

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)
Interim Executive Director Report
September-October 2012**

OCF Grantees

Grantee Conference Calls and Monthly Meeting: In addition to monthly conference calls with mandatory participation by all grantees, OCF staff convened an in person grantee meeting to provide a venue for all OCF grantees to network and learn about each other's programs.

Columbus Urban League Reorganization: OCF staff met with a representative from the Columbus Urban League. Glenn Harris oversaw their fatherhood program but recently resigned. The CUL is reclassifying his position and the fatherhood program will be merged with their Housing and Education programs. Additional meetings will be scheduled to clarify any questions or concerns.

Spirit of Peace Meeting: OCF staff and staff from Office of Family Assistance' Contract Unit met with representatives from Spirit of Peace to discuss invoicing and the number of fathers served by their program to date. Spirit of Peace will work with Montgomery County's Fatherhood Liaison to identify fathers in Child Support and Children Service's systems that may be eligible for their program.

RFPs and Contracts

OCF Evaluator: OCF staff met staff members of Dan Houston and Associates, the company selected to conduct the evaluation of OCF funded fatherhood grantees. Dr. Cheryl Myer and Debra Zendlovitz will be reviewing and interpreting data. Dan and Melanie Houston will handle deliverables and billing. In the meetings we discussed the history of the commission, the eight fatherhood grantees and the current evaluation tools.

County Initiative Trainer RFP: Office of Contracts and Acquisitions posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) to secure a trainer to develop materials and curriculum for community fatherhood initiative and to train representatives from interested counties and OCF staff. Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families was selected by the RFP review team. Due to the cost proposed in the RFP the contract will have to be approved by the Controlling Board.

2014-2015 Fatherhood Grantee Request for Grant Application (RFGA): OCF staff met with TANF staff Matthew Cunningham, Sue Cook and Krista Kinchen to continue discussions regarding what should be included in RFGAs that will be released during the next biennium.

ForeverDads Meeting: OCF staff met to review the contract and purchase order issued to ForeverDads fatherhood program and to discuss how to document the contract's deliverables. This was followed by a visit to the ForeverDads program in Zanesville.

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County Meetings

Summit County Child Support Awareness Event: OCF staff attended the Summit County Child Support Awareness Day. At the event child support obligors had an opportunity to discuss their child support cases, reinstate their driver's licenses, address their warrants, receive genetic testing, and obtain information regarding job opportunities and other valuable services at the Summit County Job Service Center. Several Fatherhood practitioners were on site to assist with this effort.

Forever Dads Tribute to Fatherhood-Muskingum County: OCF staff attended the Forever Dads Tribute to Fatherhood celebration which honored five fathers in the Zanesville area.

Prison Outreach

Ross Correctional Facility: OCF staff visited Ross Correctional Facility and shared information with inmates about child support, fatherhood and changes to collateral sanction laws.

Marion Correctional Facility: OCF staff visited Marion Correctional Institution to attend the 10th Annual Parenting Conference. Staff conducted workshops for inmates covering topics such as child support, father engagement and child development.

Building Assets for Fathers & Families (BAFF)

Regional Trainings Planning: OCF staff participated in several meetings to discuss BAFF regional meetings originally scheduled to take place in October 2012. These regional trainings will provide program cross-training to Assets for Independence and Child Support professionals as well as fatherhood practitioners. Because of scheduling conflicts, the trainings will be postponed until Spring 2013.

Conference calls: OCF staff participated in the monthly Advisory Board conference calls with Ohio BAFF leadership team. In addition, OCF staff participated in a phone conference with Hamilton County JFS regarding the BAFF Public Service Announcement developed by the Office of Communications. The PSA will be aired on local radio stations and target fathers and Child Support obligors. OCF staff also met to discuss development of Ohio BAFF manual.

Federal

Health & Human Services Federal Program Improvement Plan (PIP): OCF staff participated in a conference call with the federal Health & Human services representatives to report on the status of the Program Improvement Plan and how the commission continues to help.

Fatherhood Buzz Conference Call: OCF staff participated in conference call from the President's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives to learn about the launch of the "Fatherhood Buzz" outreach initiative in barber shops across the country.

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Health and Human Services Emergency Preparedness Training: OCF staff attended all seven Emergency Preparedness Trainings conducted by Region V staff from the Chicago office of FEMA. The trainings were designed for fathers and fatherhood practitioners. Trainings took place at five of our eight grantee locations across the state. Participants received emergency kits to help families prepare for future emergencies.

Other Meetings of Note

National Child Support Enforcement Association: OCF staff participated in the National Child Support Enforcement Association's webinar on preventing premature pregnancy entitled, "Too Young for Parenthood". Two representatives from Ohio (Cuyahoga and Fairfield counties) along with two representatives from Tennessee made presentations.

Child Support Strategic Workgroup: OCF staff attended the first Child Support Strategic Workgroup meeting. The group conducted a SWOT Analysis and candidly spoke about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing Ohio's Child Support Program.

National Fatherhood Initiative: Mom as Gateway: OCF staff met via conference call with Eric Vecere from the National Fatherhood Initiative to discuss new curricula designed to engage mothers and the new program entitled, "Understanding Dad".

Nationwide Children's Hospital Meeting: OCF staff met with Dr. Arthur James and his staff at Nationwide's Teen and Adolescent Pregnancy Clinic to discuss developing a holistic curriculum for teenage fathers.

Prison News Network OCF staff met with Prison News Network staff at the Marion Correctional Facility for final edits to the Child Support Administrative Review and Adjustment DVD and PSA.

Virginia Visit: OCF staff met via conference call with Andrea Murray and Joan Ohl from the Virginia delegation to discuss topics of interest and logistics for their visit to Ohio on November 14-16. The Virginia fatherhood delegation will attend the commission meeting and visit several fatherhood grantees.