



**Commission on  
Fatherhood**

Ted Strickland, Governor  
J. Tracy Robinson, Director



**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Meeting  
Tuesday, January 27, 2009  
10:30 am  
Lazarus Building  
Room A501  
50 West Town Street  
Columbus, Ohio**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order & Welcome Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman
- II. Minutes from December 2008
- III. Executive Director's Report J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director
  - A. Budget
  - B. Outreach
- IV. OCF Grantees Update J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director
- V. Discussion and Decision
  - A. Election of Officers Rose Handon, Commissioner
  - B. Revision of Bylaws Steve Killpack, Commissioner
  - C. Revision of OCF Statute
- VI. Announcements & New Business
  - A. Travel Expense Reimbursement Monica Mahoney, OCF Staff
- VII. Next Meeting
  - Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2009
  - Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
  - Place: Lazarus Building  
Conference Room A501  
50 West Town Street  
Columbus, Ohio
- VIII. Adjournment

# Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

10:30 am-2:00 pm

<p><b>Commissioners Present:</b> Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman Councilman Kevin Conwell Mr. Robert Bo Chilton Mr. Cedric Collins Dr. Diane Karther Mr. Steven Killpack Mr. Scott Neely</p>	<p><b>OCF Staff Present:</b> Mr. J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director Ms. Monica Mahoney Mr. Derrick Bryan Mr. Stanley Upton</p>
<p><b>Commissioners Participating Via Telephone:</b> Ms. Angela Woodson</p> <p><b>Commissioners Represented by Designee:</b> Senator Ray Miller (by Lawrence Jackson)</p>	<p><b>Guests::</b> Mr. Roland C. Warren, President, National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) Mr. Erik Vecere, Associate Vice President of National Programming, NFI Mr. Calvin Williams, Immediate Past President, OPNF Mr. James McDonald, Vice President, OPNF Pastor Eugene Norris, Summit County Fatherhood Initiative Ms. Bessica Brown, OSU Intern Mr. Al Grimes, Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative Rev. DeWitt Chapell, Jr., Everlasting Baptist Church Ms. Darlene Brooks, Everlasting Baptist Church Mr. Carlton Garner, Glenville Development Corp. Mr. Gerald Anderson, Faith Fatherhood Action Initiative</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. There was not a quorum for the meeting.

## II. Executive Director Report

### A. Budget as of December 16, 2008 (unchanged from November)

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

### B. Outreach:

#### The Executive Director made presentations at the following:

Ohio CSEA Directors' Association (OCDA) partnership Conference – Child Support Cherry Valley, Newark, Ohio. (November 21, 2008)

#### The Executive Director provided briefings at the following meetings:

Eric Fenner, Director of Franklin County Children's Services agreed to serve on the proposed Franklin County Fatherhood Initiative comprised of a Juvenile Judge, the Director of Child Support, a County Commissioner, members of faith community and business leaders. (December 15, 2008)

Retired Judge Mark R. Schweikert, Executive Director of the Ohio Judicial Conference (OJC), Juvenile Judges Association holds a conference twice a year. Judge Schweikert wishes to attend a future OCF meeting to provide judicial perspective on fatherhood at a date to be determined.

State Representative Edna Brown (D-48<sup>th</sup> District): provided an overview of the OCF and discussed OCF grantee, East Toledo Family Center. (November 20, 2008)

State Representative, Tracy Maxwell Heard (D-26<sup>th</sup> District): provided an overview of the OCF and discussed OCF grantee, Alvis House. Representative Heard serves on Alvis House Board. (November 20, 2008)

Kim Friedman, J.D., Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office, Program Developer for the Midwest Region: discussed "How We Grow Funding." (November 19, 2008)

Azuka I. MuMin, Director of Community Relations, COSI: discussed Tracy Robinson's participation at Fatherhood Celebration at COSI on Friday, December 26, 2008. Mr. Robinson will provide opening remarks. (November 21, 2008)

## **C. Administrative:**

### **1. OCF Staffing:**

Hired Monica Mahoney, Administrative Assistant 2 (part-time) position.

Monica has an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and a law degree from Fordham University School of Law. She has extensive experience working with diverse clients and is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese. Monica will serve as Tracy's Administrative Coordinator.

### **2. OCF Internship Program:**

Hired Derrick Bryan, Policy Staff Coordinator Position (part-time), and Stanley Upton, Fiscal Intern (part-time)

Derrick has an undergraduate degree from Morehouse College, an MA in Sociology from Ohio State University and is expected to complete his PhD in Sociology at OSU in 2009. He has expertise in fatherhood and criminology issues and his thesis was titled, "On the Outside Looking In; A Life History Approach to Low-Income African American Males' Conception of Fatherhood." Derrick will serve as the Policy Coordinator and will research and draft position papers for OCF.

Stanley has a bachelor degree in business administration from Tennessee State University and is a second year Masters student at the Fisher College of Business at OSU with an expected graduation date of June 2009. He will create an invoicing system and work directly with grantees and TANF on fiscal issues.

## **D. Grantees Update**

Executive Director Robinson hosted a conference call meeting with OFI grantees on December 11, 2008, at 1:30 pm. Karen White and Sue Cook, both TANF Interagency Unit Specialists attended the meeting. All grantees participated except Ironton-Lawrence County CAO Head Start and WSOS.

The Executive Director has established a monthly conference call in which all ten grantees are to participate. The first conference call helped clarify many concerns including the formatting of invoices and administrative fees vs. costs. The Executive Director emphasized that grantees must describe and document all costs. Since the subject grants are reimbursable, the recipients must document how funds were spent. Grantees have until June 30, 2009 to expend their subsidies.

During the invoice approval process, grantees mail invoices in triplicate. The original invoice must bear original signatures. The Executive Director reviews submissions which are then transmitted to TANF Inter-Agency Section for further review. Each grantee is assigned to either Sue Cook or Karen White for TANF review. After completion, additional documentation or information may be requested. If OCF receives invoice in triplicate with signatures and all supporting documentation, the approval process can be completed within 4-5 days.

The Executive Director will ensure both that all grantees participate in the monthly conference calls and that people who handle the grantees' program budget and the manager are also involved.

Commissioner Jones recommended that the Executive Director personally visit five programs per month and all ten within a two month period. In addition to pre-announced inspections, the Executive Director is to conduct an annual TANF audit visit as well. Commissioner Jones stated grantees should be ready to receive the Executive Director without advance notice. He prefers "I'm here" visits as opposed to "I'm coming" visits. The Executive Director plans to do a combination of scheduled and unannounced stops. The failure to invite the Executive Director to program events will also raise a "red flag".

Commissioner Jones emphasized that at least 90% of the grantees must show that their programs are successful or there may not be funding for OCF in the next budget. Angela Woodson recommended the withdrawal of funding from grantees that do not perform.

Dr. Diane Karther also recommended that the Executive Director visit all ten grantees. She too, expressed concern that some programs have not demonstrated substantial progress. Steven Killpack suggested that at least one of the Commissioners accompany the Executive Director on his visits to impress upon the recipients the seriousness of the visits. Al Grimes suggested that the Executive Director create a database listing the goals of each program to enable the tracking of each agency's progress during the monthly visits. The Executive Director intends to create a checklist to send to grantees prior to each visit.

The Executive Director will meet with all state senators and house representatives whose districts were awarded OFI funding. He has already met with State Representative Edna Brown (D-48th District, Toledo) and State Representative Tracy Maxwell Heard (D-26th District, Columbus). Commissioner Jones suggested that the Executive Director hold a joint press conference with the appropriate state representative or senator whenever a grant is awarded.

### **III. Discussion and Decision**

Because there was no a quorum and in the interest of time, Commissioner Jones recommended that discussion of the Bylaws, Election of Officers, and OCF Statutory Language Recommendations be deferred. He expressed great displeasure that this was the second meeting without a quorum. Angela Woodson asked Commissioner Jones to intervene and contact members with poor attendance records. OFC meeting dates were planned and agreed to many months in advance, and she does not know what more the Executive Director can do to get the members to come to the meetings.

Commissioner Jones requested that the Executive Director provide him with the attendance record of all Commission members. Commissioner Jones agreed to personally contact the appointing authority and the people currently serving so there will be a quorum at the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### IV. Prospective Consultants Presentations

The Executive Director emphasized that consultants are not responding to an RFP; they are providing information for commission members. Commissioner Jones stated the OCF is hearing from these organizations simply to learn how they might assist our capacity building, outreach, and community mobilization efforts.

##### A. National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI):

Roland C. Warren, President, and Erik Vecere, Associate Vice President of National Programming of the NFI gave a PowerPoint presentation similar to the one they provided at the September OCF retreat. Mr. Warren reviewed NFI's qualifications to represent the Commission. The agency has a strong national presence and extensive experience at the national, state and local level. There are 41 people on the NFI staffs including Eric and a staff of seven in Pittsburgh. NFI's staff size allows it to promote local work at the national level. The agency does a lot of work in Washington, D.C., educating Congress on the importance of fatherhood programming and fatherhood itself. For the past 11 years, NFI has had the federal contract to administer [www.fatherhood.gov](http://www.fatherhood.gov) and [www.fatherhood.org](http://www.fatherhood.org) and has developed curricula and programming for the complete range of fathers. NFI was instrumental in helping draft and ensure the enactment of the \$50 million fatherhood legislation that Congress recently passed. NFI has built 20-25 fatherhood organizations across the country and has established 22 partnerships across Ohio.

Mr. Vecere outlined NFI's three-phase community mobilization model for Ohio which included the following specific goals and dates:

1. NFI will conduct five 2-day community mobilization workshops throughout Ohio (by 2/28/09);
2. NFI will assist grantees conduct regional needs and assets assessments (by 3/31/09);
3. NFI will organize leadership summit on fatherhood events (by 5/15/09);
4. NFI will conduct Best Practices Fatherhood Program Workshops for grantees (by 6/15/09); and
5. NFI will coordinate selection and establishment of all eleven Fatherhood Resource Centers (by 6/30/09)

##### B. Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (OPNF)

Calvin Williams, outgoing President of OPNF, and James McDonald, Vice President of OPNF made a presentation. OPNF was formed in 2004. Of the fourteen current board members, 57% are founding members of OPNF, including Mr. Williams and OCF Commissioners Steve Killpack and Scott Neely. The Board is comprised of diverse individuals who have helped maintain fatherhood activities and the culture of fatherhood in Columbus. OPNF worked with Governor Strickland's transition team and was instrumental in reinvigorating OCF. There are over 625 OPNF members spread throughout the state. The network distributes an electronic newsletter. OPNF is the

founder of Forever Dads, one of OCF's grantees. OPNF possesses and maintains strong relationships both with local agencies and those outside Ohio. The organization also believes that its comprehensive approach will allow it to connect with mothers and children. OPNF desires uniformity statewide in regards to fatherhood programs and initiatives.

Programs used by OPNF in the past include:

1. Connections (Seventeen sessions on relationships and dating);
2. Boot Camp for New Dads; and
3. Bringing Baby Home

The aforementioned are strategies that have been proven to work. OPNF realizes, however, that every community has different needs and allows for local input regarding the programmatic features that will be most effective in the locales served.

OPNF outlined five areas in which it could assist OCF in attaining the Commission's goals:

1. Administrative;
2. Resources (local and national);
3. Policy/Advocacy;
4. Training/Education; and
5. Public Relations.

**V. New Business:** No items of new business were raised.

**VI. Meetings for 2009:**

The Commission will meet every other month on the following Tuesdays:

January 27  
March 24 (tentative)  
May 19  
July 21  
September 15  
November 17

**VII. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:04pm.

## **Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Executive Director Report Summary – January 2009 Meeting**

### **1. Outreach**

#### **Executive Director made presentations at the following:**

Annual Fatherhood Celebration-Central Ohio Science Industry, Columbus, Ohio (December 26, 2008)

Father to Father-Real Life Center of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chillicothe, Ohio (January 5, 2009 and January 26, 2009)

Ohio Grantmakers Forum, Cleveland, Ohio Discussed Ohio Grantmakers hosting a Lunch and Learn with Ohio Foundations with Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and National Fatherhood Initiative (January 6, 2009)

#### **Briefings:**

State Representative Vernon Sykes (D-44th District) Akron. He will serve as finance chair for the State House of Representatives. (January 5, 2009)

House Representative Mary Jo Kilroy, 15<sup>th</sup> (Congressional District) Columbus, Ohio. Discussed Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Family Act that was introduced in Congress by Senators Bayh and Obama in June of 2007. Discussed legislation with Chief of Staff: Randy Borntrager. (January 24, 2009)

Judge Andy Levine Findlay, Ohio. Judge Devine is requesting Governor Strickland to proclaim 2009 the Year of the Parent. Submitted proclamation request. (December 29, 2008)

Sharon Gordon Urban Trend Setters Magazine. Discussed outreach to African American community. (December 30, 2008)

Donald Ross Alphas Discussed prevention of premature fatherhood in African American community with teenage males. (December 30, 2008)

### **2. 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 OCF Commissioners.

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood website ready. The url will be [www.fatherhood.ohio.gov](http://www.fatherhood.ohio.gov).

Fatherhood Commission Invoice Summary

SFY 09 Fatherhood	SFY 09	October	November	December	Total 08	Total Left to Spend
<b>Alvis House</b>						
Clients Served (goal 100)		0	22	0	22	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ 25,817.70	\$ 0	\$ 25,817.70	\$ 199,182.30
<b>ARCA</b>						
Clients Served (goal 100)		0	0	252	252	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 222,525.00	\$ -	\$ 10,304.20	\$ 9,714.25	\$ 20,018.45	\$ 202,506.55
<b>CAA of Columbiana Co.</b>						
Clients Served (goal 100)		0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 227,672.00			\$ 824.06	\$ 824.06	\$ 226,847.94
<b>Cleveland Eastside</b>						
Clients Served (goal 100)		0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 224,993.00	\$ 10,885.91	\$ 13,029.34	\$ 16,085.18	\$ 40,000.43	\$ 184,992.57
<b>East Toledo Family Center</b>						
Clients Served (goal 100)		1	19	30	50	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 8,798.94	\$ 8,888.61	\$ 16,046.74	\$ 33,734.29	\$ 191,265.71
<b>Forever Dads</b>						
Clients Served (goal 100)		29	27	38	94	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 4,691.56	\$ 11,220.79	\$ 15,835.71	\$ 31,748.06	\$ 193,251.94
<b>Ironton-Lawrence CAO</b>						
Clients Served (goal 100)		0	13	16	29	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 224,591.00				\$ -	\$ 224,591.00
<b>Urban Lights Ministries</b>						
Clients Served (goal 100)		0	0	78	78	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 224,927.60	\$ 5,900.25	\$ 21,270.70		\$ 27,170.95	\$ 197,756.65

Fatherhood Commission Invoice Summary

<b>WSOS CAC Region 6</b>									
Clients Served (goal 100)				4	49			53	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 225,000.00		\$ 5,686.38	\$ 13,950.41	\$ 19,636.79	\$			205,363.21
<b>WSOS CAC Region 2</b>									
Clients Served (goal 100)			0	6				6	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 225,000.00		\$ 6,431.70	\$ 17,172.97	\$ 23,604.67	\$			201,395.33
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	\$ 2,249,708.60	\$ 30,306.66	\$ 102,712.42	\$ 90,098.32	\$ 223,117.40	\$			2,027,153.20
<b>Clients Served All Programs</b>									
Goal 1000		30	85	469	584				
**Pending TANF and Director Approval									

Fatherhood Commission Narrative Overview

Describe activities performed and highlight any goals achieved during this reporting period.	Describe any obstacle or barrier that you foresee endangering full implementation of your project throughout the program year.	Indicate major activities to be performed in the next reporting period. Indicate applicable monitoring activities to take place.
<p><b>Alvis House</b></p> <p>All trainings for program start up were completed. Classes began and attendance has been excellent.</p>	<p>We are on track to meet our target number of clients for the fiscal year. We may have challenges with our two additional components and having access to children to participate with fathers.</p>	<p>The second wave of recruitment will be done in January as well as the second session of classes.</p>
<p><b>ARCA</b></p> <p>The Families First program is in the final phase of coordination of subcontractors, staff, training, space and internal marketing. Costs continue to be minimal due to the limited program activities, but will increase once classes begin. Recruitment efforts are strategically designed to bring on additional partners to increase program visibility within the community. Fatherhood training conducted at Zion Hill Baptist Church will also target dads that have regained custody, or will regain custody of minor children. CEEC has been informed that Inside/Out Dad curriculum is preferably taught by facilitators experienced in working with incarcerated populations. The executive director will work with group facilitators in Lorain, Grafton and the House of Corrections.</p>	<p>THE RESPONSE TO THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN VERY FAVORABLE AND WE HAVE RECEIVED COMMITMENT OF REFERRALS FROM A NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS. WHILE OUR TIME IS SHORT, WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL ACHIEVE FULL IMPLEMENTATION IN CUYAHOGA AND LORAIN COUNTIES HOWEVER, WE MAY NOT ACHIEVE ALL OF OUR GOALS IN LAKE COUNTY.</p>	<p>OUR MENTOR SITE WILL BE IN FULL OPERATION WITH THE ABSENT FATHERS AND THE TEEN PREVENTION FATHERS PROGRAM.</p>
<p><b>Cleveland Eastside</b></p> <p>Northcoast Correctional Facility is to announce a permanent replacement in January, and CEEC will work with the new warden to complete the installation. All Lorain County institutions installations are delayed until January 31.</p>	<p>House of Corrections has been recruited to provide groups at their facility. Bell, Burton and Carr will conduct groups with teen boys at East Technical High School. Tuesday afternoon groups will begin at the Community Assessment and Treatment Center, in addition to Zion Hill Baptist Church. Empowerment Center of Greater Cleveland has recruited Oriana House and Alternative Agencies for Treatment to provide job readiness and training. All groups scheduled to begin January 2009. Domestic Relations Court and Cleveland Municipal Court are considering remanding violation offenders and persons tried in these courts to CEEC Fatherhood program. These arrangements are being finalized by Councilman Kevin Conwell.</p>	<p>House of Corrections has been recruited to provide groups at their facility. Bell, Burton and Carr will conduct groups with teen boys at East Technical High School. Tuesday afternoon groups will begin at the Community Assessment and Treatment Center, in addition to Zion Hill Baptist Church. Empowerment Center of Greater Cleveland has recruited Oriana House and Alternative Agencies for Treatment to provide job readiness and training. All groups scheduled to begin January 2009. Domestic Relations Court and Cleveland Municipal Court are considering remanding violation offenders and persons tried in these courts to CEEC Fatherhood program. These arrangements are being finalized by Councilman Kevin Conwell.</p>

Fatherhood Commission Narrative Overview

<p>Goal to advertise for Project Director in the six-county coalition area, along with interviews and hiring before December. Goals completed, with initial director meeting changing him with initial goals involving subcontractor contacting with contract writ Started the second round of Dads Club meetings at four of nine Family Resource Centers. Additionally, continued at accept fathers into the Fatherhood Coaching Services. Fathers meet with NCFI staff at the nearest FRC to the father's home.</p>	<p>Major Meet Santa day with Fatherhood Committee in Columbiana County to reach some 75 fathers with FatherTime program. Also, initial collaboration meeting with subcontractors scheduled in early December.</p> <p>Local hospitals and Help Me Grow partners will begin to distribute NFI New Daddy Packs to fathers that attend the birth of their children or that actively involved in the new borns life.</p>
<p><b>Columbiana</b></p> <p>None at this time</p>	<p>Conduct daytime NFL class and begin the evening NFL class; Market Active Parenting Regional Training workshop to be delivered February 6; Conduct interviews for participants of next Inside/Out DADS programs at Noble Correctional Institute and Muskingum County Jail; Host Boot Camp for New Dads; Continue Community Service Opportunity program with Intake fathers; Developing employment strategy for barrier ridden fathers; Leadership Team to be trained in Bridges Out of Poverty curriculum; Begin recruitment of fathers to participate in Survival Skills for Healthy Families and Couples Communication; Establish start dates for our High School youth program "Connections: Dating and Emotions"</p>
<p><b>East Toledo</b></p> <p>Inside/Out DADS Graduation, 12 completions; Youth Build Collaborative Program, coached 3 fathers and were accepted in the program; Began daytime NFL class, 7 active fathers; 15 fathers participated in Community Service Opportunity; Conducted 16 new father Intakes and assessed specific needs/assigned Life Coaches; Boot Camp for New Dads program delivered, 3 participants; Beyond Christmas Project, served 13 fathers and 36 children; Conducted weekly Leadership Team meetings; Began initial planning for Marketplace Employment Training program; Conducted planning sessions for Advance Ohio Fatherhood Summit - established April 30/May 1 as dates; Held a collaborative planning meeting with other Region 10 Grantee for future Regional programs; Communicated with Coshocton and Guernsey counties for planning their Fatherhood Initiative</p> <p>Fathers were invited to participate in Bring Your Father To School Week to volunteer in the classroom or on the bus during the week of December 15th. Participating fathers were encouraged to enroll in the Fatherhood Initiative Program. 16 father's and grandfather's volunteered and 9 completed Application/in-take forms. During the Parent Meeting father's and their children created stories.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Experienced undeliverability of Invoices</p> <p>No obstacles have been reported at this time.</p>
<p><b>Forever Dads</b></p> <p>Parenting Classes, Family Reading Night, Fatherhood Meetings, 24/7 Dads training meetings.</p>	<p>Parenting Classes, Family Reading Night, Fatherhood Meetings, 24/7 Dads training meetings.</p>
<p><b>Ironton</b></p>	

Fatherhood Commission Narrative Overview

<p>The issues will be different depending on the population being targeted. Programming in the jails should have ample numbers of men starting the program to meet or exceed our grant obligations; however, if we are not careful, the retention rate may be low due to the transitory nature of jail inmates who are often released before the end of the 13-week program. The NFL classes being offered to the general community, on the other hand, will likely have better completion rates; however, recruitment will be difficult due to the nature of the target population, especially in the counties without large urban centers.</p>	<p>2 Nurturing Fathers for Life classes started on Dec 6 and then Dec 16 in two counties for a total of 48 fathers and father-figures. 24 of these men were incarcerated fathers from the Clark County jail. 2 Wise Guys classes started in 2 middle schools in Clark County with a total of 31 male youths. Our first father-child activity was held for the non-incarcerated fathers and their children on Dec 26 at a COSI and Columbus Urban League sponsored event. 3 Urban Light staff members have started the process to become a Benefit Bank site to serve the fathers through our Fatherhood Resource Center. <b>Urban Lights</b> main goal for this month was getting subcontractors introduced to program expectations &amp; goals which has been completed. Second Goal was beginning recruitment and enrollments for Programs which has begun for the month. Third Goal was scheduling presentations with area agencies to introduce VIP Program to community.</p>
<p>4 more NFL classes will start in January to include a second Dayton location targeting Montgomery County residents, a Dayton Correctional Institute class targeting inmates at the mid-level prison, a community class in Clark County offered by Urban Light, and a community class being facilitated by FYI for Champaign County residents. Father-child activities, support meetings, case management, and volunteer opportunities will be held regionally to reinforce the information from the classes.</p>	<p>12/5/08 24/7 Dad Train the Trainer Workshop provided by Milt Scott from National Fatherhood Initiative for facilitators of Curriculum. 12/15/08 Fatherhood Family Holiday Party for all participants and children sponsored by local VFW.</p>
<p>The 24/7 Dad Curriculum will begin next month for the fathers. Passages classes for the fathers will also begin next month for those fathers who are dealing with anger management, domestic violence and conflict management. Those are the 2 major activities that will be taking place in January.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>WSOS Region 2</b></p>	<p>We have had 37 fathers participate in Family Literacy Projects, 22 fathers participate with their children in Family Fun Events, and we have had fathers receiving employment services and parenting education. So far these activities for our fathers are right on target with our goals. Enrollment for Region 6 is progressing very well and has been right in line with our goal projection.</p>
<p><b>WSOS Region 6</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>

## OCF GRANTEES CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY Jan. 8, 2009

### **Grantees Participants**

Columbiana  
East Toledo Family Center  
Forever Dads  
Ironton-Lawrence County  
Urban Lights Ministries  
WSOS Region 2  
WSOS Region 6

### **Grantees not represented**

Alvis House  
ARCA  
Cleveland Eastside

### **Here are the meeting highlights:**

#### **Invoice Process**

- Greatly improved since OSU intern, Stanley Upton, joined the OCF staff.
- Grantees should send their questions directly to the TANF representative, Sue Cook or Karen White
- Documentation should include original signed invoice plus 2 copies  
Columbiana asked what documentation is needed to show hours worked and benefits.  
Sue Cook responded:  
For hours worked: time card, payroll, or copy of paycheck  
For benefits: payroll register or system showing that benefits have been paid  
Karen White responded:  
The documentation must fall within the dates of the contract, even if the contract register is beyond the contract date  
Forever Dads asked: how will they know funds have been deposited?  
Sue Cook responded that grantees will have to check their bank accounts

#### **Program Reports**

- Program Manager should send report directly to Stanley Upton
- Tracy Robinson will follow up with an email regarding this process
- The Subject Line should include in this order:
  - PROGRAM REPORT
  - MONTH YEAR
  - GRANTEE NAME
- OCF Commissioners will be looking at Program Reports at our January 27 meeting to evaluate Grantees' performance

#### **Calendar of Activities**

- Tracy requested grantees to email monthly their calendar of activities. Tracy will post calendar on the OCF website so that anyone interested can attend, including Commissioners and/or Tracy Robinson. This information will help Tracy plan his calendar

## Site visits

- OCF Commissioners requested Executive Director to visit all grantees. Executive Director will be visiting as a partner, not an auditor. This is not an invoice review. Executive Director will meet with program director and fiscal person during these visits. Monica will contact grantees to schedule the visits.

## Definition of Terms

**Incentives:** WSOS wants to add incentives to their current budget

Tracy responded that if incentives are not in a grantee's current budget, they cannot be added. It would require a contract amendment and there would not be enough time to make this change before the budget ends in June 2009.

Karen added that using incentives is a slippery slope because grantees would have to monitor that incentives are used properly because there will be an audit. For example, if issue Kroger card for gasoline, must make sure it is only used for that purpose.

Sue added that it is against federal guidelines to use grant money for alcohol and if during an audit, the grantee cannot prove incentives were not used improperly, it could jeopardize any other financial assistance they are receiving from TANF or other state agencies

WSOS responded that they are only giving gas cards fro Speedway.

**Fathers & Father Figures** Forever Dads wanted to know if coaches and men who provide emotional support are included in the definition of Fathers.

Tracy responded that the definition must fall within TANF guidelines. It must be the biological father (even if he is non-custodial) or a father- figure who is providing financial assistance to the family. The intent of OCF is to get real fathers involved in the life of their children, not people acting as mentors. Our definition is "Fathers and Father Figures are men who have physical or legal custody of their children."

Monica will email grantees the Grantee spreadsheet contact program director, fiscal officer and program manager for all programs. Grantees are required to review spreadsheet and email any corrections to Monica.

## Conference calls Scheduled Meetings 2009

**Time: 1:30PM to 2:30PM**

February 12, 2009

March 12, 2009

April 9, 2009

May 14, 2009

June 11, 2009

All grantees are required to have fiscal officer and program managers at a minimum participate in the conference calls.

The call was concluded at 2:10PM



## Commission on Fatherhood

Ted Strickland, Governor  
J. Tracy Robinson, Director



January 15, 2009

Mr. Terry Collins  
Director  
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction  
770 West Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43222

Mr. Doug Lumpkin  
Director Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
30 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Directors Collins and Lumpkin:

We are writing to express our complete support of the recommendations which the collaborative comprised of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Child Support (OCS) and the Ohio CSEA Directors' Association (OCDA) proposed to remove barriers to the payment of child support.

Given our work in serving fathers, many of whom are subject to child support orders, we heartily endorse the following recommendations:

- Share child support information with other programs and agencies including, but not limited to, community corrections, adult parole authority and state prisons.
- Draft and promote legislation adopting a statewide approach to the compromise of arrears (for all qualifying obligors, not just those formerly incarcerated) that are assigned (owed to the state) and unassigned (owed to the custodial parent) in order to leverage debt and increase collections for families.
- Establish liaisons between OCS, CSEA, DRC and OCDA to facilitate the continuous exchange of information.
- Improve parental understanding of child support services by soliciting information from incarcerated mothers and fathers with child support obligations.

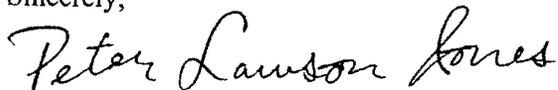
The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF) believes that the aforementioned recommendations will help change the culture and paradigm of the child support system in a way consistent with the *Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Strickland/Fisher Transition Agency Review Committee Report (2007)* by:

- (1) Creating and adopting policies and procedures that distinguish between obligors who cannot pay, as opposed to those who refuse to pay;
- (2) Pursuing statutory, regulatory and procedural changes that enable more child support matters to be handled administratively, rather than through the courts;
- (3) Replicating programs currently in place in other counties that divert delinquent obligors to job counseling, as opposed to jail;
- (4) Better linking child support agencies with other entities, i.e. job placement agencies; and
- (5) Creating ongoing communication networks in all agencies serving non-custodial fathers in order to develop more cohesive interaction among agencies and improved case management for non-custodial parents who are struggling with child support, custody and visitation issues.

In short, these recommendations will assist and encourage the development of a child support system that is more equitable, rational, comprehensive and navigable as well as less costly.

We thank you for your time and attention to the collaborative's proposals, which we strongly believe will help remove barriers to the payment of child support and will greatly benefit children and families. We stand ready to assist in lobbying for and implementing the recommendations.

Sincerely,



Peter Lawson Jones  
Chairman  
Ohio Commission on Fatherhood



J. Tracy Robinson  
Executive Director  
Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

**The Fisher College of Business Black M.B.A. Association**  
**Black History Month Speaker Series: *Black Leaders and Their Impact on Society***



**Speaker: Gene Smith, Athletic Director, The Ohio State University**

**Date:** Wednesday February 4, 2009

**Location:** Gerlach Hall Room 265 **Time:** 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

*Gene Smith is in his fourth year as director of athletics at The Ohio State University. On March 17, 2008, Gordon Gee, president of the Ohio State University, promoted Smith to university assistant vice president/director of athletics. Smith is the eighth person to hold the athletics director position at Ohio State and the first African-American to do so. Smith previously served as director of athletics at Arizona State, Iowa State, and Eastern Michigan Universities, and is entering his 24th year in the role.*



**Speaker: J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director, The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood**

**Date:** Wednesday February 11, 2009

**Location:** Gerlach Hall Room 265 **Time:** 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

*An Ohio native, J. Tracy Robinson earned his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Oberlin College and Masters Degree in Education from OSU. Mr. Robinson was appointed as the Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood. Mr. Robinson brings more than 20 years of government service to the Commission. He is an experienced grant writer and has served as a project manager and grant reviewer for several federal agencies Tracy Robinson is an encourager, motivator and a source of inspiration for many.*



**Speaker: Richard Dent, Senior VP & Chief Operating Officer, Limited Brands**

**Date:** Wednesday February 18, 2009

**Location:** Gerlach Hall Room 265 **Time:** 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

*Mr. Dent is currently the Vice President and CFO of Victoria Secret – PINK a Division of LimitedBrands Inc. He received both a bachelor's and master's degree in business administration from Florida A&M University and has more than 15 years of corporate finance experience with Fortune 500 companies. Outside of work Richard pursues his passion of working with, preparing and equipping young men for higher education and life in general through involvement in a variety of civic, educational and religious organizations that share that mission.*



**Speaker: Dr. Boyce Watkins, Syracuse University**

**Date:** Wednesday February 25, 2009

**Location:** Fawcett Center **Time:** 5:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

*Dr. Boyce D. Watkins "The People's Scholar", is one of the leading social commentators, black speakers and high action freedom fighters in America. He advocates for education, economic empowerment and social justice. As a black financial speaker, he has given financial advice to millions of African-Americans through his series "Get your paper straight" and "Black Love, Black Money, Black Relationships" as well as over 150 national television, radio and print interviews in the last 2 years alone. He has fearlessly endured firestorms of controversy for his willingness to honestly and intelligently address racial inequality in university hiring/tenure practices, NCAA athletics, the prison system, "mainstream media" and the educational system.*

\*Lunch will be provided at each event, to attend, please send RSVP to Stanley Upton at [upton.68@osu.edu](mailto:upton.68@osu.edu)

\*For additional information, questions, or concerns contact Jay Johnson at [Johnson.3343@osu.edu](mailto:Johnson.3343@osu.edu)

Ohio Grantmakers Forum  
and  
Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Invite You to

*Lunch & Learn*

**EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT FATHERHOOD PROGRAMS**

May 2009

Beginning Time- Ending Time  
The Hannah Building  
Cleveland, Ohio

How can foundations seeking to help vulnerable children create the greatest return on their investments and achieve long-term impact? One accepted way – providing programs and support for children outside the home – is necessary, but does not address fundamental issues that make children vulnerable in the first place: family brokenness and instability within the home. A large body of social science evidence shows that children in father-absent homes are at significantly greater risk to fail in school, experience emotional problems, be neglected or abused, use drugs, commit crimes, become sexually active early and bear children outside of marriage, than children from intact married homes.

The absence of fathers is a daunting problem and practical solutions may seem out of reach. Can foundations and human services agencies successfully address this pressing issue? Is it possible to engage a non-custodial father more fully in his child's life? Are there ways to inspire him to respect, support and permanently commit to his child's family? And what can be done to lessen the number of children born into fatherless homes?

Join your peers for a presentation by J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and Roland Warren, President of the National Fatherhood Initiative, who will address these questions and facilitate discussion on effective strategies to support fatherhood, father involvement, family development, and family well-being.

**QUESTIONS:** Todd Lloyd, Vice President of Education, [TLloyd@ohiograntmakers.org](mailto:TLloyd@ohiograntmakers.org)

**RSVP:** Kindly RSVP by date to Todd Lloyd, Vice President of Education, [TLloyd@ohiograntmakers.org](mailto:TLloyd@ohiograntmakers.org) or 216-861-6223.

## SPEAKER

**Roland Warren** is president of the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI). Under Roland's direction, NFI works to accomplish its mission through a variety of activities, ranging from its national "What's Your Legacy" radio, print, and internet public advertising campaign, to its cutting-edge resources and programming. Through Roland's leadership, the organization has quickly become one of the nation's leading providers of fatherhood resources to communities, schools, prisons, hospitals, businesses, the military, and churches. Roland, an alumnus of Princeton University, brings to NFI almost two decades of experience in the business world and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Roland is married to Dr. Yvette Lopez-Warren and has two sons, Jamin, a graduate of Harvard University and writer for the *Wall Street Journal*, and Justin, a graduate of the University of North Carolina and currently in a masters program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

**J. Tracy Robinson** is the Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF). Under Tracy's leadership, the OCF has funded over \$2 million dollars in fatherhood programming throughout Ohio. Appointed by Governor Strickland, Tracy brings a wealth of community outreach experience. After graduating from Oberlin College, Tracy earned a Masters Degree in Education from The Ohio State University. He has been married to his college sweetheart, Dr. Dwan Robinson, for 20 years. They are the parents of two teenage sons, Jacob and Jonathan, who both attend the Wellington School in Columbus.

## ABOUT THE Ohio Grantmakers Forum

Ohio Grantmakers Forum is an association of foundations, corporate contributions programs and other grantmaking organizations. Its mission is to provide leadership for organized philanthropy in Ohio and to enhance the ability of members to fulfill their charitable goals. OGF represents approximately 200 member organizations whose combined assets total almost \$19 billion and who contribute more than \$600 million annually in grantmaking. In addition to the dollars they provide to worthy causes and organizations, grantmakers research needs, offer expertise on issues and seek out new and better ways to serve communities.

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE (NFI)

Since its founding in 1994, NFI has provided national leadership on the issue of father absence, a root cause of many of our worst social problems. NFI's mission is to improve the well being of children by increasing the proportion of children growing up with involved, responsible, and committed fathers. A non-partisan and non-sectarian organization, NFI is widely recognized as a leading national voice on fatherhood issues and the premier source for community fatherhood renewal resources. For more information, please visit [www.fatherhood.org](http://www.fatherhood.org).

## ABOUT THE OHIO COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD

Ohio House of Representative Member Peter Lawson Jones authored the amendment to create the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood on July 1, 1999. OCF's vision is "Enabling Every Child to Succeed." OCF's mission is to "Enhance the well being of Ohio's children by inspiring and supporting diverse groups and communities to improve the quality of fatherhood." OCF is fulfilling it's mission by funding programs to build the parenting skills of fathers; provide employment-related services for low-income, non-custodial fathers; to prevent premature fatherhood; to provide services to fathers who have a relationship with the justice system so that these fathers are able to maintain or reestablish their relationships with their families; reconcile fathers with their families; and to increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play.

## **5101.34 Ohio commission on fatherhood.**

(A) There is hereby created in the department of job and family services the Ohio commission on fatherhood. The commission shall consist of the following members:

(1)(a) Four members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house, not more than two of whom are members of the same political party. Two of the members must be from legislative districts that include a county or part of a county that is among the one-third of counties in this state with the highest number per capita of households headed by females.

(b) Two members of the senate appointed by the president of the senate, each from a different political party. One of the members must be from a legislative district that includes a county or part of a county that is among the one-third of counties in this state with the highest number per capita of households headed by females.

(2) The governor, or the governor's designee;

(3) One representative of the judicial branch of government appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court;

(4) The directors of health, job and family services, rehabilitation and correction, and youth services and the superintendent of public instruction, or their designees;

(5) One representative of the Ohio family and children first cabinet council created under section 121.37 of the Revised Code appointed by the chairperson of the council;

(6) Five representatives of the general public appointed by the governor. These members shall have extensive experience in issues related to fatherhood.

(B) The appointing authorities of the Ohio commission on fatherhood shall make initial appointments to the commission within thirty days after the effective date of this section. Of the initial appointments to the commission made pursuant to divisions (A)(3), (5), and (6) of this section, three of the members shall serve a term of one year and four shall serve a term of two years. Members so appointed subsequently shall serve two-year terms. A member appointed pursuant to division (A)(1) of this section shall serve on the commission until the end of the general assembly from which the member was appointed or until the member ceases to serve in the chamber of the general assembly in which the member serves at the time of appointment, whichever occurs first. The governor or the governor's designee shall serve on the commission until the governor ceases to be governor. The directors and superintendent or their designees shall serve on the commission until they cease, or the director or superintendent a designee represents ceases, to be director or superintendent. Each member shall serve on the commission from the date of appointment until the end of the term for which the member was appointed. Members may be reappointed.

Vacancies shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration date of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall serve on the commission for the remainder of that term. A member shall continue to serve on the commission subsequent to the expiration date of the member's term until the member's successor is appointed or until a period of sixty days has elapsed, whichever occurs first. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses.

Effective Date: 07-01-2000

## **5101.341 Chairperson - staff - funding.**

(A) The Ohio commission on fatherhood annually shall elect a chairperson from among its members. The department of job and family services shall provide staff and other support services for the commission.

(B) The commission may accept gifts, grants, donations, contributions, benefits, and other funds from any public agency or private source to carry out any or all of the commission's duties. The funds shall be deposited into the Ohio commission on fatherhood fund, which is hereby created in the state treasury. All gifts, grants, donations, contributions, benefits, and other funds received by the commission pursuant to this division shall be used solely to support the operations of the commission.

Effective Date: 07-01-2000

## **5101.342 State summits on fatherhood.**

The Ohio commission on fatherhood shall do both of the following:

(A) Organize a state summit on fatherhood every four years;

(B)(1) Prepare a report each year that identifies resources available to fund fatherhood-related programs and explores the creation of initiatives to do the following:

(a) Build the parenting skills of fathers;

(b) Provide employment-related services for low-income, noncustodial fathers;

(c) Prevent premature fatherhood;

(d) Provide services to fathers who are inmates in or have just been released from imprisonment in a state correctional institution, as defined in section 2967.01 of the Revised Code, or in any other detention facility, as defined in section 2921.01 of the Revised Code, so that they are able to maintain or reestablish their relationships with their families;

(e) Reconcile fathers with their families;

(f) Increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play.

(2) The commission shall submit each report prepared pursuant to division (B)(1) of this section to the president and minority leader of the senate, speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives, governor, and chief justice of the supreme court. The first report is due not later than one year after the last of the initial appointments to the commission is made under section 5101.341 of the Revised Code.

Effective Date: 09-29-1999

## **5101.343 Exemption from sunset review.**

Sections 101.82 to 101.87 of the Revised Code do not apply to the Ohio commission on fatherhood.

Effective Date: 03-22-2001

DRAFT Section 5101.342 revisions

The **OHIO COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD** shall do the following:

- A. Organize a state summit on fatherhood once every state biennium;
- B. Review family-related public policy and submit recommendations that will enhance father-child relations;
- C. Prepare a report each year that identifies best practice fatherhood-related programs and resources to fund them; and
- D. Fund grass roots, city, county and statewide initiatives that:
  1. Increase **public awareness** of the critical role fathers play;
  2. Augment **father readiness** with programs that prevent premature fatherhood, provide employment-related services for low-income fathers and build parenting skills;
  3. Promote and enhance ongoing **father-child access and family reconciliation** through programs that address: childbirth, paternity, child support, custody and visitation, father involvement in schools and family-services and incarceration and reentry; and
  4. Develop **relationship skills** of fathers to strengthen their capacity for success in employment, marriage and co-parenting.
- E. Evaluate programs and services to which funds are awarded.
- F. The Commission shall submit annual reports, prepared pursuant to divisions B, C and E of this section, to the president and minority leader of the senate, the speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives, governor and chief justice of supreme court.

# The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

## Bylaws

DRAFT

Revised January 27, 2009

**Deleted:** November 11, 2008

## PREAMBLE

Pursuant to R.C. 5101.34 et seq., the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood is established. The general management of the Commission shall be vested with the nineteen Commission members in accordance with R.C. 5101.34 et seq.

## ARTICLE I.

### Statement of Purpose

The Commission purpose is to enhance the well being of Ohio's children by inspiring and supporting diverse groups and communities to improve the quality of fatherhood.

#### 1.01 Duties of the Commission

According to R.C. 5101.342, the Commission shall do both of the following:

- (A) Organize a state summit on fatherhood every four years;
- (B) Prepare a report each year that identifies resources available to fund fatherhood-related programs and explores the creation of initiatives to do the following:
  - (a) Build the parenting skills of fathers;
  - (b) Provide employment-related services for low-income, non-custodial fathers;
  - (c) Prevent premature fatherhood;
  - (d) Provide services to fathers who are inmates in or have just been released from imprisonment in a state correctional institution or any other detention facility so that these fathers are able to maintain or reestablish their relationships with their families;
  - (e) Reconcile fathers with their families;
  - (f) Increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play.

#### 1.02 Acceptance of Gifts and Grants

Pursuant to R.C. 5101.341, the Commission may accept gifts, grants, donations, contributions, benefits, and other funds from any public agency or private source to carry out any or all of the Commission's duties. The funds shall be deposited into the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Fund that has been created in the State treasury. All gifts, grants, donations, contributions, benefits, and other funds shall be used solely to support the operations of the Commission.

ARTICLE II

Commission Structure

2.01 Membership

As set forth in section 5101.34 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood shall consist of nineteen voting members including:

- (1)(a) Four members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house, not more than two of whom are members of the same political party. Two of the members must be from legislative districts that include a county or part of a county that is among the one-third of counties in this state with the highest number per capita of households headed by females.
- (b) Two members of the senate appointed by the president of the senate, each from a different political party. One of the members must be from a legislative district that includes a county or part of a county that is among the one-third of counties in this state with the highest number per capita of households headed by females.
- (2) The governor, or the governor's designee;
- (3) One representative of the judicial branch of government appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court;
- (4) The directors of health, job and family services, rehabilitation and correction, and youth services and the superintendent of public instruction, or their designees;
- (5) One representative of the Ohio family and children first cabinet council created under section 121.37 of the Revised Code appointed by the chairperson of the council;
- (6) Five representatives of the general public appointed by the governor. These members shall have extensive experience in issues related to fatherhood.

Commission terms shall be filled pursuant to Section 5101.34 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Pursuant to section 3.17 of the Revised Code, all members of the Commission, except those members of the General Assembly or judges of any court, are required to attend at least three-fifths of the regular and special meetings of the Commission during a two-year period. Pursuant to R.C. 317, nonattendance shall result in forfeiture of the member's position on the Commission.

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2.02 Designees

As set forth in section 5101.34 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Governor and the Directors of Departments may appoint a designee. These Commission members may change their

designee as often as they deem necessary. A written letter of assignment must be forwarded to the Chairperson of the Commission and copies to the Executive Director whenever these Commission members appoint a different designee to act on their behalf.

**Comment:** This means if a Commissioner (including Legislators) sends someone not officially designated to attend a meeting on his or her behalf, that person cannot vote and will not count towards a quorum.

### 2.03 Compensation

Pursuant to R.C. 5101/34(B), all Commission members shall serve without compensation except that Commission members shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in carrying out Commission duties.

**Comment:** Define expenses as limited to mileage and parking?

### 2.04 Vacating Term

Vacancies occurring prior to the expiration of the Commission member's term shall be filled in the same manner as set forth by Section 5101.34 of the Ohio Revised Code. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall hold the Commission for the remainder of that term. If a Commission member resigns prior to the expiration of his/her term, a written notice should be sent to the Chairperson and copied to the Executive Director.

### 2.05 Conflicts of Interest

In the event that Commission members may have a conflict of interest in matters before the Commission, the Commission member's actions shall be governed by Ohio Ethics Laws. A Commission member with a conflict of interest shall excuse himself or herself from any room or space where any discussion, deliberation or voting regarding the interest is taking place. A Commission member with a conflict of interest shall not discuss with any voting member relative regarding the interest. The Commission members shall not return to the room or space until such time as the Chairperson invites them to return, which shall be after all discussions, deliberations and voting have taken place.

### 2.06 Staff and Support Services

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services shall provide staff and other support services for the Commission pursuant to Section 5101.34 of the Ohio Revised Code.

## ARTICLE III.

### Officers

#### 3.01 General Provisions

Officers of the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, and such other officers of the Commission as may be required and necessary from time to time.

#### 3.02 Chairperson

The Commission shall annually elect a Chairperson by a simple majority vote of the Commission as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Commission at which the Chairperson is present. In addition, the Chairperson shall be the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Commission.

#### 3.03 Vice Chairperson

The Commission shall annually elect a Vice Chairperson by a simple majority vote as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05. The Vice Chairperson shall perform all of the duties of the Commission Chairperson in his/her absence or inability to perform the duties of office. He/She shall perform such other duties as the Commission may direct from time to time. The Vice Chairperson shall serve on the Executive Committee.

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#### 3.04 Secretary

The Commission shall elect a Secretary by a simple majority vote as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05. The Secretary shall be the custodian of and responsible for the official books and records of the Commission. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Commission, but may delegate the actual taking of minutes. If the Secretary is unable to be present at a meeting of the Commission, the Secretary may designate an individual to fulfill his or her duties at such meeting. If neither the Secretary nor the designee is present at a meeting, the presiding officer at such meeting shall appoint another person to serve as Secretary for such meeting. The Secretary shall serve on the Executive Committee.

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#### 3.05 Election of Officers

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Except for those officers who are elected in 2008 and who shall serve through 2009, officers shall be elected at the first Commission meeting of every calendar year and shall serve until elections are next held the following calendar year. In the event an officer should for any reason vacate his or her position prior to the expiration of his or her term, the Commission may select a replacement to complete said unexpired term.

ARTICLE IV.

Commission Committees

4.01 Committees

(a) The Commission may establish committees to assist with its statutorily assigned duties.

(b) The standing committees of the Commission shall be:

- The Executive Committee
- The Public Policy Committee
- The Summit Committee

(c) Each committee shall consist of no fewer than three (3) Commission members. The actions of any such committee must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the Commission as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05. The Commission, at least once every two years, shall review the need for the continued existence of any committee created by the Commission.

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(d) The purpose of the Executive Committee is to create Commission meeting agendas, to facilitate strategic planning, to coordinate the work of Commission members and to make recommendations concerning the Executive Director, including, but not limited to, filling the position. Under no circumstances shall the Executive Committee's actions supplant the authority of the full Commission. Actions of the Executive Committee must be ratified by a simple majority vote as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05.

The purpose of the Public Policy Committee is to recommend changes in public policy, budget policy and state law to further the Commission's goals.

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The purpose of the Summit Committee is to assist in the planning of both the statewide fatherhood conference and regional forums to educate the public on the benefits of father involvement and problem of father absence and to enlist the involvement of key stakeholders in local communities to support and encourage responsible fatherhood.

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(e) The Commission may create ad hoc committees as the Commission may deem appropriate and necessary. Each ad hoc committee shall consist of at least one Commission member. The actions of any such committee must be ratified by simple majority vote of the Commission as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05.

(f) Each committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission, and shall be subject to the control and direction of the Commission.

(g) Executive Director shall serve as an x-officio member on all committees.

#### 4.02 Authority and Manner of Acting

Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, any committee shall act (e.g. setting agendas for the committee meetings, and location of the meeting) by a simple majority vote of the committee as defined in these bylaws in Section 5.05. Any subcommittee will make recommendations to the full Commission unless certain powers have been delegated.

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#### 4.03 Membership on Committees

(a) Commission members are appointed to a committee by the Commission Chairperson and may volunteer to serve on any Committee, except on the Executive Committee. The Commission Chairperson shall appoint one Commission member of each committee to serve as the chairperson of that committee.

(b) The Committee Chairperson shall design the process to determine formal committee members

(c) Non-Commission members may serve on committees but shall do so without any compensation or reimbursement.

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#### 4.04 Limited Membership Committees

Membership on the Executive Committee shall consist of the Commission Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and chairs of standing committees. The Executive Director is a non-voting, ex-officio member.

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### ARTICLE V.

#### Meetings

##### 5.01 Regular Meetings

The Commission shall hold a minimum of four regular quarterly meetings per year or on such dates and at such times as the Commission may determine. The Commission may, at such regular meetings, perform all such duties and functions and take all such actions as authorized by Section 5101.34 et seq. of the Ohio Revised Code. The Commission may hold meetings at any location within the State of Ohio.

##### 5.02 Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Commission may be called by the Commission Chairperson after consultation with the Executive Committee. The Chairperson shall also call a special meeting upon written request signed by at least a simple majority of the members of the Commission.

**5.03 Emergency Meetings**

In the event of an emergency requiring immediate official action, the Chairperson or the Chairperson's designee shall call an emergency meeting as soon as practicable.

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**5.04 Notice of Meetings to Members and Officers**

Notice of each meeting shall be given to each Commission member by regular mail or e-mail at their home or business address (as directed by the member), at least ten (10) calendar days prior to a regular meeting, or twenty-four (24) hours prior to a special meeting of the Commission. Such notice shall specify the time and place of such meeting and shall further specify the purpose or purposes for which such meeting is to be held. Members of the Commission shall be provided an agenda, prepared by the Chairperson, which will identify all matters to come before the Commission. The existence of a written agenda will not preclude any other important items from being added to the agenda by the Chairperson.

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**5.05 Quorum and Voting**

One-half plus one of the current roster of voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. Commission business shall not be conducted unless a quorum is present. ~~No vacancies in the membership of the Commission shall impair the rights of a quorum to perform all the duties of the Commission.~~ Commission members or their proper designees as provided for under Section 2.02 of these bylaws, shall only have a vote when present at scheduled Commission meetings. Action of the Commission on any proposal, question, or other matter that comes before the Commission at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall require the affirmative vote of a simple majority of Commission members, unless a larger majority vote is specified in these bylaws.

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**Comment:** This means if a Commissioner sends someone not officially designated to attend a meeting on his or her behalf, that person cannot vote and will not count towards a quorum.

**Deleted:** A member or their proper designee can attend and vote by telephone.

**5.06 Public Meetings**

All meetings of the Commission and any of its bodies shall be open to the public, except that the Commission may meet in executive session based upon the majority vote of the Commission as described in section 5.05 of these bylaws and in accordance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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**5.07 Record of Commission Meetings**

The minutes of Commission meetings, upon approval by the Commission, shall constitute the official record of its proceedings.

**5.08 Commission Records**

All records of the Commission shall be governed by Ohio's public records laws.

## 5.09 Record Retention

All Commission records and files will be retained in a manner consistent with all applicable federal and state regulations.

## 5.10 Organization of Meetings

### (1) Presiding Officer

The Chairperson of the Commission shall call all meetings of the full Commission to order and shall act as Chairperson thereof.

### (2) Order of Business

The Chairperson shall cause an agenda to be prepared for each meeting, and shall determine the order of business at all meetings of the Commission.

### (3) Rules of Order

Meetings of the Commission shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, with exceptions made at the discretion of the Chairperson or the Chairperson's designee.

### (4) Minutes

The Secretary of the Commission shall act as Secretary of all meetings of the full Commission and shall cause a written record of the proceedings thereat. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Commission in a minute book and shall cause the Commission's official transcribed minute book to be open to the public for inspection at all reasonable times. The Secretary shall cause to be furnished to each member of the Commission a copy of the minutes of the most recent Commission meeting as soon thereafter as is practical but in no event later than the next Commission meeting.

**ARTICLE VI.**

**Consistency with Laws of the State of Ohio**

The powers, duties, and functions of the Commission shall be defined and governed by the provisions of the laws of the State of Ohio and, particularly, by 5101.34 et seq. of the Ohio Revised Code. These bylaws shall apply and have effect only to the extent that these bylaws conform to and are consistent with said provisions.

**ARTICLE VII.**

**Amendment, Severability and Suspension**

**8.01 Adoption of Bylaws**

These bylaws shall be adopted by a simple majority vote as defined in section 5.05 of these bylaws.

**8.02 Amendment and Repeal**

These bylaws may be amended at any regular Commission meeting at which a quorum is present, as defined in section 5.05 of these bylaws, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to meeting, and subject to the requirements of any applicable law. Any amendment approved by the Commission shall take effect in accordance with Section 5101.34 et seq. of the Ohio Revised Code.

**Deleted:** of the Commission by a two-thirds vote of a quorum,

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**8.03 Severability**

In the event that any part of these bylaws is found to be in conflict with the Ohio Revised Code or any other law, only the portion in conflict shall be stricken from the bylaws.

**8.04 Suspension**

Any of these bylaws relating to procedures for the transaction of business, unless otherwise mandated by applicable law, may be temporarily suspended, if implementing such by-law would, under the circumstances, constitute a waste of time, be meaningless, be unfair, or duly delay or otherwise impede the lawful transaction of the business of the Commission.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

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