

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

10:30 am-2:00 pm

<p>Commissioners Present: Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman Councilman Kevin Conwell Mr. Robert Bo Chilton Mr. Cedric Collins Dr. Diane Karther Mr. Steven Killpack Mr. Scott Neely</p>	<p>OCF Staff Present: Mr. J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director Ms. Monica Mahoney Mr. Derrick Bryan Mr. Stanley Upton</p>
<p>Commissioners Participating Via Telephone: Ms. Angela Woodson</p> <p>Commissioners Represented by Designee: Senator Ray Miller (by Lawrence Jackson)</p>	<p>Guests:: Mr. Roland C. Warren, President, National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) Mr. Erik Vecere, Associate Vice President of National Programming, NFI Mr. Calvin Williams, Immediate Past President, OPNF Mr. James McDonald, Vice President, OPNF Pastor Eugene Norris, Summit County Fatherhood Initiative Ms. Bessica Brown. OSU Intern Mr. Al Grimes, Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative Rev. DeWitt Chapell, Jr., Everlasting Baptist Church Ms. Darlene Brooks, Everlasting Baptist Church Mr. Carlton Garner, Glenville Development Corp. Mr. Gerald Anderson, Faith Fatherhood Action Initiative</p>

Summary of Commission Meeting

I. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:40am by Executive Director, J. Tracy Robinson. Chairman Peter Lawson Jones was en route from Cleveland and arrived soon thereafter. There was not a quorum for the meeting.

II. Executive Director Report

A. Budget as of December 16, 2008 (unchanged from November)

Account ID Descriptions	Budget	Encumbrance Balance	Remaining Budget
500 Personal Services Payroll	\$175,000	\$0	\$175,000
510 Purchases Personal Services	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
520 Supplies and Maintenance	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
530 Equipment	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
550 Subsidies and Shared Revenue	\$2,250,000	\$2,249,709	\$219

B. Outreach:

The Executive Director made presentations at the following:

Ohio CSEA Directors' Association (OCDA) partnership Conference – Child Support Cherry Valley, Newark, Ohio. (November 21, 2008)

The Executive Director provided briefings at the following meetings:

Eric Fenner, Director of Franklin County Children's Services agreed to serve on the proposed Franklin County Fatherhood Initiative comprised of a Juvenile Judge, the Director of Child Support, a County Commissioner, members of faith community and business leaders. (December 15, 2008)

Retired Judge Mark R. Schweikert, Executive Director of the Ohio Judicial Conference (OJC), Juvenile Judges Association holds a conference twice a year. Judge Schweikert wishes to attend a future OCF meeting to provide judicial perspective on fatherhood at a date to be determined.

State Representative Edna Brown (D-48th District): provided an overview of the OCF and discussed OCF grantee, East Toledo Family Center. (November 20, 2008)

State Representative, Tracy Maxwell Heard (D-26th District): provided an overview of the OCF and discussed OCF grantee, Alvis House. Representative Heard serves on Alvis House Board. (November 20, 2008)

Kim Friedman, J.D., Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office, Program Developer for the Midwest Region: discussed "How We Grow Funding." (November 19, 2008)

Azuka I. MuMin, Director of Community Relations, COSI: discussed Tracy Robinson's participation at Fatherhood Celebration at COSI on Friday, December 26, 2008. Mr. Robinson will provide opening remarks. (November 21, 2008)

C. Administrative:

1. OCF Staffing:

Hired Monica Mahoney, Administrative Assistant 2 (part-time) position.

Monica has an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and a law degree from Fordham University School of Law. She has extensive experience working with diverse clients and is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese. Monica will serve as Tracy's Administrative Coordinator.

2. OCF Internship Program:

Hired Derrick Bryan, Policy Staff Coordinator Position (part-time), and Stanley Upton, Fiscal Intern (part-time)

Derrick has an undergraduate degree from Morehouse College, an MA in Sociology from Ohio State University and is expected to complete his PhD in Sociology at OSU in 2009. He has expertise in fatherhood and criminology issues and his thesis was titled, "On the Outside Looking In; A Life History Approach to Low-Income African American Males' Conception of Fatherhood." Derrick will serve as the Policy Coordinator and will research and draft position papers for OCF.

Stanley has a bachelor degree in business administration from Tennessee State University and is a second year Masters student at the Fisher College of Business at OSU with an expected graduation date of June 2009. He will create an invoicing system and work directly with grantees and TANF on fiscal issues.

D. Grantees Update

Executive Director Robinson hosted a conference call meeting with OFI grantees on December 11, 2008, at 1:30 pm. Karen White and Sue Cook, both TANF Interagency Unit Specialists attended the meeting. All grantees participated except Ironton-Lawrence County CAO Head Start and WSOS.

The Executive Director has established a monthly conference call in which all ten grantees are to participate. The first conference call helped clarify many concerns including the formatting of invoices and administrative fees vs. costs. The Executive Director emphasized that grantees must describe and document all costs. Since the subject grants are reimbursable, the recipients must document how funds were spent. Grantees have until June 30, 2009 to expend their subsidies.

During the invoice approval process, grantees mail invoices in triplicate. The original invoice must bear original signatures. The Executive Director reviews submissions which are then transmitted to TANF Inter-Agency Section for further review. Each grantee is assigned to either Sue Cook or Karen White for TANF review. After completion, additional documentation or information may be requested. If OCF receives invoice in triplicate with signatures and all supporting documentation, the approval process can be completed within 4-5 days.

The Executive Director will ensure both that all grantees participate in the monthly conference calls and that people who handle the grantees' program budget and the manager are also involved.

Commissioner Jones recommended that the Executive Director personally visit five programs per month and all ten within a two month period. In addition to pre-announced inspections, the Executive Director is to conduct an annual TANF audit visit as well. Commissioner Jones stated grantees should be ready to receive the Executive Director without advance notice. He prefers "I'm here" visits as opposed to "I'm coming" visits. The Executive Director plans to do a combination of scheduled and unannounced stops. The failure to invite the Executive Director to program events will also raise a "red flag".

Commissioner Jones emphasized that at least 90% of the grantees must show that their programs are successful or there may not be funding for OCF in the next budget. Angela Woodson recommended the withdrawal of funding from grantees that do not perform.

Dr. Diane Karther also recommended that the Executive Director visit all ten grantees. She too, expressed concern that some programs have not demonstrated substantial progress. Steven Killpack suggested that at least one of the Commissioners accompany the Executive Director on his visits to impress upon the recipients the seriousness of the visits. Al Grimes suggested that the Executive Director create a database listing the goals of each program to enable the tracking of each agency's progress during the monthly visits. The Executive Director intends to create a checklist to send to grantees prior to each visit.

The Executive Director will meet with all state senators and house representatives whose districts were awarded OFI funding. He has already met with State Representative Edna Brown (D-48th District, Toledo) and State Representative Tracy Maxwell Heard (D-26th District, Columbus). Commissioner Jones suggested that the Executive Director hold a joint press conference with the appropriate state representative or senator whenever a grant is awarded.

III. Discussion and Decision

Because there was no a quorum and in the interest of time, Commissioner Jones recommended that discussion of the Bylaws, Election of Officers, and OCF Statutory Language Recommendations be deferred. He expressed great displeasure that this was the second meeting without a quorum. Angela Woodson asked Commissioner Jones to intervene and contact members with poor attendance records. OFC meeting dates were planned and agreed to many months in advance, and she does not know what more the Executive Director can do to get the members to come to the meetings.

Commissioner Jones requested that the Executive Director provide him with the attendance record of all Commission members. Commissioner Jones agreed to personally contact the appointing authority and the people currently serving so there will be a quorum at the January 27th meeting.

IV. Prospective Consultants Presentations

The Executive Director emphasized that consultants are not responding to an RFP; they are providing information for commission members. Commissioner Jones stated the OCF is hearing from these organizations simply to learn how they might assist our capacity building, outreach, and community mobilization efforts.

A. National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI):

Roland C. Warren, President, and Erik Vecere, Associate Vice President of National Programming of the NFI gave a PowerPoint presentation similar to the one they provided at the September OCF retreat. Mr. Warren reviewed NFI's qualifications to represent the Commission. The agency has a strong national presence and extensive experience at the national, state and local level. There are 41 people on the NFI staffs including Eric and a staff of seven in Pittsburgh. NFI's staff size allows it to promote local work at the national level. The agency does a lot of work in Washington, D.C., educating Congress on the importance of fatherhood programming and fatherhood itself. For the past 11 years, NFI has had the federal contract to administer www.fatherhood.gov and www.fatherhood.org and has developed curricula and programming for the complete range of fathers. NFI was instrumental in helping draft and ensure the enactment of the \$50 million fatherhood legislation that Congress recently passed. NFI has built 20-25 fatherhood organizations across the country and has established 22 partnerships across Ohio.

Mr. Vecere outlined NFI's three-phase community mobilization model for Ohio which included the following specific goals and dates:

1. NFI will conduct five 2-day community mobilization workshops throughout Ohio (by 2/28/09);
2. NFI will assist grantees conduct regional needs and assets assessments (by 3/31/09);
3. NFI will organize leadership summit on fatherhood events (by 5/15/09);
4. NFI will conduct Best Practices Fatherhood Program Workshops for grantees (by 6/15/09); and
5. NFI will coordinate selection and establishment of all eleven Fatherhood Resource Centers (by 6/30/09)

B. Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (OPNF)

Calvin Williams, outgoing President of OPNF, and James McDonald, Vice President of OPNF

made a presentation. OPNF was formed in 2004. Of the fourteen current board members, 57% are founding members of OPNF, including Mr. Williams and OCF Commissioners Steve Killpack and Scott Neely. The Board is comprised of diverse individuals who have helped maintain fatherhood activities and the culture of fatherhood in Columbus. OPNF worked with Governor Strickland's transition team and was instrumental in reinvigorating OCF. There are over 625 OPNF members spread throughout the state. The network distributes an electronic newsletter. OPNF is the

founder of Forever Dads, one of OCF's grantees. OPNF possesses and maintains strong relationships both with local agencies and those outside Ohio. The organization also believes that its comprehensive approach will allow it to connect with mothers and children. OPNF desires uniformity statewide in regards to fatherhood programs and initiatives.

Programs used by OPNF in the past include:

1. Connections (Seventeen sessions on relationships and dating);
2. Boot Camp for New Dads; and
3. Bringing Baby Home

The aforementioned are strategies that have been proven to work. OPNF realizes, however, that every community has different needs and allows for local input regarding the programmatic features that will be most effective in the locales served.

OPNF outlined five areas in which it could assist OCF in attaining the Commission's goals:

1. Administrative;
2. Resources (local and national);
3. Policy/Advocacy;
4. Training/Education; and
5. Public Relations.

V. New Business: No items of new business were raised.

VI. Meetings for 2009:

The Commission will meet every other month on the following Tuesdays:

January 27
March 24 (tentative)
May 19
July 21
September 15
November 17

VII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:04pm.