

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)
Executive Director Report
April 2016-June 2016**

Funding:

New Pathways for Fathers & Families Federal Grant:

OCF was awarded the Federal Fatherhood grant from HHS / AFC to implement services in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Clark, Montgomery, and Hamilton counties. Services will focus on economic stability, responsible parenting and healthy marriage and relationships. The grant is scheduled to be funded for 5 years with approximately \$2 million per year. OCF continues to make progress during the planning phase. Purchase orders have been sent to the fatherhood programs selected to provide local services. The Project Director and Researcher 2 have been selected and have begun the state on-boarding process.

2016 State Fatherhood Summit

OCF staff co-hosted with OPNFF (Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families) the 2016 State Fatherhood Summit. The theme of the summit was: "Compassion, Connectivity and Celebration". The summit was a place for fathers, fatherhood advocates, vendors, and practitioners to meet, network, share information, successes and challenges in all things fatherhood.

The summit also provided workshops and plenary sessions that contained essential information to fatherhood practitioners and community service providers/government agencies that will assist with services to Ohio's fathers and families. The workshops included:

- Fatherhood Research Practice Network Research and Data Workshop facilitated by Temple University and a representative from the Center for Policy Research.
 - The 101 participants that attended the workshop received certificates of completion from Temple University.
- Navigating the Child Support System
- Supporting Effective Co-Parenting Relationships (Home Visiting)
- Promoting and Supporting Fathers' Health
- Discrepancies in Mothers' and Fathers' Expectations Priorities and Reports
- Trauma and Domestic Violence-Informed Programming for Fathers and Families

The plenary sessions included:

- "Ohio Commission on Fatherhood – Funded Programs" Panel Discussion
 - The panel was comprised of OCF's grantees and sub-grantees as well as fathers that were served by each program. Attendees were able to hear programming information. Father graduates shared inspiring testimonials about their program journey. The father graduates were given "I am a Committed Father" T-shirts.

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- “New Beginnings for New Fathers Federal Grant” Panel Discussion
 - OCF staff and sub-grantees talked about the five-year \$10 million grant from the federal government and the manner by which it will be implemented. The panel was comprised of:
 - Harold Howard of Talbert House who discussed *Management and Service Delivery*
 - Ashiko Hudson of Action for Children who talked about *Anticipated Outcomes*.
 - Also from Action for Children was Judy Williams and she spoke about *Family Violence Prevention*
 - Dr. Brian Moore from Passages spoke about *Recruitment and Retention*.
 - Monica Mahoney from The OCF composed a *Grant Overview* to share, in which she explained the three major components the federal government want to address with this grant:
 - Economic Stability
 - Co-parenting
 - Responsible Fatherhood
- “Fatherhood in Government” Panel Discussion
 - Panelist included: Senator Bill Beagle, Jye Breckenridge with the ODH Help Me Grow program, Douglas Lumpkin, ODJFS Office of Human Services Innovation, Mike Davis, Bureau Chief of the Office of Reentry and Enterprise Development, Linda Janes Assistant Director of ODYS, Scott Neely OCF Commissioner and Legislative Liaison with ODRC and Mike Priemo Chief of Staff for the Democratic Caucus.

Attendees were able to meet others associated with the fatherhood initiative, learn about new ways of implementing and tracking the impact of fatherhood programming, and converse with government officials closely connected with the initiative. Based on the responses from the 132 post summit surveys received, the summit was a success for everyone involved. Photos, videos and Power Points from presentations will soon be available on the OCF website.

Recurring Meetings and Initiatives

Fatherhood Summit Planning Conference Call: OCF staff participated in weekly state summit conference calls. The call is held with members from the Ohio Practitioners’ Network for Fathers and Families staff. OPNFF co-sponsored the summit with ODJFS/OCF

Child Support Awareness Month Committee Planning Meeting: OCF staff has been asked to return to the planning committee for Child Support Awareness Month. The Child Support Awareness Committee will give input on Child Support Awareness poster, target audience, and assist with the Governor’s Proclamation. The committee will meet weekly and OCF staff’s

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presence was necessary so that the needs of fathers as it applies to child support was adequately represented.

Monthly Grantee Conference Call: OCF staff participated in the “standing” monthly state grantee conference call. The eight TANF funded Responsible Fatherhood Programs have an opportunity to discuss the success and challenges of their programs. OCF provides information regarding the data collection as well as invites guest speakers to provide resources and training. Former OCF Commissioner, Steve Killpack, facilitated May’s call on fatherhood curricula.

NBNF Meetings, Presentations, Trainings and Conference Calls

B3 (Building Bridges and Bonds) study call: OCF staff participated in another series of calls with MDRC, a nonprofit social policy research organization HHS/ACF selected to pilot innovative curricula with select fatherhood programs with 6 of the 39 programs receiving federal responsible fatherhood funding. MDRC selected Passages (Cleveland, OH) to implement the B3 (Building Bridges and Bonds) Behavioral Interventions in Employment. MDRC will provide research analysis on a special population of fathers served by Passages, one of the fatherhood programs providing services under the New Beginnings for New Fathers federal grant.

Conference call with New Beginning for New Fathers (NBNF) Federal Sub-grantee: OCF staff hosted the weekly conference call with partners and vendors funded by the NBNF federal grant. These “standing” weekly calls give sub-grantees, vendors, and partners opportunities to provide information, ask questions and receive clarification.

Federal Conference Call: OCF staff participated in the monthly federal grant conference call. These monthly calls provide an opportunity for programs funded under the HHS/ACF grant funding an opportunity to discuss barriers, communicate successes and ask questions during the planning phase of the grant. The online data collection tool being developed by Mathematica for the federal grant, nFORM, is still not available.

Love Notes 2 Day Training: OCF sponsored a two-day Love Notes curriculum training by Irene Varley of the Dibble Institute that took place in Cuyahoga, Franklin and Hamilton counties. Completing the curriculum training and implementing the training to fidelity is a requirement for practitioners and programs under the Federal grant. Direct services for fathers are scheduled to begin July 2016.

On My Shoulders Curriculum 3 Day Training: OCF sponsored a three-day training by Calvin Williams of OPNFF for the federal sub-grantees which covered the On My Shoulders curriculum. The curriculum will be implemented to fidelity by the New Beginnings for New Fathers fatherhood programs.

Domestic Violence Training with David Mandel: OCF hosted a three-day training on the domestic violence curriculum *Being Connected*. Those in attendance included Action for Children, Passages, Talbert House and Urban Light Ministries. The training was led by the author of the curriculum Mr. David Mandel and is essential to fatherhood programming under the New Beginnings for New Fathers federal grant.

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ODJFS: nFORM Data Sharing Agreement Conference Call

OCF staff participated in a telephone conference with ODJFS Legal staff, HHS, and Mathematica regarding the nFORM Data Sharing Agreement. It was decided during the call that no modifications will be made to the agreement prior to the Deputy Director's signature as many of the questions/concerns are in the agreement between HHS and Mathematica.

OCDA Meeting about NBNF: OCF staff presented the New Beginnings for New Fathers (NBNF) grant at the Ohio Child Support Directors' Association general membership meeting. OCF has requested that the County Child Support Agencies refer fathers who have established paternity as well as a support order to OCF fatherhood programming.

Meeting with The Ohio State University Extension staff: OCF staff provided a NBNF presentation to the OSU Extension staff who will provide financial education to the fathers who receive programming under the NBNF federal grant. The grant coordinator was in attendance and will move forward with executing the grant agreement with OFA fiscal staff.

Phone Conference with Ohio University (OU) staff: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with OU staff. OU will provide CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement) under the NBNF grant. OU will also provide measurement data regarding infant mortality and financial education.

Workforce Development Assessment: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with ICF, the technical assistance (TA) company associated with the Pathways Federal Fatherhood grant. ICF will provide TA throughout the grant cycle. One of the major components of the technical assistance is helping fathers secure employment and employment retention.

Presentation at ODYS Spring Street - Cedric Collins: OCF staff provided a NBNF presentation to ODYS staff (parole and probation regions). The parole/probation regions will determine with the local NBNF fatherhood programs the most effective way to link fathers to the essential services.

OCPIM and other OCF Infant Mortality Initiatives

OCPIM Executive Steering Committee Meeting: OCF staff participated in the OCPIM Executive Steering Committee Meeting. Staff from ODH, co-chairs from the other Six Reduction Plan workgroups as well as other OCPIM executive staff discussed the upcoming OCPIM State Summit scheduled for December 2016 in Cleveland. The committee also discussed the retreat scheduled for June 14, 2016.

Phone Conference with Thomas Scheid (Public Health-Home Visiting) – OCF staff participated in a phone conference with Mr. Thomas Scheid, a contractor with the Franklin County Help Me Grow program. OCF staff will participate in the July home visiting meeting to provide information on the OCPIM Fatherhood Involvement in Maternal and Child Health workgroup and the New Beginnings for New Fathers grant activities.

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Moms2B Event: OCF staff attended the Moms2B annual celebration event held at OSU. Several presentations were provided regarding the implementation of the Columbus Prevention of Infant Mortality project operated by The Ohio State University. OCF is funding a pilot project in which alumni fathers from The Columbus Urban League's Father2Father program provide programming and mentorship to the fathers connected to the mothers enrolled in the Moms2B program.

ODH Crib Procurement Safe Sleep Meeting with Sara Morman: OCF staff met with ODH staff regarding the procurement process as it relates to the portable safe-sleep cribs issued by ODH. OCF is interested in distributing safe-sleep portable cribs to the expectant and new fathers who participate in the NBNF program. OCF staff has connected with ODJFS/Contracts and Acquisitions regarding next steps.

OCPIM Kickoff Summit Planning Meeting: OCF staff participated in the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality summit planning meeting. The summit is scheduled for December 2016. OCF staff will participate on the breakout session. A recommendation was made to include a fatherhood track during the summit.

Call with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity: OCF staff discussed with the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity the possibility of providing Safe Sleep information at the State Fatherhood Summit. The Kappa Fraternity has implemented Safe Sleep education and outreach in their programming. Anyone who pledges Kappa Alpha Psi will be expected to go through the education as well as reach out to their respective communities regarding safe sleep. These efforts are in conjunction with NICHD (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development).

Phone Conference with Columbus Urban League Staff: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with CUL staff to discuss the Ohio Infant Mortality Taskforce activities as well as the Fatherhood Involvement in Maternal and Child Health workgroup

Columbus Urban League Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality Presentation: OCF staff provided a presentation to CUL practitioners on various OCF events and initiatives, including information on the OCPIM Taskforce and the Fatherhood Involvement in Maternal and Child Health workgroup. CUL staff are seeking permission to join the taskforce and the Fatherhood Involvement workgroup.

Meeting with Dr. Stacy Scott (SIDS Network Ohio) – OCF staff met with Dr. Stacy Scott, a contractor with NIH (National Institute of Health) regarding her work throughout the U.S. and the various African-American Greek Fraternities and their Safe Sleep project. OCF staff are interested in possibly funding a pilot project as it relates to the NBNF project and safe sleep practices implemented by families who receive the safe sleep portable cribs.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Safe Sleep Expo: OCF staff provided fatherhood information at a vendor table during the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Safe Sleep Expo at the Kings Art Complex. Various government speakers and vendor tables provided vital information to the public regarding safe sleep practices.

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Prison & Restored Citizen Outreach

Starts Within Graduation: OCF staff attended the graduation ceremony for Carlos Christian's Walking Logo program through his Starts Within Organization. Mr. Christian works with incarcerated and previously incarcerated fathers to help them be the best men and fathers they can be while incarcerated and as restored citizens. Several staff from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction as well as the Franklin County Re-entry program were also in attendance.

Meeting with Suzanne Brooks and Timothy Barre to discuss CQEs (Certificate for Qualification of Employment): OCF staff met with ODRC staff, Suzanne Brooks and Tim Barre, to discuss training for OCF grantees on Expungements and CQEs. ODRC also agreed to provide information at the 2016 State Fatherhood Summit and present a webinar on CQE's during a the July monthly OCF Grantee Call

Lebanon Correctional Institute & Warren Correctional Institute Fatherhood and Child Support Q&A: OFC staff provided a question and answer session to inmates at Lebanon and Warren Correctional Institutions. The sessions entailed information and resources from OCF and the Office of Child Support to assist the inmates with re-entering society as a restored citizens.

Southeastern Correctional Institute Q&A: OCF staff provided a question and answer session to inmates at SCI in Lancaster, Ohio. The sessions entailed information and resources from OCF and the Office of Child Support to assist the inmates with re-entering society as a restored citizens.

Family Engagement Inmate Focus Group at ORW: OCF staff traveled to the Ohio Reformatory for Women to facilitate a family engagement conversation with the inmates. OCF staff and DRC staff spoke with the women in the facility about what is working and what is not working in the area of family engagement.

Family Engagement Inmate Focus Group at DCI: OCF staff traveled to the Dayton Correctional Institution to facilitate a family engagement conversation with the inmates. OCF staff and DRC staff spoke with the women in the facility about what is working and what is not working in the area of family engagement.

Highland County (SW) Family Engagement Forum: OCF staff traveled to the Highland County to facilitate a family engagement conversation with members of the community. OCF staff and DRC staff spoke with the women in the facility about what is working and what is not working in the area of family engagement.

ODRC Restored Citizen Muskingum Event: OCF staff presented at the ODRC Restored Citizens event held at Muskingum University. OCF staff provided information regarding the target population of the New Beginnings for New Fathers (NBNF) federal grant.

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Other OCF Meetings, Calls, Events & Projects

Site Visit to Passages: OCF staff traveled to Ravenna, Ohio to meet with the staff at Passages one of the TANF funded Responsible Fatherhood grantees. Staff explained their program procedures, partners and challenges thus far. OCF staff was able to offer guidance and assistance with issues involving data collection.

County Mobilization Call with Katrina Wilson (Butler County Contact) and OCF Staff: OCF staff reached out to contact persons in seven counties to gauge their interest in OCF and OPNFF's County Mobilization project. Ms. Katrina Wilson, the representative and point of contact for Butler County, had some questions about the parameters of the project that OCF staff was able to answer with a telephone conference.

Columbus Urban League Budget Meeting: OCF staff participated in a meeting to discuss amending the Columbus Urban League Budget for the upcoming SFY. Staff will continue to work with OFAM fiscal regarding those amendments.

Refuge Ministries: OCF staff met with Rebekah Linton as requested by the Director. Refuge Ministries is a non-profit faith-based agency that offers housing and detox to the drug and alcohol addicted population. When a participant is accepted into the program, he is transported to Vinton County to begin detox. The program contains four phases with the end result to include employment and self-sufficiency. OCF staff attended the orientation and was provided a tour of one of the housing facilities.

Refuge Ministries Presentation: OCF staff participated in a presentation with Action for Children at Refuge Ministries (Presbyterian Hilltop Church). The presentation was made to previously drug and alcohol addicted recovering men who are in phase three of the four-phase program.

Engaging Fathers Workgroup: OCF staff participated in the Engaging Fathers Toolkit Workgroup, which is being led by ODJFS/Office of Families and Children. The toolkit will be completed by June 30, 2016 and will be used as a state model for engaging fathers with children in the Child Protective Services system.

Conference Call with Tarik White: OCF staff participated in a conference call with Tarik White, ODE OCF commissioner. OCF staff discussed the upcoming summit moderator responsibilities as well as Mr. White attending the Fishing with Dad event, which OCF is providing mini-grant dollars to during June.

Talbert House Fatherhood Celebration: OCF staff attended the Talbert House Fatherhood Celebration hosted by Talbert House. Two community fathers (Kenneth Griffey Sr. and Buddy LaRosa) were honored and a local Cincinnati father was honored for the role that he plays in his daughter's life and the effort he put forth to obtain custody of his daughter.

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Conversation with Gianna Harrison (Secretary Husted's Chief Press Secretary): OCF staff participated in a phone conversation with Gia Harrison regarding summer father/child activities in the state (i.e., sports camp). Secretary Husted is interested in becoming more engaged in the state's fatherhood activities. OCF staff provided the names and locations of the eleven organizations in receipt of the "June is Responsible Fatherhood Month" mini grant.

HSCRT Family Engagement: OCF staff participated on the phone conference as part of the Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team Family Engagement sub-committee. The grant awarded to ODE and OMHAS to address the school safety, healthy students and mental health and behavioral components in selected counties is in the implementation phase of the grant. A family engagement sub-committee has been created to assist with implementation of the grant activities.

OHMAN-Tony Porter's "A Call to Men": OCF staff attended the Tony Porter event which addressed issues of violence against women. Conversations occurred with men regarding stereotypes that men feel they have to comply with in order to be considered "masculine". OCF staff continues to learn the best way to engage men regarding domestic violence.

COTA Mobility Advisory Board: OCF staff facilitated the COTA Mobility Advisory Board meeting. The Executive Director of OCF was voted in as secretary of the board and assisted with the meeting in the absence of the president and vice-president.

Jimmy Lewis w/ YMCA of Central Ohio: OCF staff met with Mr. James Lewis, from the Juvenile Justice Program of the Central Ohio YMCA. Mr. Lewis is interested in how the YMCA can get involved in the Responsible Fatherhood services/events in Central Ohio.

Ohio Call Father Engagement: OCF staff participated in a phone conference with Makita Lewis from the Virginia Fatherhood Contingency. Ms. Lewis was interested in hearing more about the Engaging Fathers Toolkit being designed for Child Protective Services workers.

Healthy Schools and Community Resource Team: OCF staff attended the HSCRT meeting at the University of Dayton, Dublin location. OCF staff has joined the family engagement group to ensure that all aspects regarding parent engagement (specifically fathers) are being implemented at the local district schools involved in the ODE/OMHAS grant project.