison Outreach

Correctional Institutions Child Support and Fatherhood Q & A: OCF staff provided Responsible Fatherhood presentations at a number of Correctional Institutions. The Responsible Fatherhood presentation is provided prior to the Child Support presentation. Staff presented at the following correctional institutions:

1. Allen Correctional
2. Lebanon Correctional
3. Madison Correctional
4. Marion Correctional
5. Oakwood Correctional

Child Support Meetings

Child Support Strategic Workgroup: OCF staff participated in the Child Support Strategic Workgroup. The group meets quarterly to discuss ways to enhance the Child Support program. OCF staff also participates on the Re-branding and Consistency subcommittees.

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Child Support Awareness Month Committee: OCF staff attended the Child Support Awareness Month committee meeting. The committee has chosen three posters on which to vote. The message remains the same as the previous year, “Support is Key”. The committee also began to discuss the Governor’s Resolution for this year. August is Child Support Awareness Month.

Child Support Re-Branding Meeting: OCF staff participated in the Child Support Strategic Workgroup/Rebranding meeting. During the meeting the group went over the results of the recent survey sent to custodial and non-custodial parents.

Child Support Consistency (Sub-committee) Meeting: OCF staff participated in the Child Support Strategic Workgroup/Consistency meeting. During the meeting the group briefly discussed the results of the recent survey sent to all of the County Child Support Agencies. A face-to-face meeting will be scheduled to more thoroughly go over the results as well as next steps.

Phone Call with Summit County Child Support Director: OCF staff provided information regarding data collection tools implemented as well as preliminary results of the participants being served by the OCF funded grantees. The Summit County Child Support Director is a member of their local Fatherhood Coalition.

Office of Child Support (OCS)/Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) Subcommittee Meeting: OCF staff attended a meeting with OCS and DRC staff to plan the third Building Bridges between Corrections and Child Support regional training. The geographical focus will be Southwestern Ohio.

Other Meetings of Note

Meeting with Governor’s Office of Faith Based & Community Initiatives: OCF staff met with staff from the Governor’s Office of Faith Based Initiatives to discuss the activities at the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood. OCF staff also requested a welcome to the State Fatherhood letter from the Governor.

No Kidding Ohio: OCF staff observed the No Kidding Ohio Program at Bexley High School. This program is designed to prevent teen pregnancies and OCF staff would like to help expand this program throughout Ohio.

MORPC (Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission): OCF staff met with staff from MORPC to discuss transportation barriers and solutions for urban fathers and families.

Columbus Urban League: OCF staff met with Urban League staff to discuss services in the Weiland Park area and ongoing discussions with Pastor Roby and Moms2B.

Moms2B: OCF staff met with staff from Moms2B as set up by the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. The Moms2B three program locations are seeking to offer services to the fathers of the families enrolled in the programs. Action for Children is exploring assisting at OSU East and Mt Carmel West. The Urban League is exploring assisting at the Weiland Park location.

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Boys and Girls Club: OCF staff met with the executive director from the Girls and Boys Club regarding the resources that can assist Ohio's children and families. Future meetings will be scheduled to continue to discuss collaboration projects.

Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant: OCF staff attended a meeting at the invitation of Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMAS) to discuss the logic model related to the grant that was awarded to OMAS. The grant requires collaboration from various local and state agencies to implement a mission and plan to improve Ohio's education systems.