



Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families

Advance Fatherhood Ohio! Summit

Friday May 30, 2008 at the KingsGate Marriott Conference Hotel at the University of Cincinnati

Sponsored by:

Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families
Ohio Office of Child Support
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Ohio Justice and Policy Center

Program Agenda

9:00 to 9:30 am - **Registration**

9:30 to 10:30 am - **Opening Remarks by Summit Sponsors:**

Calvin L. Williams, President of the Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families
Mike Randle, Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
David Singleton, Executive Director of the Ohio Justice and Policy Center
Carri Brown, Assistant Deputy Director, Ohio Office of Child Support
Tracy Robinson, Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
Bob Mecum, Executive Director of Lighthouse Youth Services

10:35 to 11:50 am - **Can We Get This Right for the Children?** *Ohio Child Support Guidelines Council*

Moderator: Steve Killpack, OPNFF Board of Directors
Presentation by Dan Cade, Section Chief of Child Support Legal Department, Hamilton County
Panel: Rick Turner; Amanda Stickrod; John Garner, Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency; David Fleischman, Ohio Office of Child Support

11:50 to 12:20 - **Lunch**

12:25 to 1:40 pm - **While Daddy is Away:** *Implications for Incarceration and Child Support*

Moderator: Luis Vazquez, OPNFF Board of Directors
Presentation by Carri Brown, Assistant Deputy Director, Ohio Office of Child Support
Panel: a local father; a local mother; Terence Cook, Lighthouse REAL Dads; Stephen A. JohnsonGrove, Ohio Justice and Policy Center

1:45 to 3:00 pm - **Going Away and Coming Home:** *Federal and State Reentry Policy Initiative*

Moderator: Reverend Dr. B. A. Moore, OPNFF Board of Directors
Presentation by Ohio Representatives John White and Clayton Luckie
Panel: David Brooks; Crystal Willis; Harold Howard, SUMA Fatherhood Project ; Gary Sims, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

3:05 to 3:30 pm - **Closing Remarks and Call to Action:** James McDonald & Calvin Williams, OPNFF

Officers

Calvin L. Williams, President
Cincinnati

James McDonald, Vice-President
Zanesville

Steve Killpack, Secretary-Treasurer
Cleveland

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Springfield



Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families

HISTORY

In May of 2003 the Center for Families and Children of Cleveland hosted the first Fathers Matter Conference in the State of Ohio. With the support of Lee Fisher, CEO of CFC and Andy Calladine, Director of CFC's Fathers and Families Together Program, a diverse group of fatherhood practitioners and stakeholders was brought together to discuss the importance of Fatherhood and the barriers faced by practitioners. Conference participants provided input through a survey and comments offered during the event were instrumental in assisting the conference organizers in taking the next step towards supporting FATHERHOOD in Ohio.

Most participants agreed that there was a need for a Fatherhood Practitioner network in Ohio. Many offered to be part of a Council that would use the ideas submitted by participants at the Fathers Matter Conference in order to establish a grassroots effort to support and educate Practitioners in Ohio.

As a result, a Network Planning Council was formed and the first meeting was held in Columbus on August 8th, 2003. At this time all background information was reviewed in order to develop a strategic planning process. Monthly meetings were facilitated by consultant John Smith of NPNFF (National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families). The Council continued to meet monthly in Columbus and developed an organizational frame work. A mission statement was crafted along with a vision, principles, goals and action steps. In April of 2004, the Planning Council completed its work and the first Board of Directors of OPNFF was elected.

OPNFF seeks to advance a fatherhood and family agenda in partnership with public agencies, grass roots faith and community based organizations, and local and state government entities. In serving the entire State of Ohio, OPNFF has organized the state into five regions and has drawn from those regions to build the leadership body, with an emphasis on both urban metropolitan areas and rural and small communities. Those regions and the major cities within them are: Northeast (Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Youngstown), Northwest (Toledo), East (Zanesville, Marietta), West (Columbus, Dayton) and South (Cincinnati).

Today, The Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families provides networking, training, resources, research, public policy updates, and other supports to father and family-serving practitioners across the State of Ohio. The network has over 500 organizational and individual members and a mailing list of hundreds more practitioners and stakeholders in the fatherhood, marriage and family formation movement throughout the State of Ohio.

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**OHIO PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES
Membership Application**

Mission Statement

The mission of the network is to enhance the outcomes of children, families and communities by providing information, training and encouragement to father and family-serving practitioners.

Statement of Principles

- Children, families and communities will experience optimum outcomes when men and fathers are connected to trained, supported and strengthened practitioners.
- Fathers are essential in the lives of their children.
- A positively engaged father leads by example and strengthens his family and community.
- A healthy community values and celebrates fathers.

Vision

OPNFF is recognized as the one-stop organization for fatherhood advocacy, information, resources and opportunities among public and private stakeholders.

Membership Benefits

- Priority Registration for Training Events
- Opportunities to Network with Other Practitioners
- Representation in a Statewide Fatherhood Network

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Keep top half of form for your records

Name: (print) _____

Organization: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Ohio House District # _____ Ohio Senate District # _____

Type of organization, if applicable (please circle all that apply): government faith-based
non profit social service education health care other: _____

List any Fatherhood programs your agency/organization offers: _____

What interest do you have in OPNFF involvement? (please circle all that apply): Local Organizing
Legislative Advocacy Committee Participation Other: _____

Please list any other local, state or national Fatherhood initiatives you are involved with:

Please mail bottom half of form to:
OPNFF, P.O. Box 94078, Cleveland, Ohio 44101 (216)502.4795; info@opnff.net
or join us online at www.opnff.net



OPNFF

Ohio Practitioners' Network
for Fathers and Families

SPECIAL EDITION: The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

A Message From OCF Founder and Chairman, Cuyahoga County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones

Like the proverbial Phoenix, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF) has, as a result of Governor Ted Strickland's leadership, risen from the ashes of partisan politics and is poised, once again, to positively impact the lives of Ohio's children.

What a difference a year (or so) makes! Following his election in November 2006, Governor Strickland established a transition team to review the status and future of the Commission. In January 2007, the transition team issued its report, calling for the reestablishment and funding of the OFC. The Governor then recommended and the Ohio General Assembly approved a \$4 million budget for the Commission for state fiscal years 2008-2009. Subsequently, the

OCF was empanelled, then released the Ohio Fatherhood Initiative Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) and, in April, selected its first executive director from a field of well over 100 applicants. Fueled by passion, excitement and commitment, the rebirth of the Commission has been breathtaking.

The newly appointed OCF executive director is J. Tracey Robinson. Mr. Robinson, the married father of two teenage sons, was most recently the membership director for one of the state's largest churches and has worked as a grant writing consultant, with the Ohio Judicial Conference and in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. He earned a B.A. from Oberlin College and an M.A. in Education and Policy Leadership from The Ohio State University.

The members of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood are: State Senators Ray Miller and Tim Schaffer; State Representatives Kevin Bacon, Eugene Miller, Allan Sayre and John White; Cleveland City Councilman Kevin Conwell, Dr. Diane Karther, Steven Killpack, Joseph Maiorano and yours truly – the public members appointed by Governor Strickland; Adrian Allison (representing the Ohio Department of Education), Robert Chilton (Supreme Court of Ohio), Cedric Collins (Ohio Department of Youth Services), Rose Haddon (Ohio Department of Job and Family Services), Thomas Joyce (Ohio Department of Health), David Kantur (Ohio Family and Children First Council), Scott Neely (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction) and Angela Woodson (Office of the Governor).

"Father's Weekend" (June 13-14). We no longer restrict our salute to dads in Cuyahoga County to a single day!

Perhaps, most importantly, responses were due to the RFGA on May 2nd. We fully anticipate that communities throughout Ohio have taken full advantage of this opportunity to create robust coalitions of public and nonprofit organizations committed to establishing effective fatherhood programming across the state. The crafting of the next biennial budget will commence this fall. We must clearly demonstrate the need for continued and increased funding of initiatives in Ohio that strengthen families through engaging and supporting fathers. This is the moment for which we have waited. We dare not let our children down.

Created by Ohio State Statute in 1999, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood is charged with the following:

- (A) Organize a state summit on fatherhood every four years;
- (B) Prepare a report each year that identifies resources available to fund fatherhood-related programs and explores the creation of initiatives to do the following:
 - (a) Building the parenting skills of fathers;
 - (b) Provide employment-related services for low income, non-custodial fathers;
 - (c) Prevent premature fatherhood;
 - (d) Provide services to fathers who are inmates in or have just been released from imprisonment in a state correctional institution, so that they are able to maintain or reestablish their relationships with their families;
 - (e) Reconcile fathers with their families;
 - (f) Increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play.

The months of May and June will prove quite eventful for dads in Ohio. The Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families will convene in Cincinnati on May 30th for the Advance Fatherhood Ohio! Summit, and the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative will hold its fourth annual celebration of Fatherhood Conference in Cleveland on



Peter Lawson Jones,
Chairman, Ohio Commission
on Fatherhood

The mission of the Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families is to enhance the outcomes of children, families and communities by providing information, training and encouragement to father and family-serving practitioners.

OPNFF

www.opnff.net
info@opnff.net
JOIN US today!

In 1999 the Ohio General Assembly created the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF). In 2007, then Governor-elect Ted Strickland began the process to reestablish the Commission after it had been defunded years earlier. The Governor set aside \$4M of the appropriations provided to the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and

OCF and GOFBCI Launch the Ohio Fatherhood Initiative

By Greg Landsman, Director, Ohio Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Community Initiatives (GOFBCI) for the Commission's operations and programming.

OCF held its first meeting since it was reestablished in November of 2007 and elected Cuyahoga County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones as its Chair. The Commission has met several times since with a primary focus on the selection of a new Executive Director, which will be announced soon.

GOFBCI also released the Ohio Fatherhood Initiative (OFI) grant opportunity earlier this year with an application deadline of May 2, 2008. This new grant program will fund organizations that work to build and enhance parenting skills of fathers, provide employment-related services for low-income noncustodial fathers, prevent premature fatherhood, provide services to fathers who are inmates or have just been released

from imprisonment and to increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play in the lives of their children. The OFI collaborative awards will be announced in June after the review process has concluded.

The OCF and GOFBCI have prepared the way to give the required attention to the issue of paternal involvement to ensure that the best interests of Ohio's children and fathers are served.

2008-09 Members of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Public Members

- Dr. Diane Karther, 1325 Carriage Hill Court, Ashland 44805; 419.281.1212; dkarther@ashlandfcfc.org
- Steve Killpack, 2012 West 25th St, #202, Cleveland 44113; 216.502.4795; communityendeavors@earthlink.net
- Joseph Maiorano, 113 Parkdale Rd, Stuebenville 43952; 740.264.2212; maiorano.2@osu.edu
- County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, 1375 E 9th St, 9th floor, Cleveland 44114; 216.605.4829; pjones@ralaw.com
- City Councilman Kevin Conwell, 10647 Ashbury Ave, Cleveland 44106; 216.791.6642; kevinconwell@sbcglobal.net

House of Representatives

- Representative Kevin Bacon, 77 South High St, Columbus 43215; 614.644.6030; district21@ohr.state.oh.us
- Representative Eugene Miller, 77 South High St 11th floor, Columbus 43215; 614.466.4954; district10@ohr.state.oh.us
- Representative Allan Sayre, 77 South High St, 10th floor, Columbus 43215; 614.466.8035; district96@ohr.state.oh.us
- Representative John White, 77 South High St, 13th floor, Columbus 43215; 614.466.6504; district38@ohr.state.oh.us

Senate

- Senator Ray Miller, Senate Building #223 Second floor, Columbus 43215; 614.466.5131; rmiller@maild.sen.state.oh.us
- Senator Tim Schaffer, Senate Building #142 First floor, Columbus 43215; 614.466.5838; SD31@mailr.sen.state.oh.us

Office of the Governor

- Angela Woodson, 77 South High St, Columbus 43215; 614.466.3398; angela.woodson@governor.ohio.gov

State Agencies

- Education—Adrian Allison, 25 South Front St, Columbus 43215; 614.752.1247; adrian.allison@ode.state.oh.us
- Family & Children First—David Kontur, One Govt Center, Ste 580, Toledo 43604; 419.213.6990; dkontur@co.lucas.oh.us
- Rehabilitation & Correction—Scott Neely, 1050 Freeway Dr, Columbus 43229; 614.752.1150; scott.neely@odrc.state.oh.us
- Youth Services—Cedric Collins, 51 North High St, Suite 300, Columbus 43215; 614.466.8657; cedric.collins@dys.ohio.gov
- Health—Thomas "Eddie" Joyce, 246 North High St, Columbus 43215; 614.471.5592; thomas.joyce@odh.ohio.gov
- Job and Family Services—Rose Handon, PO Box 182709, Columbus 43218; 614.466.1213; handor@odjfs.state.oh.us

Supreme Court

- Robert "Bo" Chilton, 1300 Memory Lane N, Columbus 43209; 614.561.8609; arlperez@yahoo.com

Executive Director

- Tracy Robinson, 77 South High St, Columbus 43215; 614.466.3398; tracy@tracyrobinson.org

Now's your chance to speak up!

THE OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT wants your feedback on Ohio's Child Support Guidelines.



Every four years, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is required by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC 3119.021) to review Ohio's basic child support payment guidelines. The Child Support Guidelines Advisory Council reviews current rules and procedures to ensure that child support orders are adequate to the needs of children who receive support.

The Council addresses such issues as methodology, deviations, and statutory language; general comments are also welcome. Your input helps determine recommendations made to the General Assembly.

Your comments can be made through September at our website

www.jfs.ohio.gov/csguidelines.

In addition, public forums will be held in August throughout the state. Call your local child support office or visit the website for times and locations.





Ohio Practitioners' Network
for Fathers and Families

RE-ENTRY POLICY UPDATE

www.opnff.net
April 10, 2008

President Bush Signs HR 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007, April 9, 2008

on taxpayers, it deprives our labor force of productive workers, and it deprives families of their daughters and sons, and husbands and wives, and moms and dads.

Our government has a responsibility to help prisoners to return as contributing members of their community. But this does not mean that the government has all the answers. Some of the most important work to help ex-convicts is done outside of Washington, D.C., in faith-based communities and community-based groups. It's done on streets and small town community centers. It's done in churches and synagogues and temples and mosques.

I like to call the folks who are engaged in this compassionate work, "members of the armies of compassion." They help addicts and users break the chains of addiction. They help former prisoners find a ride to work and a meal to eat and place to stay. These men and women are answering the call to love their neighbors as they'd like to be loved themselves. And in the process, they're helping prisoners replace anger and suffering and despair with faith and hope and love.

The bill I'm signing today, the

Second Chance Act of 2007, will build on work to help prisoners reclaim their lives. In other words, it basically says: We're standing with you, not against you.

First, the act will authorize important parts of the administration's Prison Re-entry Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to help America's prisoners by expanding job training and placement services, improving their ability to find transitional housing, and helping newly released prisoners get mentoring, including from faith-based groups.

The past three years, congressional appropriations have supported the work in 20 states through a series of pilot programs awarded to community and faith-based organizations by the U.S. Department of Labor. The early efforts have fielded promising results. In the first two years of the program, more than 12,800 offenders have enrolled in the prisoner re-entry program. More 7,900 have been placed in jobs. Only 18 percent of those enrolled in the program have been arrested again within a year -- that's less than half the national average. We like to measure results, and the results of these

pilot programs are very encouraging.

With the legislation I'll sign today, Congress has recognized the success of this good policy, and I thank them for their good work. Secondly, the act will support the Justice Department's ongoing work to help our nation's prisoners. This bill will help state and local governments, and Indian tribes, and non-profit groups implement programs that will improve the prisoner re-entry process.

These programs will provide further -- former prisoners with essential services, like housing and medical care. It will help develop prisoner drug treatment programs; support prisoner mentoring initiatives. It will support family counseling and other services to help prisoners re-establish their place in the community.

In both these ways, the Second Chance Act will live up to its name; will help ensure that where the prisoner's spirit is willing, the community's resources are available. It will help our armies of compassion use their healing touch so lost souls can rediscover their dignity and sense of purpose.

And now it is my honor to sign this important piece of legislation. May God bless the country, and may God bless those who are trying to help.

Excerpts From The President's Signing Message:

Thanks for coming. I'm about to sign a piece of legislation that will help give prisoners across America a second chance for a better life. This bill is going to support the caring men and women who help America's prisoners find renewal and hope.

The country was built on the belief that each human being has limitless potential and worth. Everybody matters. We believe that even those who have struggled with a dark past can find brighter days ahead. One way we act on that belief is by helping former prisoners who've paid for their crimes -- we help them build new lives as productive members of our society.

The work of redemption reflects our values. It also reflects our national interests. Each year, approximately 650,000 prisoners are released from jail. Unfortunately, an estimated two-thirds of them are rearrested within three years. The high recidivism rate places a huge financial burden

Governor Strickland Signs HB 113 into Law

Reprinted with permission from DRC Friday Facts, Volume 13 Issue 15

On Tuesday March 25th, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Director Terry Collins and other DRC staff attended a bill signing ceremony where Governor Strickland signed into law House Bill 113 sponsored by Representatives John White and Clayton Luckie.

The legislation codifies basic tenets of the Correctional Faith Based Initiatives Taskforce which was established by the legislature in Amended Substi-

tute House Bill 66.

The bill encourages faith based and volunteer reentry services such as counseling, housing, job placement and money management to be provided in DRC/DYS institutions. The bill also requires both departments to provide via its websites contact information to associations, groups, and organizations who may want to become involved in reentry services.



The bill will become effective on June 23, 2008.

HB 113 Signing Ceremony

DRC Omnibus Reentry Proposal (House Bill 130)

Summary of Bill: The proposed legislation sponsored by Representatives John White and Tyrone Yates, will reduce barriers in current law to enhance ex-offender's opportunities to successfully reintegrate into society and prevent their future return to prison. The package addresses issues such as: identification barriers, creation of a state tax credit to encourage employers to hire ex-offenders, requiring licensing boards to document a nexus between employment and criminal behavior rather than automatically excluding ex-felons, and codifying the Governor's State Agency Reentry Coalition to assist in removing other barriers to receiving social services faced by ex-offenders.

The legislation also contains equally important proposals to increase judicial and prosecutorial discretion creating additional diversion options for the roughly 7,000 truly non-violent offenders in the state prison system. These options are critical to reserve state prison beds for the most violent and predatory criminals. These proposals include:

- Intervention in Lieu of Conviction - Expand eligibility by both felony level of drug offense and for specific additional offenses (Removed in House version of bill)
- Judicial release – expand eligibility, modify filing period
- Community Control – specify drug assessment/treatment for addicted offenders, allow court monitored therapeutic sanctions
- Sentencing factors – include success or lack thereof in drug treatment
- Prosecutorial Diversion – remove exclusion for drug dependent offenders
- Medical release – terminally ill offenders excluding life and/or death sentences.
- Foreign nationals -Expand transfer criteria to allow offenders with longer sentences to finish sentence in home country. (Removed in House version of bill)
- Short term admissions-Allow certification of offender sentences less than 30 days to keep them from being sent to prison
- Earned credit –Increase current one day per month to up to seven days for eligible offenders based upon felony level and program achievement to annually save over 2,000 beds.

Status: HB 130 passed the Ohio House of Representatives in April, and is currently pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Criminal Justice chaired by Senator Tim Grendell. The bill has had both sponsor and proponent testimony. Amendments have been submitted for a Committee vote, either the last week of May, or when the legislature reconvenes in the fall of 2008.



Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families

The Budget Process Calendar

Calendar of Activities for the Ohio Budget Process

January: The Governor outlines the budget proposals during the State of the State Address.

February The Governor releases summaries of the Executive budget proposal to the General Assembly and the public. The proposal is then introduced as an Executive Budget bill in the Ohio House of Representatives.

February - March The House holds hearings, makes amendments, and passes its version of the bill.

April - May The House version of the budget is introduced in the Senate. The Senate hold hearings, makes amendments, and passes its version of the bill.

June A Conference Committee reconciles differences in the House and Senate version of the bill. The Governor may sign, veto, or sign it with line-item vetoes. Vetoes are sent back to the House and Senate. A three-fifths majority of both the House and Senate is required to override a veto.

July The new Operating Budget begins on July 1.

For more information on the Ohio Budget Process, go to,
http://olrs.ohio.gov/asp/olrs_BudgetProcess.asp

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