

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2009
10:30 am- 12:30 pm*
Lazarus Building
Room A601
50 West Town Street
Columbus, Ohio

AGENDA

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| I. | Call to Order & Welcome | Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman |
| II. | Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests | J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director |
| III. | Approval of May 19, 2009 Minutes | Rose Handon, Secretary |
| IV. | Executive Director's Report | J. Tracy Robinson |
| | A. Outreach | |
| | B. Grantees Update | |
| | C. OFI-RFGA 2009-2011 | |
| V. | Child Support Guidelines Recommendations | Carri Brown, Assistant Deputy Director
Office of Child Support |
| VI. | Ohio Fatherhood Summit Recap | Al Grimes, Coordinator
Cuyahoga Fatherhood Initiative |
| VII. | Discussion and Decision | |
| | A. Federal Bill HR2979/S 1309
Funding Responsible Fatherhood Grants | Scott Neely, Commissioner
Steve Killpack, Commissioner |
| | B. Meeting Dates for 2010 | Monica Mahoney, OCF Staff |
| VIII. | Announcements & New Business | |
| IX. | Adjournment | |

***The meeting may be truncated for a photo opportunity with Governor Strickland.
Details to follow via email.**

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Minutes from the Meeting of

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

<p>Commissioners Present:</p> <p>Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman Mr. David Kontur, Vice Chairman Representative Alan Sayre Councilman Kevin Conwell Mr. Robert Boykins Mr. Robert "Bo" Chilton Mr. Cedric Collins Mr. Joseph Maiorano Mr. Scott Neely</p>	<p>OCF Staff Present:</p> <p>Mr. J. Tracy Robinson, Executive Director Ms. Monica Mahoney Mr. Stanley Upton</p>
<p>Commissioners Represented by Designee:</p> <p>Senator Ray Miller (by Caryn Ragin) Representative Kevin Bacon (by Sean McCullough)</p> <p>Commissioners Participating via Telephone</p> <p>Mr. Steve Killpack</p>	<p>Guests:</p> <p>Representative Marian Harris (D-19th) Mr. Rashim Yajsib, Ohio Civil Rights Commission Pastor Eugene Norris, Summit County Fatherhood Initiative Mr. Al Grimes, Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative Mr. Matthew Cunningham, ODJFS Mr. Burl Lemon, Forever Dads Ms. Tei Street, Office of Ohio Treasurer of State Mr. Andre Lampkins, Office of Ohio Treasurer of State Mr. Gerald Anderson, Fatherhood House Mr. Winston Gragg, Men Who Are Fathers Ms. Rhonda "RJ" Frazier, The Transformation Place</p>

I. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 am by Vice Chairman David Kontur. Chairman Peter Lawson Jones was en route from Cleveland and arrived soon thereafter to chair the meeting. A quorum was achieved.

II. Introduction of Guests

Executive Director Tracy Robinson introduced two guests from the Office of the Ohio Treasurer: Tei Street, Director of Community Education and Senior Policy Advisor, and Andre Lampkins, Manager of the Community Education and Engagement Department. He also welcomed Mr. Rashim Yajsib, a member of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

III. Fiscal Fitness for Fathers

Director Street spoke about the upcoming conference, "Fiscal Fitness for Fathers." The conference will take place on September 18th from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at Columbus State Community College. The Treasurer's Office has held regional conferences on the topic of women and money for several years and is now offering for the first time a similar event for dads. The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood is a conference sponsor, and Director Robinson is on the conference planning committee which meets monthly. Commissioners Maiorano and Killpack said they would like to serve on the planning committee by conference call. Mr. Lampkins will contact them.

The conference will address financial literacy as well as issues related to manhood and money. Conference facilitators will be male so that men can speak in a comfortable environment. The conference will also provide practical tools and information on financial topics, e.g. how to create a household budget.

Commissioner Kontur asked whether the Treasurer's Office plans to follow up with regional conferences. Director Street responded that they would like to do so but the Treasurer's office has limited resources. The Treasurer wishes to collaborate with regional contacts to provide long-term on-going financial education for men. Director Street will provide the OCF with the names of all county liaisons.

On a personal note, Director Street shared that she is the single mother of an adopted son so she sees first hand the impact of father absence in the home.

IV. Minutes from March 24, 2009

Commissioner Boykins made one correction to the March minutes - he has been married fourteen years, not fifteen. Commissioner Maiorano moved, with Commissioner Collins seconding, that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Robinson provided a written summary of his activities in April and May, minutes from the April 9th grantee conference call and an invoice summary of all ten grantee programs. Those documents are incorporated into these minutes. Executive Director Robinson highlighted the following events and activities from the past two months:

- Meetings on April 7th and May 8th of the Infant Mortality Task Force during which the topic of what fathers can do during prenatal care to support healthy birth outcomes was discussed.
- Presentation on April 28th as part of Wal-Mart Managers Diversity Training at which the Executive Director provided an overview of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and strategies to decrease father absence.

- Briefings with several state legislators, Democrats and Republicans, as part of our strategy to educate members of the Ohio General Assembly about the work of the OCF and to recruit new commissioners. Commissioner neely arranged many of these meetings. Representatives Marian Harris and Carlton Weddington both expressed interest in serving as commissioners. Representative Stewart is very concerned about healthcare and Appalachian dads. Executive Director Robinson invited him to visit Forever Dads, a fatherhood program that the OCF funds in his district.
- The three part-time students who work at the OCF are leaving at the end of June. Stanley Upton completes his MBA at Fischer College and will begin work in Cleveland at American Greetings. Brandon Smith, an undergraduate at OSU, has a summer internship working with Nike in Chicago. Derrick Bryant is returning to work on his Ph.D. Executive Director Robinson hopes to hire new students in the fall.

C. OFI-RFGA 2009-2011

Matthew Cunningham, TANF Interagency Section Chief for the Office of Family Stability, spoke and fielded questions about the new Request for Grant Application (“RFGA”) He noted that an RFGA is a grant which is more flexible than an RFP which is a contract. Mr. Cunningham has been working closely with Executive Director Robinson and the principal draft of the RFGA is done. The RFGA is likely to unfold as follows:

- Once the contract office approves the RFGA, a procurement document will post on the ODJFS website where it will remain for four weeks for public review.
- Two weeks into the public review period Executive Director Robinson plans to hold a bidders conference at the Air Center in Columbus so people may ask questions in person.

TANF and contract staff will attend to respond and a typist will take notes that will be posted on the ODJFS website.

- During the first three weeks of the posting, the public may ask questions on-line or by email. All questions and answers will be posted on the ODJFS website.
- Two to three days after the RFGA is removed from the website, the proposal review team will convene. The team will consist of six or seven members and include Executive Director Robinson, Mr. Cunningham and any OCF committee members who want to participate. Depending on the number of proposals received, the team will spend one to two weeks reviewing them. Forty-eight organizations applied for the last RFP. Proposals ranged from thirty to two hundred pages.
- Appeals may delay the award process.

Mr. Cunningham has streamlined the application to make the process less daunting and more uniform. The application contains seventeen questions and responses must be limited to no more than one page per question. The typical timeline for an RFGA/RFP is twenty-one weeks but Director Robinson has been working with key personnel, e.g. Anthony Trotman, ODJFS Director Lumpkin's Chief of Staff, and Bernard E. Houston, ODJFS Chief Procurement Officer to accelerate the process. Unlike the current RFP which lasted nine months, the new RFGA will last eighteen to twenty-four months to align with the state budget, July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011. The initial awards will be for one fiscal year with the opportunity for continued funding. The new RFGA will contain performance standards which must be met in order for a grant to be renewed for the second fiscal year.

Commissioner Kontur asked whether there is any funding for the interim period between when the current RFP ends and before the new RFGA is funded. Mr. Cunningham said that the contract ends June 30, 2009, and there are no carry-over dollars.

To keep the commission informed about how the RFGA is progressing, Chairman Jones suggested that they meet in executive session. Such sessions would exclude any commissioners who may apply for the RFGA and thereby avoid any conflict of interest. For this same reason, Mr. Cunningham declined to answer any specific questions about the content of the RFGA.

D. Putative Fatherhood Registry

Executive Director Robinson explained what the Putative Fatherhood Registry (“PFR”) does. Most people do not even know it exists. The purpose of the PFR is to give notice to a putative father if his child is being considered for permanent adoption. Executive Director Robinson believes that the goals of the PFR align with the mission of the OCF statute. He is working with ODJFS and has been speaking about the PFR whenever he does outreach. He will meet with Anthony Trotman to discuss assuming responsibility for the implementation of the PFR statutory requirements. If that occurs, he would require every grantee to distribute information on the PFR.

VI. Advance Fatherhood Ohio Summit Report

Burl Lemmon, Executive Director of Forever Dads, spoke about the fatherhood conference his organization held on April 30th to May 1st at Salt Fork State Park. James McDonald provided a two page summary report which is incorporated into these minutes. Representatives from thirty counties throughout the state of Ohio attended the summit. Mr. Lemmon plans to create a DVD and post power-point presentations from the conference on his website.

VII. Discussion and Decision

A. OCF Summit/Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative Annual Conference

Al Grimes, Coordinator of the Cuyahoga Fatherhood Initiative, spoke about the upcoming fatherhood conference in Cleveland on June 17th to 20th. This will be Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative's fifth annual conference and the first jointly-sponsored with the OCF. Wednesday evening there will be a reception to honor Chairman Jones and Governor Strickland for the work they have done on behalf of fathers. The resource fair and workshops will be held on Thursday and Friday. On-line registration is available, and the conference is free. Chairman Jones would like all commissioners to attend the conference and serve on a panel.

The OCF is providing funds for thirty hotel rooms, with two fathers per room, so that men who have participated in a fatherhood program can attend the conference. To distribute rooms equitably among the grantee programs, Executive Director Robinson will ask program directors to identify dads who will attend the conference.

B. House Bill 1

Caryn Ragin, Senator Ray Miller's Legislative aide, said that Commissioner Miller sent our proposed revisions of the OCF statute to the Legislative Services Office for review. If the amendments are not incorporated into House Bill 1, our legislator/commissioners will jointly sponsor a separate bill introducing said amendments to our statute.

C. Fathers' Month Proclamation

Representative Alan Sayre said that next week he plans to introduce our Fathers' Month Proclamation to the House for consideration. Chairman Jones suggested that our house members

also jointly sponsor a resolution requesting that President Obama create a national fatherhood initiative.

D. OCF Vacancies

Chairman Jones recently called Speaker Budish again about commission legislative vacancies. Representative Marian Harris was in attendance at our meeting, and Chairman Jones encouraged her to consider serving on the OCF. (On June 6th, Representatives Harris and Weddington were officially appointed as commissioners).

E. Rescheduling of July 2009 OCF Meeting

Executive Director Robinson proposed that we reschedule our July 21st meeting to occur during the upcoming fatherhood conference in Cleveland. (Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum for a meeting in June and, therefore, were not able to reschedule our July 19th meeting.)

F. OCF Bylaws, Section 5.05 Revision

Monica Mahoney, OCF Staff, brought an additional revision of the Bylaws to the attention of the commission. Specifically, Chairman Jones proposed that language be added to section 5.05 that, should a commissioner leave a meeting after a quorum is established, his or her departure does not defeat the quorum. Commissioner Kontur moved, and Commissioner Collins seconded that the proposed revision be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Announcements & New Business

There were no announcements or new business.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Executive Director Report Summary
May, June, July 2009 Meeting**

1. Presentations

Alvis House, Alum Creek Residential Facility. Led workshop with 44 incarcerated men. Columbus, Ohio (May 20, 2009)

Family Youth Initiatives: Met the Board and the Directors. New Carlisle, Ohio (May 21, 2009)

Pastor Norris Interview Fathers Program State Initiatives. Spoke about 100th Celebration Father's Day. Trinity Broadcasting Network, Akron, Ohio (May 21, 2009)

Ohio Grandparent/Kinship Coalition Meeting Overbrook Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Ohio (May 21, 2009)

Betsie Norris, Executive Director and Valarie Hicks, Director of Programs, Adoption Network, Columbus, Ohio (June 6, 2009)

Accounting Careers Awareness Program (ACAP), Provided keynote address. Fawcett Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio (Sunday, June 21, 2009)

Complex Conceptions Conference, Panel presentation: "Is there a linkage between Race and Healthy Birth Outcomes and Infant Mortality?" Panel Presentation participant. First Church of God, Columbus, Ohio (June 30, 2009).

Ohio Summit on Fatherhood, Cleveland, Ohio (June 17-19, 2009).

Coshocton County Fatherhood Initiative, Coshocton County is recipient of National Fatherhood Initiative capacity building grant. Provided overview of OCF. Ravens' Glenn, West Lafayette, Ohio (July 14, 2009).

Ohio Alternative Response Project: Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency, Supreme Court of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio (July 2, 2009)

Public Health Dayton, Dr. Drew Health Center, Led fatherhood presentation for staff and community participants. Dayton, Ohio (June 16, 2009)

2. Briefings

Candace L. Valach, Executive Director, Ohio Children's Trust. Discussed collaboration with OCF. Columbus, Ohio (May 20, 2009)

Holly Hinton, Director of Governor's Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach Discussed collaboration with OCF. Columbus, Ohio (May 20, 2009)

Chip Weiant, President The American Center for Civic Character. Overview of OCF. Columbus, Ohio (June 30, 2009).

Judge Margaret A. Clark, Brown County Probate/Juvenile. Briefed Judge Clark on the purpose of the OCF. Discussed co-hosting a community forum on families and children. Georgetown, Ohio (July 17, 2009)

Pastor Howard Washington, Second Baptist Church, Discussed Watch Dogs Program pilot. Columbus, Ohio (July 9, 2009)

Oriana House Fatherhood Program, Provide overview of OCF. Cleveland, Ohio (July 10, 2009)

3. Legislators

State Representative Sandra Williams (D-11 District), Cleveland. Briefed Rep. Williams on the purpose of the OCF. (May 20, 2009)

Senator Thomas Patton (R-24 District) Strongsville. Briefed Senator Patton on the purpose of the OCF. Inquired about his availability to serve on OCF. (June 9, 2009)

State Representative Scott Oelslager (R-51 District) Marion, Briefed Rep. Oelslager on the purpose of the OCF. Inquired about his availability to serve on OCF. (June 16, 2009)

State Representative Peggy Lehner (R-37 District), Dayton (first term). Briefed Rep. Lehner on the purpose of the OCF. Inquired about her availability to serve on OCF. (June 23, 2009)

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Reception, Columbus, Ohio. Home of Ed Hogan, President of the Visions Group. (June 16, 2009)



Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2009

Senators Evan Bayh (D-IN) and Representative Danny K. Davis (D-IL) introduced the Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2009 on June 19, 2009. The companion bills will:

- Fund job training programs and community partnerships to help parents find employment;
 - Fund financial literacy programs and budgeting education, employment services, and mediation and conflict resolution for low-income parents;
 - Ensure that child support payments to families do not count as income and result in loss of food stamps;
 - Restore cuts in federal child support enforcement funding to help state and local governments collect \$13 billion in additional payments for single parents;
 - Require states to send 100 percent of all child support payments to the single parent within five years, rather than letting states take a portion of money for administrative costs;
 - Prohibit unfair and unequal treatment of two-parent families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), ensuring the state work participation standard is the same for all families;
 - Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit to increase the incentive for full-time work and fulfillment of child support obligations; and,
 - Fund programs designed to protect the families who have been affected by domestic violence.
 - Prohibit states from considering any part of a period of incarceration as voluntary unemployment that would disqualify the parent from obtaining a review and adjustment of the child support obligation.
 - Require states to develop procedures to review, and if appropriate, reduce child support debt owed to the state.
 - Provides funding for state fatherhood commissions, increases funding for responsible fatherhood programs and broadens allowable activities for healthy marriage programs.
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Senator Bayh commented, "Our government spends \$100 billion a year to deal with the fallout of absent fathers. The government can't pass a law to make men good dads, but we can support local programs that specialize in job training, career counseling and financial literacy to help those men who embrace their parental responsibility and are trying to earn a livable wage to do right by their kids. I am glad President Obama is starting a national conversation to draw public attention to the critical role that fathers play in raising responsible, healthy adults."

Representative Davis stated, "No one argues that there is any one model of family structure but the elimination of government barriers to healthy relationships and healthy marriages, the promotion of cooperative parenting skills and the fostering of economic stability and the provision of incentives to non-custodial parents to fulfill financial and emotional support responsibilities are clearly in the interests of millions of children. We must do more to ensure all children have opportunities to become productive citizens--through revised income support, health care, and education policies. This will require new thinking about federal investments and more focus on prevention and longer term investments."

The House version of the bill was named after Julia Carson, the late Indianapolis Congresswoman who championed fatherhood throughout her career. House co-sponsor and grandson Congressman Andre Carson added, "Our current system too often has benefits set up in a way that encourages single parent households rather than two-parent families. The unintended consequence, of course, is that parents have a disincentive to remain together. My grandmother's vision-and this bill- focuses on changing the system so that it's more pro-family and creates incentives for both parents to work together to raise their children."



For more information and to track the status of the bills, visit http://www.ohiofathers.org/federal_fatherhood_policy.asp

**PROPOSED 2010 MEETING CALENDAR
OHIO COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD**

- First Meeting in February
- Do not meet in July or August
- Meet from 11:00 to 1:00
- Five meetings of full commission
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Schedule if meet **1st Thursday** (Move to Thursday so legislators can attend)

February 4
April 1
June 3
September 2
November 4

Schedule if meet **2nd Friday** (Move to Friday so legislators can attend)

February 12
April 9
June 11
September 10
November 12

Schedule if meet **1st Tuesday** (Same day of week as 2009 meetings)

February 2
April 6
June 8
September 7
November 9

**PROPOSED 2010 MEETING CALENDAR
OHIO COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD
SUBCOMMITTEES**

- Subcommittees meet 3 times per year during non-commission meeting months, more as needed
- Possible meeting months: Jan., March, May, July, Aug., Oct., and Dec.
- Meet where convenient for members
- Convene by conference phone when necessary

SUBCOMMITTEES as of July 21, 2009

I. EXECUTIVE

1. Peter Lawson Jones, Chairman
2. David Kontur, Vice Chairman
3. Rose Handon, Secretary
4. Tracy Robinson, Ex Officio

II. LEGISLATIVE:

1. Steve Killpack
2. Scott Neely
3. Cedric Collins

Propose adding all commissioner/ legislators:

4. Senator Ray Miller
5. Representative Kevin Bacon
6. Representative Marian Harris
7. Representative Carlton Weddington
8. New Republican House Member (currently vacant)
9. New Republican Senator (currently vacant)
10. Monica Mahoney, Ex Officio

III. SUMMIT PLANNING:

Members needed to plan fatherhood summit once every state biennium

IV. AD HOC

RFGA

Members needed to review RFGA grant applications

Calendar for year 2010 (United States)

January							February							March						
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Holidays and Observances:

Jan 1 New Year's Day	Jul 4 Independence Day	Nov 25 Thanksgiving Day
Jan 18 Martin Luther King Day	Jul 5 'Independence Day' observed	Dec 24 'Christmas Day' observed
Feb 14 Valentine's Day	Sep 6 Labor Day	Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Feb 15 Presidents' Day	Oct 11 Columbus Day (Most regions)	Dec 25 Christmas Day
Apr 4 Easter Sunday	Oct 31 Halloween	Dec 31 'New Year's Day' observed
May 15 Armed Forces Day	Nov 2 Election Day	
May 31 Memorial Day	Nov 11 Veterans Day	