

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)
Interim Executive Director Report
June-August 2012**

OCF Grantees

Grantee Site Visits: OCF staff concluded site visits with all eight OCF-funded grantees. During these visits OCF staff meets with key grantee personnel to observe programming and ensure that grantees are using approved fatherhood curriculum, best practices, evaluation materials and monthly reports as required by OCF. During June, July and August we visited:

- Action for Children
- HARCATUS
- Columbus Urban League

Grantee Conference Calls and Monthly Meeting: In addition to monthly conference calls with mandatory participation by all grantees, OCF staff convened grantee meeting for Franklin County CSEA to present its child support data tracking tool used to compile payments from fathers who participated in Columbus Urban League's Father-2-Father Program. Goal is for all fatherhood programs to create similar tracking tools to show impact of programming and return on investment.

Columbus Urban League/BAFF Summit: OCF Staff attended state summit at Columbus State Community College. Over 180 people attended the summit. Vander Green from Region V, federal office of Administration for Children and Families attended and spoke at the invitation of Director Dent as did representatives from the Lewin Group, the federal contractors for the BAFF grant.

Franklin County Family Empowerment Day: OCF staff attended this community resource fair featuring services from child support, local employers, government and non-profit agencies. Columbus Urban League and Franklin CSEA jointly sponsored the event held at St. Stephens's Community House. This successful event is a model for other fatherhood programs and CSEA's to emulate.

Talbert House Celebration of Fatherhood: Director attended event in which three Cincinnati fathers were honored including a graduate of Talbert House's fatherhood program

RFPs and Contracts

Meeting with OCF Evaluator: OCF staff met with Dan and Melani Houston, the company selected to evaluate the effectiveness of OCF funded grantees. Discussed history of OCF and reviewed current evaluation forms used by grantees.

Forever Dads Sole Source Contract: OCF staff finalized a contract to fund efforts by Forever Dads in Muskingum County to train other counties on how to create and sustain responsible fatherhood programs. Forever Dads will also expand outreach to include neighboring Appalachian counties. OCF is seeking greater regionalization of fatherhood program and

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Forever Dads is a model of how to successfully regionalize fatherhood programming and sustain programming by mobilizing local community resources.

County Initiative Trainer RFP: Office of Contracts and Acquisitions posted an RFP to secure a trainer to develop materials and curriculum for community fatherhood initiative and to train representatives from interested counties and OCF staff. Responses are due September 27th.

County Meetings

Clark County Responsible Fatherhood Initiative: Director attended leadership luncheon where Clark County's plans to promote responsible fatherhood were discussed. This is an outgrowth of the Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative training OCF provided last year. Director also attended second annual "My Dad Rocks" Father's Day weekend event.

Montgomery County Father's Day Celebration: Director attended Father's Day Weekend kickoff event at Grace United Methodist Church. This event is part of the "My Dad Rocks" program that began in Clark County.

Presentations and Webinars

The Ohio State University Parents as Students Support Symposium: OCF staff in partnership with staff from Ohio Community Development Corporation presented on the Ohio Building Assets for Fathers and Families grant. Most of the attendees were practitioners at community colleges who work with low income students, many of whom are parents.

Assets for Independence (AFI)/Fatherhood Webinar: OCF staff participated in webinar on helping low income individuals and families gain financial strength by saving for the purchase of major assets such as a home, education or small business.

BAFF

Building Assets for Fathers and Families (BAFF) Advisory Board Meeting: OCF staff attended monthly Advisory Board Meetings. Ohio is one of seven states awarded a BAFF grant to participate in the BAFF demonstration project whose purpose is to help low income noncustodial parents become financially self-sufficient. The board was created as a way to sustain the project after the federal grant funding ends.

BAFF Regional Trainings: OCF staff participated in a meeting to discuss the regional trainings for various Child Support Enforcement Agencies, Asset Building organizations and fatherhood practitioners and OCF grantees. The regional trainings will educate staff in these different organizations about their various programs which all serve a common population but often work in silos of information.

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Federal

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 can continue to help.

Other Meetings of Note

Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections/Office of Child Support/ Ohio Child Support Directors Association Meeting: Director participated in meeting regarding creating regional training sessions for Child Support workers and DRC staff including parole. These trainings would educate staff in different programs about services available to fathers.

Marion Correctional Facility – Director visited Marion Correctional Facility to assist in the editing of the second Child Support DVD titled Administrative Review and Adjustment. The creation of the DVDs is to educate incarcerated parents with accurate child support information. The first DVD was titled Ohio’s Paternity Establishment was mailed to OCF Grantees to use during their fatherhood workshops.

Conference Call with Work Activities Staff and Steve Killpack: OCF Staff met with Bill Finn, Unit Chief of Ohio Work Activities and Commissioner Steve Killpack to discuss ways to capture fathers’ contribution to work activities in Cuyahoga County to help them meet federally mandated state work participation rates.

Fatherhood Practitioners Meetings: The Director met with the practitioners serving fathers to learn more about their mission and scope of services as well as to share information about the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and current OCF-funded programs. She met with staff from:

- Men of Standard which serves men in Dayton, Ohio
- Bob Moyers in Liberty Center, Ohio (Henry County) regarding fatherhood services provided by his company and his curriculum, “Be Healthy Plan for Positive People.”
- Stacy Burke from Restorative Financial Services to learn more about the “Onionomics” financial literacy program