

## Fifteen “All-Star Dads” Were In Attendance At Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility’s Second Annual Fatherhood Summit



Fifteen fathers and their families attended the second annual “All-Star Dads,” Fatherhood Summit at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility on April 25th and 26th.

The summit was planned and hosted in partnership with The Ohio Department of Youth Services, The Ohio Department of Children and Youth’s Ohio Commission On Fatherhood, Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility, and Passages Connecting Fathers and Families, and boasted an overly successful weekend of activities and educational workshops geared toward healthy parenting and healthy relationships.

A host of staff and leaders from across ODRC and DYC Ohio Commission on Fatherhood lead impactful workshops and sessions for the fathers and their families that participated in this 2 day conference! It was packed with information, encouraging speakers, and the aforementioned, educational workshops that worked to address things like the importance of fatherhood, system navigation, and staying connected with their children while incarcerated.

Day 2 was overly incredible as a host of the dads who participated in the previous day of the summit were able to spend time with their children all

while sharing a delicious meal! We also made sure that co parents/guardians and their kiddos left the event with care packages and toys, too!

Passage's President and CEO, and planner for the event, Dr. Brian Moore stated that "The workshops and the entire weekend were fantastic. Yesterday, I found myself reflecting on how very moving this experience was emotionally. There was a one-month old baby boy in attendance, visiting with his father for the first time. There were several 16 year old fathers, a 15 year old mother, grandparents that were in their early thirties, and half of the fathers participating did not have a family member attend the summit. Today, I stand resolute and even more committed to helping these young men and others return to our communities as productive citizens."

Passage's Director of Programming, and planner for the event, Jennifer Kearney echoed much of what Dr. Moore spoke about saying "It was an emotional event-in a positive way. It was awesome to watch the youth get excited about the weekend on Friday, and get engaged in lots of fatherhood conversations with the DYS staff, Patrick Patterson, and Terry Harak. It was also amazing to watch the youth bond with their children, and see them spend time with their families."

As the summer months approach, Passages Connecting Fathers and Families, in partnership with DYC's Ohio Commission On Fatherhood, and several correctional institutions will be hosting more weekend long fatherhood summits and conferences throughout the state in order to continue to engage, educate, and empower dads to be the best parents, partners, and providers possible wherever they are.