

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Minutes from the Meeting of
Thursday, September 6, 2012**

<p>Commissioners Present:</p> <p>Mr. David Kontur, Chairman</p> <p>Mr. Steven Killpack, Vice Chairman</p> <p>Senator Bill Beagle</p> <p>Mr. Robert Boykins</p> <p>Director Trudie Bormann</p> <p>Representative Timothy Derickson</p> <p>Director Kimberly Hettel</p> <p>Mr. Thomas Joyce</p> <p>Dr. Randy Leite</p> <p>Mr. Scott Neely</p> <p>OCF Staff Present:</p> <p>Kimberly Dent, Interim Executive Director</p> <p>Monica Mahoney</p> <p>Whitney Logan</p> <p>GUESTS:</p> <p>Ms. Jan Slocum HARCATUS</p> <p>Mr. Lee Slocum HARCATUS</p> <p>Mr. Trad Kleyman HARCATUS</p>	<p>Guests (cont.):</p> <p>Ms. Melanie Houston Dan Houston & Associates</p> <p>Mr. Daniel Houston Dan Houston & Associates</p> <p>Ms. Debra Zendlovitz Dan Houston & Associates</p> <p>Mr. Barry Sheets The Ridge Project</p> <p>Reverend Eli Williams Urban Light Ministries</p> <p>Mr. Spencer Gross Legislative Aide for Rep. Derickson</p> <p>Ms. Charmaine Kirby Spirit of Peace</p> <p>Mr. Leonard Kirby Spirit of Peace</p> <p>Mr. Mark Barber Spirit of Peace</p> <p>Mr. Daniel Johnson The Zepf Center</p> <p>Ms. Becky Glassure HARCATUS</p> <p>Mr. Harry Wilson HARCATUS</p> <p>Mr. Matthew Cunningham TANF Section Chief</p>
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I. Call to Order & Welcome

Chairman David Kontur, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Chairman Kontur introduced himself and welcomed our guests.

II. Approval of February 2, 2012 and April 5, 2012 Minutes

Commissioner Steve Killpack moved with Commissioner Randy Leite seconding, that the minutes from the meeting June 7, 2012 be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Kimberly Hettel requested that commissioners receive the minutes prior to the commission meeting so they can review and follow up on action items.

III. Update from Interim Executive Director

A. Interim Executive Director Kimberly Dent highlighted several items from the Director's report including:

- June 30th Fatherhood Summit jointly sponsored by the Columbus Urban League (CUL) and Ohio Building Assets for Fathers and Families (BAFF): Over 180 people attended including Mr. Vander Green from the Region V office in Chicago.
- OCF funded ForeverDads \$15,000 to expand services to surrounding Appalachian counties.
- Regional Emergency Management Specialist for Region V will travel to Ohio in September and October to offer Emergency Preparedness Trainings for Fathers.
- August 1^{5th} Franklin County 2012 Family Empowerment Day and Resource Fair sponsored by Franklin County CSEA, CUL and St. Stephen's Community House: Fourth year of this event which over 500 people attended including 93 non-custodial parents who met with Franklin CSEA staff and paid over \$1100 in child support payments.
- Regional BAFF meetings are being planned for October. Staff from fatherhood programs, Assets for Independence and County CSEAs will be invited to participate.

B. Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative

The RFP for the trainer for the next round of the Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative was posted on the ODJFS website last Monday. OCF will provide community mobilization training for five (5) counties and award each county \$10,000 to fund a fatherhood initiative identified by the county through the mobilization process. OCF is seeking a vendor to develop the curriculum, provide the mobilization and train OCF staff.

C. Virginia Fatherhood Initiative

Brian Gullins from Virginia contacted Director Dent about scheduling a visit to Ohio by a delegation of policy makers and legislators. Virginia received a grant from the Casey Family Foundation to learn about best practices in fatherhood programs . They are impressed with the statewide structure of the OCF and want to learn more. The Virginia delegation will be in Ohio for three (3) days and would like to spend two (2) days visiting OCF funded grantees. Director Dent plans to dedicate the November commission meeting to the visit. Commissioner Scott Neely said that DRC Director Gary Mohr may attend the meeting. Chairman Kontur said that he will bring Director Deb Ortiz-Flores from Lucas County JFS to present information on how they engage social service programs.

IV. 2013-14 Fatherhood RFGA

Matthew Cunningham has begun preparing for the July 2013-14 TANF budget. There have been several internal meetings to discuss what has worked in previous fatherhood RFGAs and what we would like to change. OCF hopes to release the next RFGA in the spring and have grant agreements running starting on July 1, 2013.

Future RFGAs will be a deliverable based model with performance standards and quantifiable measurements. Grantees will receive payment upon completion of those results. ODJFS already does this for contracts. Rather than receiving payment for line item expenses, grantees will be asked to define their work in terms of deliverables. ODJFS will assist them on how to measure results and how many

fathers to serve. ODJFS will be doing this with all departments that receive TANF dollars including OCF.

OCF is considering changing to a regional based structure for its RFGA rather than funding grantees that just serve one area. This will allow OCF funds to reach more people. OCF may release more than one RFGA and may use a combination of models. A geographic based RFGA might require that at least two counties be served by the grantee. In rural and metro areas a population based RFGA where a grantee must serve a minimum number of fathers may be more appropriate.

The next round of RFGAs will not fund start up programs. A demonstrable level of fatherhood program experience will be required.

Chairman Kontur asked whether the state can post an RFGA with the caveat that grants are contingent on the level of available funding at the time of the selection. This is how it is done in Lucas County. Mr. Cunningham responded that ODJFS is hoping to do that. He is also hopeful that ODJFS will move away from earmark funding. Director Dent said she would like more of the OCF budget to go into direct funding of programs. The current RFP for the County Fatherhood Initiative trainer is to train OCF staff as well as the participating counties so that OCF can facilitate future trainings and not use funds to hire an outside expert. However, OCF will always hire outside evaluators to measure the effectiveness of programs.

V. Grantee Experience

Two OCF grantees were invited to present information about their fatherhood programs.

A. Spirit of Peace

Charmaine Kirby spoke about the fatherhood program at Spirit of Peace (SOP) in NW Dayton. They started as a reentry service provider. Seeing the extent of the father absence problem SOP developed a fatherhood program using NFI's 24/7 Dad curriculum for Nova Behavioral, a substance abuse facility with an in-patient program.

Mark Barber works as an evaluator for SOP and has tracked outcomes for them over the past ten years. They have a database with pre and post survey results from their program participants. Because they are currently holding their first fatherhood classes they do not yet have sufficient data to analyze. One of their biggest challenges is that the men they serve have serious addiction and honesty issues. Their staff needs to build trust with these men over time so that the men will be honest and break through barriers. SOP staff completes all of the OCF intake forms with the men they serve in face to face meetings. Once the men are released from Nova Behavioral, SOP staff often loses contact. They are trying to transition to working with men as out-patients so they will have continuing contact with fathers served.

Spirit of Peace is also working with Alvis House using NFI's Inside-Out Dad curriculum. These men are at Alvis House for six to nine months so they hope to have more consistent contact with these fathers.

SOP has also started working with Michael Newsom, Social Program Coordinator for Montgomery County JFS.

Chairman Kontur asked Ms. Kirby what services they provide. She responded that they offer fatherhood classes and group mentoring sessions. Groups meet monthly with five mentors. At the meetings a community expert presents a topic and the men get information, support and guidance.

Commissioner Hettel asked how many fathers SOP has served since the beginning of their grant. Ms. Kirby says they have served 120 fathers.

Commissioner Neely asked if SOP works in the prisons and how ex-offenders find out about their services. Ms. Kirby said that they are not working in prisons but Montgomery County Reentry coalition sometimes makes referrals.

B. HARCATUS

Becky Glasure and Harry Wilson, staff from HARCATUS, attended the meeting with three parents who have participated in their fatherhood program. HARCATUS stands for Harrison, Carroll and Tuscarawas counties; they also serve Coshocton and Columbiana counties. Their Father Time program engages

fathers and children who participate in their Head Start Program. Meetings begin with activities for fathers and children to do together; then the fathers leave the room to work with Harry Wilson while the children stay and play under teacher supervision. Meetings allow fathers to meet with other dads, share challenges and support each other. In addition to the fatherhood classes HARCATUS does several community outreach activities including a “Big Truck Day” in Lisbon and “Day in the Park with Dad” the Friday before Father’s Day which 750 people attended this year.

Becky Glassure has been affiliated with HARCATUS Head Start for 30 years. Her first contact with the program was a parent in an abusive marriage; she transitioned into a staff position after receiving help and learning about the needs of families they serve. Although the numbers of fathers served in Appalachian Ohio may not be as high as in urban areas, HARCATUS develops long lasting relationships with the families. Most of the fathers they serve come from the Head Start program but they have started working with county Child Support to get referrals. Many grand fathers are involved in their program because they have custody.

Harry Wilson runs the Father Time meetings at HARCATUS. He introduced Trad Kleyman, a father who attended the classes with his two children. Mr. Kleyman is a model father who now mentors other fathers. According to Mr. Kleyman, the class taught him skills he did not have before. He now chooses to spend most of his free time with his children. He works at the Texas Road House Restaurant in meal preparation and also gets his kids up and ready for school every day.

Lee Slocum is a father who participates in the Father Time program. Before getting involved with HARCATUS he did not spend time with his children. Through the father child activities that he does at HARCATUS he began to spend at least two hours a week with his kids. The “Bob the Builder” program at Lowes also gave them projects he and his children could work on together. Although his son is now too old for Head Start he still wants to go because he enjoyed his time there so much. Jan Slocum, his wife, also spoke to the commission. She said that when they began Head Start one of her family goals

was for her husband to get involved with their children. She felt as if she alone had to deal with everything related to their kids. She gave her husband an ultimatum that he had to get involved. At the time their family was receiving government assistance but the staff at HARCATUS never judged them and always encouraged her husband. Being involved with HARCATUS has completely changed how they operate in their home. Mrs. Slocum believes that the fatherhood program at HARCATUS saved her marriage. Now her husband makes sure he spends quality time with their children and does activities like bike riding and camping, things he never did before. Their children are confident, excelling in school and light up when they see their father. They are no longer receiving government assistance because of what this program did for their family. Her husband is a different man. The program gave him the confidence to interview for a job and he now works in the oil fields. Five years ago he would not have been able to speak before a group like the commission. He is still using the lessons he learned in the classes at HARCATUS. He gets down to eye level when he talks with their children – this is something he learned that in class. The class is a guide to help you love your children more. Ms. Slocum believes that all that families need is for people to believe in them and they can change lives.

VI. Evaluator for OCF - Dan Houston and Associates

Mr. Daniel Houston, his wife Melanie, and Deb Zendlovitz attended the meeting. This firm Dan Houston and Associates was selected as the evaluator of OCF funded grantees. According to Mr. Houston they have been in business for 21 years and are a certified Minority Business Enterprise. Mrs. Houston is the operation manager for the firm and Ms. Zendlovitz works with Dr. Cheryl Meyer on the evaluation side of the business. She is a social worker and psychotherapist by training but has done qualitative evaluation for ten years. Dr. Meyers is a statistician. Their staff will visit all eight grantees to learn more about their programs and data collection. They plan to do a thematic analysis of the data OCF has already obtained and to convert data into useful charts.

Chairman Kontur asked Senator Bill Beagle and Representative Timothy Derickson what type of information they as legislators would like to see. Senator Beagle said he would like to review the data

before budget talks begin. OCF needs to show the “Return on Investment” by demonstrating that participation in OCF funded fatherhood programs led to things like increased payment of child support, avoiding incarceration, and securing full time employment so a family no longer receiving public assistance. Senator Beagle said that he would be happy to look at drafts and give feedback on what data points are best to present to legislators. He also said he will look for examples of reports he has received from other organizations that he feels effectively portrayed their story. Representative Derickson said that he had to argue on behalf of OCF’s continued existence during the last biennium budget. The report will need to show dollar savings to the state because of the funds given to OCF. He suggested that the important data be on a single sheet because legislators receive many reports.

VII. Announcements & New Business

Commissioner Neely said that DRC has developed a brochure on Collateral Sanctions reforms that they are distributing in the prisons. Monica Mahoney said that she would email the commissioners a link to the PDF on the DRC website.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.