



# Advance Fatherhood Ohio! Summit

Monday, November 17, 2008 at Owens Community College Campus, Perrysburg, Ohio

**Sponsored By:** St. Vincent Mercy Children's Hospital, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, Northcoast Fatherhood Initiative, Owens Community College, Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio, WSOS Community Action Commission, and Local Toledo Business Leaders

## 9:30 to 10:00 am – Registration

### 10:00 to 10:25 am - Opening Remarks

- Calvin Williams, President -Ohio Practitioners' Network For Fathers and Families
- Ben Konop, Lucas County Commissioner
- Senator Teresa Fedor, 11<sup>th</sup> District
- Tracy Robinson, Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
- Andy Devine, Judge (Retired)

### 10:30 to 11:35 am – “I Just Want To See My Kids”

*Implications of Visitation and Custody Policy*

**Moderator:** Mark Robinson      **Time Keeper:** David Justus

**Presentation:** Special Guest

**Panel Members:** Jennifer Stybol, Lucas County Juvenile Court, Family Mediator, Two Fathers

### 11:40 to 12:10 **HOT Lunch** (Sponsor Highlights Northcoast Fatherhood Initiative and WSOS)

### 12:15 to 1:20 pm – “Can We Get This Right For The Children?”

*Ohio Child Support Guidelines Council*

**Presentation:** Carri Brown, Assistant Deputy Director, Ohio Office of Child Support

**Moderator:** Calvin Williams      **Time Keeper:** David Justus

**Panel Members:** Maricarol Torsok, Director of Lucas County Child Support Enforcement Agency, Delma Jackson III, Educational Specialist - Urban League Fatherhood Program, Father and Mother

### 10-Minute Break

### 1:35 to 2:40 pm – “While Daddy Is Away”

*Complications for Incarcerated Fathers and Child Support*

**Presentation:** Linda Janes, Deputy Director, Ohio Office of Parole

**Moderator:** Dr. Moore      **Time Keeper:** David Justus

**Panel Members:** Joni Wysocki PO Non Support, David Kontur Reentry Coalition, Father and Mother

### 2:45 to 3:00 pm - Closing Remarks and Call To Action

Mark Robinson & Calvin Williams, OPNFF

*Thank you for attending. Please take a moment before you go and complete the Summit Evaluation, which is located in your folder.*

# **NORTHCOST FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE**

*A Community Effort to Empower Fathers to Make a Difference in the Lives of Their Children*

The Northcoast Fatherhood Initiative (NCFI) is the coordinated effort of community- and faith-based organizations that care about and are willing to take action to support responsible fatherhood in Northwest Ohio. The NCFI will strengthen rural and urban, low-income fathers by:

- Building relationships with their children through various constructive activities
- Developing skills that will lead to steady employment opportunities
- Motivating child support compliance

NCFI will outreach to fathers in the neighborhoods in which they reside by providing opportunities to strengthen their relationship with their children and improve parenting skills during pregnancy and birth, through the formative years (0-5 years), and during the developmental years (6-14 years). These opportunities will include *Parent Education And Referral Services (PEARS)*, structured father/child activities at local family resource centers and faith-based locations, and to address the immediate, complex needs of some low-income fathers, *Fatherhood Coaching Services (FCS)*.

NCFI will assist the FCS participants to identify and utilize a strong support system including family members, religious leaders, mentors, community partners, and other interested parties, to decrease the program-drop-out rate, while increasing the follow-up and follow-through of the service plan. Using this team approach, fathers will be encouraged by team members to follow through on activities that will increase responsible fatherhood. In addition, this team of supporters will continue to be a positive influence on participants long after they complete the program.

The following NCFI partners, from throughout the region, have extensive experience and expertise in the areas of service to fathers and their families and have demonstrated a willingness to reduce the obstacles that keep children from their fathers:

East Toledo Family Center (Lead Organization), Aurora Gonzales Community and Family Resource Center, Crossroads Family Resource Center, Frederick Douglass Community Center, Friendly Center, Grace Community Center, James Caldwell Community Center, Monroe St. Neighborhood Center, Open Dorr Family Resource Center, Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, Men's Fraternity (20 churches), Project FBI - Fathers Being Involved, Lucas County Help Me Grow, Toledo Hospital, Flower Hospital, Bay Park Community Hospital, St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, St. Charles Mercy Medical Center, Defiance Regional Medical Center, Firelands Regional Medical Center, NetWORK—the One-Stop Operator of The Source Northwest Ohio, Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center, ONYX, Positive Choices, MEL Inc -Mentoring, Education and Leadership, Bowling Green State University-Institute for Child and Family Policy, University of Toledo – National Center for Parents, Lourdes College-School of Social Work, Northcoast Fatherhood Collaborative, and Ohio Practitioners Network of Fathers and Families (OPNFF).

The NCFI has one universal goal: “Help fathers make a difference in the lives of their children.” To this end, NCFI will work towards the enhancement of services that will empower low-income fathers to be an active parent, to be self-sufficient, and to be financially responsible.

**David Justus**  
Program Director  
419-917-9204

**Mark Robinson**  
Assistant Program Director  
419-917-8648

**[www.NorthcoastFatherhoodInitiative.org](http://www.NorthcoastFatherhoodInitiative.org)**  
*[northcoastfathers@yahoo.com](mailto:northcoastfathers@yahoo.com)*

**Northcoast Fatherhood Collaborative - 27100 Oakmead Dr, #117, Perrysburg, OH 43551**

# 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.



**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 606194, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; (216)502.4795; info@opnff.net  
**or join us online at [www.opnff.net](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.opnff.net)  
[info@opnff.net](mailto: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](mailto:dkarther@ashlandfcfc.org)
- Steve Killpack, 2012 West 25th St, #202, Cleveland 44113; 216.502.4795; [communityendeavors@earthlink.net](mailto:communityendeavors@earthlink.net)
- Joseph Maiorano, 113 Parkdale Rd, Stuebenville 43952; 740.264.2212; [maiorano.2@osu.edu](mailto:maiorano.2@osu.edu)
- County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, 1375 E 9th St, 9th floor, Cleveland 44114; 216.605.4829; [pjones@ralaw.com](mailto:pjones@ralaw.com)
- City Councilman Kevin Conwell, 10647 Ashbury Ave, Cleveland 44106; 216.791.6642; [kevinconwell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kevinconwell@sbcglobal.net)

### House of Representatives

- Representative Kevin Bacon, 77 South High St, Columbus 43215; 614.644.6030; [district21@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district21@ohr.state.oh.us)
- Representative Eugene Miller, 77 South High St 11th floor, Columbus 43215; 614.466.4954; [district10@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district10@ohr.state.oh.us)
- Representative Allan Sayre, 77 South High St, 10th floor, Columbus 43215; 614.466.8035; [district96@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district96@ohr.state.oh.us)
- Representative John White, 77 South High St, 13th floor, Columbus 43215; 614.466.6504; [district38@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dkontur@co.lucas.oh.us)
- Rehabilitation & Correction—Scott Neely, 1050 Freeway Dr, Columbus 43229; 614.752.1150; [scott.neely@odrc.state.oh.us](mailto: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](mailto:cedric.collins@dys.ohio.gov)
- Health—Thomas "Eddie" Joyce, 246 North High St, Columbus 43215; 614.471.5592; [thomas.joyce@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:thomas.joyce@odh.ohio.gov)
- Job and Family Services—Rose Handon, PO Box 182709, Columbus 43218; 614.466.1213; [handor@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:handor@odjfs.state.oh.us)

### Supreme Court

- Robert "Bo" Chilton, 1300 Memory Lane N, Columbus 43209; 614.561.8609; [arlperez@yahoo.com](mailto:arlperez@yahoo.com)

### Executive Director

- Tracy Robinson, 77 South High St, Columbus 43215; 614.466.3398; [tracy@tracyrobinson.org](mailto:tracy@tracyrobinson.org)





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](http://olrs.ohio.gov/asp/olrs_BudgetProcess.asp)

#### Officers

Calvin L. Williams, President  
*Cincinnati*

James McDonald, Vice-President  
*Zanesville*

Steve Killpack, Secretary-Treasurer  
*Cleveland*

#### Board Members

Rona Dorsey  
*Columbus*

Terry Miller  
*Coshocton*

Reverend Dr. B. A. Moore  
*Cleveland*

Scott Neely  
*Columbus*

Mark Robinson  
*Toledo*

Michelle Robinson  
*Lima*

Muqit Sabur  
*Cleveland*

Luis Vazquez  
*Parma*

Sue Ware  
*Columbus*

James Whitfield  
*Cincinnati*

Eli Williams  
*Springfield*



Ohio Practitioners' Network  
for Fathers and Families

# ADVANCE FATHERHOOD OHIO! SUMMIT

November 17, 2008

As a result of this event, how motivated are you to participate in the legislative advocacy process?

NOT	SOMEWHAT			VERY
1	2	3	4	5

Was the information from the panels meaningful and useful?

	NOT	SOMEWHAT			VERY
Custody and Visitation	1	2	3	4	5
Child Support	1	2	3	4	5
Incarcerated Fathers	1	2	3	4	5

Overall, how pleased are you with this event?

NOT	SOMEWHAT			VERY
1	2	3	4	5

Are there other topics that you would like to be presented at our next Advance Fatherhood Ohio! Summit?

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If you are from Northwest Ohio, are you interested in learning more about the Northcoast Fatherhood Initiative and how we might be able to assist the fathers you serve?

NO YES

\_\_\_\_\_ Please include your name and phone number

# Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

DP & CS

THE DIVISION OF PAROLE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Linda S. Janes, Deputy Director

[Linda.Janes@odrc.state.oh.us](mailto:Linda.Janes@odrc.state.oh.us)

(614) 752-1235



# The Division's Mission...

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To protect Ohio citizens by ensuring appropriate supervision of adult offenders in community punishments which are effective and hold offenders accountable.

# The Division Includes.....

- Bureau of Adult Detention (BAD)
- Bureau of Community Sanctions (BCS)
- Office of Victim Services (OVS)
- Adult Parole Authority (APA)
- Ohio Parole Board

# ODRC Non-Support Statistics

- As of November 2008, there are 51,219 inmates incarcerated
  - 781 are incarcerated for Non-Support Exclusively
- The Adult Parole Authority supervises 37,642 offenders
  - 1,533 are supervised for Non-Support Exclusively



# ODRC Court Commitments for Non-Support FY 2008

## Top Ten Counties:

- Hamilton-80 (2.8%)
- Franklin-75 (3.3%)
- Butler-66 (7.1%)
- Lucas-50 (5.2%)
- Montgomery-46 (3%)
- Lorain-37 (6.4%)
- Cuyahoga-32 (.6%)
- Summit-30 (2.4%)
- Clermont-29 (8.5%)
- Miami-28 (12.8%)

*Source: Ohio Department Rehabilitation  
and Correction, Bureau of Research*

# Supervising the Non-Support Offender

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- Communication with Local Child Support Enforcement Agency
- Waive Supervision Fee if Child Support Owed
- Emphasize Personal Responsibility and Strengthening Family Ties

# [ Non-Support Pilot Programs ]

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- In FY 07, ODRC provided \$500,000 in prison diversion grant funds to 7 counties having a high number of prison admissions for Non-Support
- Butler, Franklin, Hamilton, Lorain, Lucas, Delaware and Clermont

# Non-Support Program Components

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- Evidence Based Supervision and Programming
- Employment/Education
- Family Strengthening
- Judicial Involvement
- Strong Collaboration with Local Child Support Enforcement

# [ FY 2008 Outcomes ]

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- Over \$600,000 was collected in child support from the program participants
- Child support collection was increased by 76%
- Prison Admissions for Non-Support from the pilot counties decreased by 3.8%
- The 7 pilot programs saved taxpayers nearly \$670,000 in prison costs

# [ FY 2008 Outcomes ]

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- Butler (107 participants): Increased Collection by 76% to \$117,773
- Franklin (67 participants) :Increased Collection by 2% to \$86,021
- Hamilton (195 participants): Increased Collection by 50% to \$127,370



# [ FY 2008 Outcomes ]

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- Lorain (47 participants):  
Increased Collection by 59% to  
\$59,276
- Lucas (70 Participants):  
Increased Collection by 120% to  
\$66,869

# [ FY 2008 Outcomes ]

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- Delaware (58 participants):  
Increased Collection by 60% to  
\$53,972
- Clermont (106 participants):  
Increased Collection by 94% to  
\$88,965

# House Bill 610

- Introduced by Representative Celeste on August 21, 2008
- Sets forth a requirement for the court to impose a community control sanction to complete a non-support program if a program is available in that county



**Department of  
Job and Family Services**

*Ohio Child Support Guidelines  
Advisory Council – An Overview*

**Advance Fatherhood Ohio! Summit**

**November 17, 2008**

**Owens Community College Campus, Perrysburg, OH**

## Objective of Session

*To provide Advance Fatherhood Ohio!  
Summit participants with:*

- Highlights of Advisory Council considerations for change & how public feedback is influencing the work,
- A summary of related recommendations from collaborative groups, and
- An update of general strategic themes.

## History of Child Support

### **Part D of Title IV of the Social Security Act of 1975**

- Created the Child Support Enforcement Program, the IV-D Program





## Child Support Enforcement Amendments of 1984

- In order to establish consistency in the amount of child support orders, the federal government required child support guidelines to be used by the states
- The guidelines represent a formula for the calculation of child support orders

*Federal regulations do not require the states to implement a particular formula or model.*



# CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES MODELS

There are different models used by states:

- ***Income shares model***
- Percentage of the obligor's income model
- Melson formula
- Hybrid calculations



## **History of Ohio's Child Support Guidelines**

- Ohio's first guidelines were issued as a rule of the Ohio Supreme Court on October 1, 1987.
- House Bill 591, enacted by the Ohio General Assembly in 1990, made the Ohio Child Support Guidelines into law.

# Ohio Child Support Guidelines

## ORC 3119.01-3119.24

### Calculating Support

- **Income** – Ohio's model utilizes gross income figures from both parents in its calculation process.



## Child Support Tables/Schedule

- Codified in ORC 3119.021
- Combined gross income ranges from \$6,000 to \$150,000
- Schedules include from 1 to 6 children
- Child Support amounts range from \$600 (1 child with a combined gross income of \$6,600 annually) to \$33,099/year (6 children with a combined gross income of \$150,000 annually)

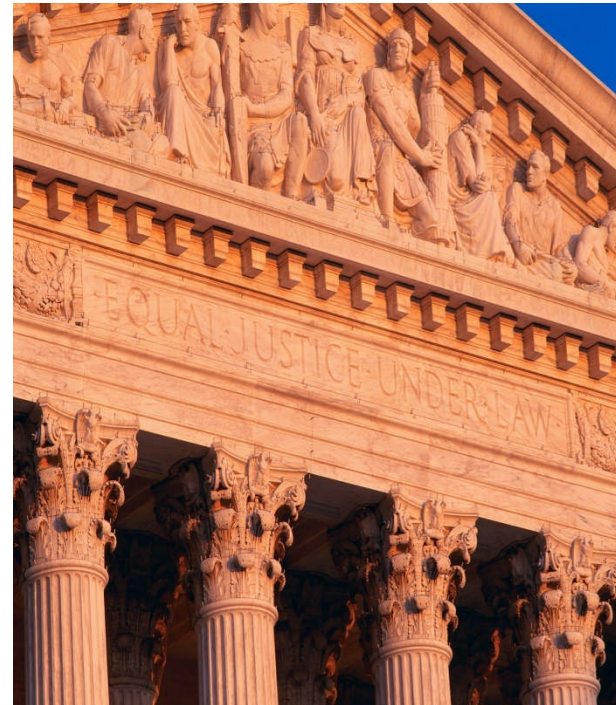
## **Items now impacting Guidelines *calculations***

- *Income Averaging*
- *Imputing income* (potential income)
- *Deducting Other Support Paid*
- *Crediting Childcare & Health Insurance*
- Other Adjustments



# ***Deviations*** from Child Support Guidelines

Only courts have the authority to deviate from the guidelines.



# Deviation Factors

- Courts may deviate if the Guidelines Calculation is “unjust, inappropriate, and not in the best interest of the child.”
- Examples include:
  - Special and unusual needs of the child
  - Extraordinary obligations for a child with disabilities
  - Other court ordered payments
  - Extended parenting time or extraordinary costs associated with parenting time
  - Earning capacity of the child
  - Physical or emotional needs of a child
  - Other relevant factors

## **An *Administrative* Review & Adjustment (Modification) is permitted**

- **Every 36 months**
- **If either party has a loss of employment for 30 days; the change is expected to continue and is beyond the party's control**
- **Either party is disabled, reducing earning capacity**
- **Either party experiences a 30% change in income for a period of at least 6 months**





Department of  
Job and Family Services

Periodic Updates to  
Ohio's Child Support Guidelines

**Child Support Guidelines Advisory Council**

- ODJFS is required by Ohio Revised Code section 3119.021 to review Ohio's basic child support schedule ***every four years*** to determine whether child support orders issued in accordance with the schedule and worksheets adequately provide for the needs of the children who are subject to the child support order.

# Ohio Child Support Guidelines Advisory Council

*Membership* includes:

- legislators,
- judges,
- magistrates,
- advocates,
- attorneys,
- county professionals,
- association leaders, &
- state officials.

# **Ohio Child Support Guidelines Advisory Council**

The Council addresses such issues as methodology, deviations, and statutory language.

[www.jfs.ohio.gov/csguidelines](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/csguidelines)

## Studies /Guest Speakers

- Mark Lino – expert on *USDA statistics on the cost of raising children*
- Laura Morgan – *researcher and author* on guidelines in all states and various approaches utilized
- Still working to identify vendor for an ***economic study*** used to create basic child support schedules
- Nine counties completed a ***deviation study*** – most deviations are downward – the results of the study are under review

***Public input & feedback have been sought:***

- Testimony at Advisory Council Meetings
- 11 forums were held in 8 cities
- Website for public comment available throughout Summer



# ***Public Comments***

- The need for a **parenting time adjustment**
- Fair treatment of low income obligors, especially when **dealing with multiple cases or when imputing income**
- **Accountability of both parents**, financially and emotionally
- The connection between paying child support and a **parent's ability to find work**
- The importance of child support **education and outreach – appreciation for forums**
- Modification of orders for **incarcerated obligors**

# Parenting Time Adjustment

Some states have *parenting time adjustments* in their guidelines to reduce the amount of support paid when a non-custodial parent has the children for a significant amount of time.

The Council is actively moving toward a recommendation for a parenting time adjustment.

(There was such a recommendation with the prior Council.)

# **An Additional Child Support Computation Worksheet**

- The Advisory Council is actively considering an additional child support computation worksheet to address equal or near equal parenting time.
- It would be used to calculate child support when an order calls for one of the parties to have parenting responsibilities at least 45 % of the time.
- Such a worksheet would more accurately reflect the relative financial contributions of each parent toward expenses such as housing, food, and transportation.

# Education and Outreach

Parents appreciate:

- Forums, opportunities to participate
- Early education and outreach (many participants did not know about the reasons a review or modification is permitted – yet they were interested in this topic based on changes they had experienced)
- A culture of customer service, from the top down
- An understanding of how court and even administrative processes can be intimidating
- Recognition of the contributions both parents make to their child's development
- Appropriate and useful referrals for child support related services

## Dealing with multiple cases

- Dealing with parents who have more than one family unit and multiple children presents difficulty:
  - Cases may not always be in the same jurisdiction
  - “Which child should benefit more?”
  - Minimum orders (\$50 monthly)
  - Low income obligors

The Council is actively considering a self support reserve based on federal poverty guidelines.

## Self Support Reserve

- Need to address low income obligors
- Current self support reserve is \$6810 annually, based on 1992 fpg
- The Council is actively reviewing a self support reserve test which would increase the self support reserve
- 125% of current fpg is being considered (\$13,000 for one person)

## **Imputing Income – a topic under review**

The Council is actively considering a proposal for legislation to limit imputing income in specific circumstances, such as when a parent is ***incarcerated or institutionalized*** and has no income or assets –or- when a parent is unemployed or underemployed in order to comply with efforts relating to a court order for ***family reunification***.

## Accountability of both parents

- Council will include a formal response in its report
- Burden of justification/itemization
- Child support is for food, clothing, shelter, transportation, etc. – Average order is around \$300 monthly
- Income shares model includes accountability of both parents
- Parents do not always agree on beliefs or opinions
- Neglect and abuse - subject to the child protective services and court systems



## **Modification of orders for incarcerated obligors**

- Consistently part of website and forum feedback
- DRC/OCS collaborative group
- 20 recommendations are forthcoming
- Recommendations include legislation which would permit modification of a child support order when a parent is incarcerated, in certain circumstances –and- legislation for the compromise or waiver of assigned arrears

## **Additional related recommendations from collaborative groups**

- Increased funding for prison diversion programs
- Increased funding for mediation programs
- Various programs to help parents re-entering society

## **Adjustments for Child Care**

- The Council is actively reviewing how to consider the child care credit (perhaps including it into the worksheet based on an average of market expenses).

## Other Support Obligations

- Currently, a credit is provided in the amount of the total tax deduction for children, other than those of the order.
- Based on feedback from parents, the Council is considering a recommendation to reduce the credit to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the tax deduction, asserting that each child has 2 parents responsible for a child's care.

## **“Cash Medical” and the Guidelines**

- The Council is considering a method to include average medical support costs in the basic child support table – this would lead to simplification of the process.

## **Next Steps for the Council**

- Meetings in December, January, February
- Advisory Council Report to the
- General Assembly (due March 2009)
- General Assembly will review the report and ask for more information, as needed
- Stakeholders, parents & advocates play a role in the legislative process

# Inspiration: Strategic Plan Highlights, US HHS

- Child Support is an evolving program
- ***Balanced approach*** to serve both parents in the best interest of children
- No longer primarily welfare reimbursement
- Moving toward a program to help ensure family self-sufficiency - with child support as a reliable source of income



## Strategic Themes

- Recognize the difference between parents who have the ability to pay and those who cannot pay
- Help parents who want to do the right thing yet are struggling



# Questions/Comments

[carri.brown@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:carri.brown@jfs.ohio.gov)

