

# **Ohio Commission on Fatherhood**

## **Minutes from the Meeting of**

**Thursday, February 3, 2011**

<b>Commissioners Present:</b>  Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman  Representative Carlton Weddington  Mr. Robert Boykins  Director Susan Brown  Mr. Cedric Collins  Councilman Kevin Conwell  Ms. Kimberly Dent  Mr. Thomas Eddie Joyce  Mr. Steven Killpack  Dr. Randy Leite  Mr. Scott Neely	<b>Guests:</b>  Monica Gillison, Interim Executive Director, Ohio Children's Trust Fund  Lavita Stokes, Vice President of Finance, Three Leaf Productions  Ron Stokes, CEO, Three Leaf Productions  Jack Walter
<b>OCF Staff Present:</b>  Mr. J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director  Ms. Monica Mahoney  Ms. Whitney Logan	

## **I. Call to Order & Welcome New Commissioners**

Executive Director Tracy Robinson (“Director Robinson”) called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. Director Robinson welcomed our guests and newly appointed Commissioners, Ms. Susan Brown, Director, Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency and Dr. Randy Leite, Interim Dean, Ohio University College of Health and Human Services. In addition, Director Robinson announced that on February 2, 2011, House Speaker William Batchelder reappointed Representatives Carlton Weddington and Timothy Derickson and appointed Representatives Jeffrey McClain and Mike Ashford to serve on the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (“OCF”). Chairman Peter Lawson Jones arrived shortly thereafter, and a quorum was achieved.

## **II. Approval of November 4, 2010 Minutes**

Commissioner Steve Killpack moved, with Commissioner Thomas Joyce seconding, that the minutes from the meeting of November 4, 2010, be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

## **III. Executive Director’s Report**

Director Robinson provided a written summary of his activities in November, December and January, a synopsis of which has been incorporated in these minutes. He highlighted the Commission’s and/or his involvement in the following events:

- Director Robinson provided the keynote address at Mount Vernon AME Church Men's Retreat. (Columbus – November 6, 2010)
- Director Robinson briefed Representative John Carey, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee. (Columbus – November 8, 2010)
- Director Robinson briefed Robert A. Gruhl, Assistant Director, Montgomery County Department of Job & Family Services. (Dayton – November 29, 2010)

- The OCF staff attended the Reducing Racial Disproportionality in the Child Welfare System Conference, sponsored by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (“ODJFS”).  
(Columbus – December 13, 2010)
- Director Robinson facilitated the Engaging the Non-Resident Father Training sessions in Summit, Franklin, Guernsey and Cuyahoga counties.
- The OCF staff led the monthly grantee conference call with grantee budget and program coordinators and TANF representatives.

#### **IV. OCF Grantees**

##### **A. Evaluation**

Current OCF grantees are required to complete and submit data from the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (“AAPI”). All fathers participating in OCF grantee programs must complete the AAPI before beginning and after completing such programs. The AAPI is designed to reveal whether a father has changed his parenting attitudes as a result of participating in an OCF-funded fatherhood initiative. The OCF will use the AAPI data to show the measurable impact of OCF funded-programs on fathers’ parenting beliefs and practices.

Commissioner Randy Leite (“Dr. Leite”) is analyzing the data from the AAPI assessments. He provided the Commission with handouts summarizing his initial findings. The final data analysis will not be complete until the end of the grant period this July. Because this is the first time the OCF is using a uniform assessment tool to evaluate its fatherhood programs, Dr. Leite has uncovered some data inputting inconsistencies. According to Dr. Leite, this is to be expected because of the number of different program sites and people inputting the data. He suggests that grantees be trained on how to input data prior to the next round of awards so that assessment results will be more reliable. Commissioners Kimberly Dent, Steve Killpack and Dr. Leite volunteered to form a subcommittee on evaluations. Monica Gillison from the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund (“OCTF”) said she would send Director Robinson information on the Protective Factor Survey, a data collection tool used in several OCTF programs.

## **B. RFGA 2011-13**

Director Robinson suggested having two tiers of grantees in the next RFGA. The first tier of grantees would include proven fatherhood programs that would be awarded a \$100,000 grant. The second tier would include new fatherhood programs and counties participating in the Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative training; they would be awarded \$50,000. Budget negotiations for State FY 2012-13 are ongoing in the General Assembly and the state budget must be finalized by July 1, 2011. Once the OCF budget is known, Director Robinson will determine the amount of funds available to grantees in next RFGA. Director Robinson thanked Commissioner Killpack for his contribution to the development of the new RFGA. The TANF office has approved the proposed RFGA, which is currently under review in the ODJFS Contracts Office.

Commissioners then posed questions and offered recommendations:

- Commissioner Killpack asked whether the current grantees are projected to spend all monies allocated. Director Robinson said no and that he requested grantees with substantial balances to remit unused funds to the OCF for reallocation to other program needs. So far, Greene County OSU Extension Fatherhood program has relinquished \$25,000.
- Commissioner Joyce asked during what time frame the grantees must spend their awards. Director Robinson answered between March, 2009 and June, 2009 for the first \$60,000 and between July, 2009 and June, 2011 for the remaining \$100,000.
- Commissioner Collins suggested that the OCF present more qualitative analysis of funded programs' impacts such as publishing individual fathers' success stories. Director Robinson has requested such anecdotes from grantees and plans to profile individual fathers in upcoming e-newsletters and the OCF annual report.
- Commissioner Boykins asked how the Commission's efforts affect communities and what the return on investment is. This will be addressed by the analysis of the AAPI data.

## **V. Commission Vacancies**

Although there were eight Commission vacancies as of January 1, 2011, thanks to the efforts of Monica Mahoney most of them have been filled.

- The four vacant House of Representatives OCF slots have been filled with Speaker Batchelder appointing Representatives Carlton Weddington, Timothy Derickson, Jeffrey McClain and Mike Ashford.
- Based on her conversations with Senate President Tom Neihaus' office, Ms. Mahoney anticipates that the two Senate vacancies on the Commission will be filled shortly.\*
- In January, Ms. Mahoney sent letters to all of the newly appointed directors of agencies who are statutorily designated as Commissioners including the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Ohio Department of Youth Services, Ohio Department of Health and ODJFS. All but ODADAS have previously notified OCF of their designees, who continue to serve as Commissioners until replaced.
- John Matthews, the new Director of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, has told Director Robinson that he will serve as Governor Kasich's designee.

## **VI. Ohio County Initiative**

In January, 2011 the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood launched the first Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative ("OCFI"). The following twelve counties were selected to participate: Clark, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Lorain, Mercer, Montgomery, Muskingum, Stark, Summit and Trumbull. Over the next six months, counties will receive:

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\* On February 10, 2011, one week after the subject Commission meeting, Senate President Neihaus appointed Senators Charleta Tavares and Bill Beagle to serve as Commissioners.

- Training on how to conduct a Needs and Assets Assessment in their communities;
- Planning for a Leadership Summit on Fatherhood;
- Assistance on how to implement a Community Action Plan on Fatherhood; and
- Guidance in how to identify and apply for funding to sustain a County Fatherhood Initiative.

The OCF will furnish technical assistance and has contracted with the National Fatherhood Initiative to provide free training to all counties. Counties who successfully complete the training will receive a one-time \$10,000 seed grant to begin fatherhood programs in their community. Five counties are already on the waiting list to participate in the next round of OCFI training. Depending on OCF funding, the second training is expected to begin in September, 2011.

## **VII. Announcements & New Business**

- Chairman Jones announced that the movement to create a National Fatherhood Commission (“NFC”) is continuing to gain momentum and asked those present to visit and direct others to log onto the NFC website, [www.usdads.net](http://www.usdads.net).
- Director Robinson provided those in attendance with copies of the OCF Report to Community. Ms. Mahoney wrote the Report to brief the new administration and state legislators on the Commission’s purpose and accomplishments. Copies will be given to new members of the General Assembly during one-on-one meetings.
- Director Robinson also distributed copies of a new OCF brochure, “10 Ways Expecting Fathers Can Improve Better Birth Outcomes”. He hopes to disseminate the brochure at birthing centers and hospitals. Commissioner Conwell volunteered to place a link to the brochure in his neighborhood newsletter.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.