

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Minutes from the Meeting of Thursday, May 9, 2019

Attendance	
Commissioners	Director Scott Neely Deputy Director Kara Bertke-Wente Director Susan Brown Senator Hearcel Craig Dr. G. Mike Davis Mr. William Dodson Exec. Director Michele Reynolds Mr. Joseph Hill Mr. James Jackson Dr. Randy Leite, PhD (Absent) Director Ann Ream Mr. Socrates Tuch, Esq. Mr. Tarik White Rep. J. Todd Smith Rep. Riordan McClain Ms. Sarah LaTourette Rep. Terrance Upchurch Rep. Thomas West Mr. John Silverman (Absent)
Presenters	Rob Pierson, Stark County Child Support Agency Aimee Matusik, Family & Children First Council (Regional Office)
Guests	Anthony Slosser, Community Father Shawn Crable, Stark County, Early Childhood, Outreach and Parent Education (ECRC) Juan Bass, Central Ohio Parent Leader Training Institute (COPLTI) Chip Weiant, GOFBCI Board Member Stacy Yeager, Greater Good Ambassadors Melvin Hubbard El, District Office Chief of Staff, Office of the State Rep. Edward C. Gainey, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania John Burwell, Chairman, Fathers Collaborative Council of Western Pennsylvania and with Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Family Care Connection Fatherhood Engagement Arthur Johnson, Allegheny Intermediate Unit Responsible Fatherhood Program Michael Smith, Allegheny Intermediate Unit Responsible Fatherhood Program Derek Gordon, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Family Care Connection Fatherhood Engagement George Fleming, SOC Faith Based Ambassador Coordinator, Allegheny Family Network Fatherhood Community Outreach Barbara Danford, Washington County CSEA Attorney Kimberly Hinkle, Washington County CSEA Director

OCF Staff	Exec. Director Kimberly Dent Ms. Monica Mahoney, Program Manager Ms. Terri Simons, Administrative Professional 4
I. Call to Order & Welcome	
10:00-10:05	Director Scott Neely
Director Scott Neely began the meeting at 10:00 am by welcoming everyone.	
II. Introduction/Welcome of New Commissioners	
10:05-10:10	Director Scott Neely
<p>Director Neely welcomed our newly appointed commissioners, Senator Hearcel Craig, Rep. Riordan McClain, Rep. J. Todd Smith, Rep. Terrence Upchurch, Rep. Thomas West, Children and Family First Council Deputy Director Sarah LaTourette, and GOFBI Exec. Director Michele Reynolds.</p> <p>For more information about any of the commissioners, please visit our website: https://fatherhood.ohio.gov/Our-Commission/Meet-our-Commissioners/</p>	
III. Welcome to Others in the Room	
10:15-10:20	Director Scott Neely
IV. Approval of February 14, 2019 Minutes	
10:20 – 10:25	Director Scott Neely
Director Scott Neely asked for a motion of the approval of the February 14, 2019 minutes. Dr. Mike Davis motioned for the minutes to be approved and Director Susan Brown second the approval.	
V. Election of Officers (Ballots)	
10:25-10:30	Ms. Monica Mahoney
Ms. Monica Mahoney passed out Ballots to all the Commissioners to vote for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.	
VI. Presenter: Aimee Matusik, Supervisor, Family and Children’s First Council	
10:30 -10:50	Ms. Aimee Matusik, Family and Children First Council Regional Office
<p>Ms. Aimee Matusik, Supervisor at Family and Children First Council was our guest speaker. Ms. Matusik gave an overview of the Family and Children First Council organization. Ms. Matusik stated they receive funding from Family Centered Services and Supports (FCSS) and they serve families and children with multiple needs that are involved in Family and Children First Council Services Coordination (FCFCSC). She stated funding also could be</p>	

used to support non-clinical needs of children and their families. The Family and Children First Council staff must meet with the parents and children to discuss the problems in the home and assist them with resolving them. The staff asks the parents to complete assessments of their children and of themselves. The Family and Children First Council staff evaluates the assessments and provide feedback to them. They also provide information and training for the parents to overcome these barriers. The staff must track and monitor the family outcomes and provide a resolution. Their goal is to keep families and children together in a safe environment.

VII.	Presenter: Director Rob Pierson, Stark County Presentation
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10:50-11:20	Director Rob Pierson, Stark County Child Support Agency
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Director Rob Pierson provided an overview of how he started Stark County Fatherhood Initiative Mobilization program in his county. He provided a presentation that can be accessed on our Ohio on Commission website, providing the many phases of planning and development with the help of others within the community. He discussed how he became successful by discussing how the Seed Money was used. Fatherhood Summit Conducted on May 19, 2011 at the McKinley Grand Hotel in Canton. The Summit was to develop a community strategy to advance and strengthen fatherhood. There were nearly 50 individuals from 28 entities who participated. The Keynote Speaker was former State Legislator and former Cuyahoga County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones. Mr. Tracy Robinson from the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and Mr. Eric Vecere from the National Fatherhood Initiative also addressed the audience. They had several different events scheduled: Three (3) “Bridging the Gap” Forums for Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents were conducted in Canton and Alliance in 2011 and 2012. Child Support Warrant Amnesty Day on April 14, 2011. A Father’s Day Cookout June of 2012. A Fathers Walk Your Child to School Day September 2012. They always communicated with the community by mailing out advertisements and promotional materials in 2013.

In the middle of 2012, due to funding constraints experienced by the Stark County Community Action Agency, they could no longer financially support the Fatherhood Coalition or serve as the lead agency. Recognizing the importance of the program, Stark County Job and Family Services took over as lead agency and began making an annual contribution of \$5,000 to the Coalition’s Activities Fund.

For more information about Rob’s presentation, please visit the OCF website at <https://www.fatherhood.ohio.gov/>

VIII.	Pennsylvania Update
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11:20 -11:35	Mr. Melvin Hubbard El, PA Chief of Staff
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After a visit from OCF Executive Director to Pennsylvania (PA) in October 2018 to assist with discussing a Pennsylvania State Fatherhood Commission/Coalition, a contingency from Pennsylvania attended the Commission on Fatherhood meeting. The PA Contingency discussed their successes working in the Fatherhood Program. Pennsylvania Fatherhood Coalition with Legislative support introduced a bill to form a state Fatherhood Commission. The Pennsylvania staff were interested in hearing from the Commissioners as to why Ohio was and is as successful in sustaining the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood. OCF Executive Director met with the PA visitors for a debrief meeting and answered additional questions.

IX.	Discuss Summit 2020 – Summit Committee
11:35-11:45	Exec. Director Kimberly Dent
<p>By Statute, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood provides a State Summit. The next Summit is scheduled for May 2020. The following people submitted their names to Kimberly Dent to be added to the Summit Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director Ann Ream – Summit County Children Services, Community Relations & Foster Care 2. Director Susan Brown – Franklin County Child Support Agency 3. Dr. Mike Davis – Chief, Office of Reentry & Enterprise Development, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction 4. Senator Hearcel Craig – State Senator 5. Director Scott Neely – Children’s Hunger Alliance, Government Affairs 6. Mr. Joseph Hill – Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Office Medical Director, Bureau Chief Special Populations and Cultural Competency 7. Representative Riordan McClain – State Representative 8. Representative Terrence Upchurch – State Representative 	
X.	Executive Director’s Report
11:45 – 11:50	Executive Director Kimberly Dent
<p>Director Dent shared her Executive Director’s Report, which is posted on the OCF website. Some of the highlights include:</p> <p>Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative Conference Call/Kickoff Webinar with Coaches from OPNFF (Ohio Practitioners’ Network for Fathers and Families) and the County Leaders at Morgan, Scioto, Ross and Warren Counties: OCF staff participated on a conference call/ webinar with the coaches from OPNFF and County leaders. OCF staff welcomed the participating counties to the project. The Coaches discussed the purpose and vision of how the program works while using their PowerPoint Presentation. They also discussed the tools and techniques that will be used with the county and the fathers they serve in the community. The webinar was held on January 30, 2019.</p> <p>RFGA Release: OCF posted a new Request for Grant Applications (RFGA). OCF seeks to award applicants that will develop and implement regional approaches to promoting responsible fatherhood by helping fathers in diverse communities throughout Ohio to succeed as parents, partners and providers. OCF seeks to award at least five (5) organizations \$130,000 each per year for two years starting on July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. Applicants must provide comprehensive fatherhood services to a minimum of 200 fathers per year in at least two Ohio counties. Applications are due May 17, 2019, by 3:00 pm.</p> <p>GoToMeeting phone/web with ODRC/Child Support Collaboration: OCF Executive Director participated in the quarterly ODRC/Child Support meeting. Various updates were provided to include CNS (Criminal Non-support) commitments, an update on the NCSEA (National Child Support Enforcement Association) Policy Conference session, “When Parents are Inmates.” The committee also heard updates from OCF Executive Director regarding the Ohio County Fatherhood Mobilization and the four counties currently involved in the trainings, and the</p>	

various national presentations and webinars the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Executive Director has been requested to participate in since the release of the HHS/ACF Information Memorandum. There was also an update provided by the various Re-entry Coalitions as members of the committee. The group discussed possible cross-training opportunities as a way to revisit the “Building Bridges between Child Support and Rehabilitation and Correction” training implemented in previous years.

Ohio Head Start Association Conference – Fatherhood 3-hour Session: OCF Executive Director participated in a three-hour presentation with Shawn Crable from Stark County’s Early Childhood Program and Dr. Solveig Spjeldnes from Ohio University. OCF Executive Director discussed the mission and purpose of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood as well as recent policy and procedure changes that positively impact low income fathers and families. Shawn Crable discussed ways he engages and empowers fathers in Early Childhood through programming. Dr. Spjeldnes discussed research, data and myths of low income and African-American fathers.

OCF Executive Director Interview with Christopher Brown at (NFI) National Fatherhood Institute: OCF Executive Director provided an interview to NFI President Mr. Chris Brown. NFI plans to post the interview in an upcoming NFI blog. NFI president asked a series of questions to include, the role of the Commission, the passion of the OCF Executive Director and the partnership between OCF and NFI. President Chris Brown will send the interview responses to OCF Executive Director prior to posting the blog.

Conference Call Connecticut Fatherhood Commission – State Fatherhood Commissions: OCF Executive Director participated on a conference call with staff from Connecticut Department of Social Services. Connecticut is another state that has a Commission on Fatherhood codified in state law; however, the Commission is not staffed, and funds are passed to six local Fatherhood programs to serve fathers and families. Connecticut staff were interested in how OCF maintained the support of a state Fatherhood Commission for 20 years.

Phone Conference with Panelists to Speak at the National Fatherhood Conference in Nashville, TN June 4-6, 2019: OCF Executive Director is scheduled to moderate a panel of women who work in the field of Fatherhood during the National Fatherhood Conference scheduled in June 2019 in Nashville, TN. The group discussed a title and abstract for the session. The team also introduced themselves and discussed their roles as women in their respective Fatherhood programs. Executive Director will explore research in the area of men facilitators vs. women facilitators in Fatherhood programming.

FRPN (Fatherhood Research and Practice Network) Planning Grant Learning Community web-ex call with Eleven Grant Funded States: OCF Executive Director participated on a webinar hosted by FRPN to provide advice and recommendations regarding how to engage legislators in their respective states on the topic of a state supported Fatherhood Commission/Coalition. Other presenters included, former State Senator Bill Beagle and representatives from Fatherhood programs/coalitions in Pennsylvania and South Carolina.

FRPN Learning Community Webinar on Fatherhood Practitioner Networks and State Summits: OCF Executive Director participated on a webinar with Dr. Jessica Pearson from FRPN and Dr. Jay Fagan from Temple University, Steve Killpack from Ohio Practitioners’ Network on Fathers and Families as well as other presenters from other states like Minnesota, North Carolina and Texas on forming state Fatherhood Practitioner Networks and on how to implement a State Summit. The Learning Community webinars are offered to the eleven states selected by FRPN to receive \$10,000 seed funding to create a state Fatherhood Commission/Coalition.

FRPN/Temple University Hosted Webinar with Eleven Grant Funded States and the Ohio and Connecticut Commissions on Fatherhood: OCF Executive Director participated on a webinar with Dr. Jessica Pearson of FRPN, Dr. Jay Fagan of Temple University and Mr. Anthony Judkins Connecticut Social Services/Office of Child Support. OCF Executive Director and Connecticut Program Manager, Anthony Judkins provided recommendations and suggestions on how to form a state Fatherhood Commission as well as the benefits and challenges. They answered questions from the eleven states and offered to share tools. FRPN has scheduled subsequent webinars to include conversation with legislators and state Fatherhood Networks.

XI.	Results of Executive Committee Election
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11:50 – 11:55	Ms. Monica Mahoney
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The new Executive Committee Members were voted in on May 9, 2019.

Chairman: Director Scott Neely
 Vice- Chairman: State Representative Thomas West
 Secretary: Mr. Joseph Hill

XII.	Announcements and New Business
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11:55-12:00	Director Scott Neely
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The next Commission Meeting will be held on **Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 10:00 AM.**

**Vern Riffe Building
 77 S. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215
 31st Floor, Conference Room: South A**

XIII.	Adjourn
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12:00	Meeting Adjourn
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Meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon