

**Empowering Fatherhood  
Programming and Family Services:  
How Ohio Infuses Fatherhood in  
Human Services/Social Services  
Programs: Education, Child Support,  
Child Welfare and Health**

*January 8, 2019*



# Welcome and Introductions

- **Kimberly Dent**, Executive Director, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
- **Matt Lytle**, Program Administrator, Stark County Fatherhood Coalition
- **Dr. Brian Moore**, President/CEO, Passages Connecting Fathers and Families
- **Harold Howard**, Director of Community Care Service Line, Talbert House
- **Burl Lemon**, Executive Director, ForeverDads



# Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

**Created by statute in 1999 (Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 5101.34)**

## What We Do:

- 1. Engage the Community** by bringing public awareness to the critical role fathers play in their families' lives
- 2. Fund Fatherhood** programming (non-profit, faith-based and government) in local agencies and organizations
- 3. Train Professionals** (statutorily required state summit every four years; training for funded programs)
- 4. Recommend Policies and Procedures** that are Father-Friendly and Father-Inclusive



# Mission of OCF

*Enhance the well-being of Ohio's children by providing opportunities for fathers to become better parents, partners, and providers.*

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and Local Fatherhood Programs:

1. Work closely with Social and Human Service Programs (State and Local)
2. Participate on various government committees and workgroups
3. Partners with the Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families and Ohio University on Data Collection





Presented by  
Matt Lytle, Program Administrator,  
Stark County Fatherhood Coalition



# How Stark County Fatherhood Coalition Began

- In 2010 Stark County received \$10,000 Seed Money from the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood to implement a Fatherhood program.
- Founding members: Stark County Community Action Agency (Lead Agency), Stark County Child Support, Goodwill, Early Childhood Resource Center, Domestic Violence Project and Stark County Family Court.
- Today there are over 25 community agencies, non-profits and schools and universities that are active members.
- How the Seed Money was used: Fatherhood Summit, “Bridging the Gap” forums for custodial and non-custodial parents, Fathers Day Cookout event, advertising and promotional materials.
- Due to funding constraints to Community Action Agency, Stark County Child Support took over as the lead agency. Recognizing the importance of the program, Stark County Job & Family Services has made an annual contribution of \$5,000 to the Coalition for its Activities Fund.



# Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

## Mini-grants

- In 2015 & 2016 Stark County Fatherhood Coalition applied for and received \$2,000 grants to help sponsor our annual Fishing Rodeo.
- The Fishing Rodeo is a collaborative with Stark Social Workers Network and is held on Fathers Day weekend.
- The mini-grant helped pay to stock the pond, food and event activities for parents and children. Monetary donations were received from Paramount Advantage, Early Childhood Resource Center and Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority and Miller & Company Sanitation. The Wildlife Federation donated fishing poles to each child who does not have one.
- A record number of 275 participants attended the event in 2018. Community agencies set up vendor tables to provide local resources for those in attendance.



# Sustaining the Work

- THRIVE provides money to fund Fatherhood Coalition Program Administrator and Community Health Worker positions, Parenting Time Order Program and Right Path for Fathers Program.
- Fatherhood Coalition has developed new partners that have made significant financial contributions: Paramount Advantage, Buckeye Health Plan, Shared Blessings Philanthropy Group, Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Canton Charge.
- Fatherhood Coalition will be holding a 5K Run/1 Mile Walk fundraising event on May 18, 2019.





## FREE SERVICES FOR FATHERS



Men who have a child under one year of age or are expecting a child can work with our community health worker, Cassie Hunt, to receive free supportive services! Individuals can receive assistance and education with healthcare, employment, adult education, housing, and other services That will help remove barriers to healthy living.

**Contact:**

**Cassie Hunt**  
Community Health Worker  
Fatherhood Coalition  
330-451-8864

## WHY DADS?

Dads play a vital role in the development of children. Children with a healthy relationship with their father are more likely to finish school, have healthy relationships, and have better mental health.

*"Being a father is the most important role I will ever play and if I don't do this well, no other thing I do really matters."*— Michael Josephson

# Stark County Parenting Time Order Program

*Being a responsible father is not just about financially supporting your child, it is also about being an involved, active parent who plays a daily part in your child's life.*

Non-Custodial Parents who have been denied parenting time can now apply to receive services to establish or enforce parenting time.

If you have been denied parenting time with your child, and cannot afford legal assistance to establish a parenting time order in court, or to enforce compliance with an existing order, the Parenting Time Order Program may be able to help you.

You may qualify to receive free legal assistance to establish or enforce an order for parenting time if:

- you are at or below the 250% poverty level and
- there is not a risk of domestic violence.



For more information contact:  
Matt Lytle, Program Administrator,  
Stark County Child Support (330) 451-8477 or Matthew.Lytle@jfs.ohio.gov





**PASSAGES** 

*Guiding Families,  
Strengthening Communities*

**Doctor Brian Moore,  
President and CEO  
Passages, Connecting Fathers  
and Families**

**WE WALK TOGETHER**



PASSAGES *Guiding Families, Strengthening Communities*  
[www.passages-oh.org](http://www.passages-oh.org)



# Passages Connecting Fathers and Families

## *Partnership with the Cuyahoga County Job and Family Services - Department of Child Support Services*

- Focus on paternity establishment to engage fathers from the start
  - Assist with parenting-time orders after legal establishment of paternity. With new Ohio Child Support Guidelines, parenting time may be factored into child support calculation
  - Benefits of being there for his child and family
- Support establishment encourage fathers after legal establishment of paternity to appear for support hearing
  - Right-size order (bring required documentation)
  - Educate non-custodial parent father on the importance and process of paying support



# Passages Connecting Fathers and Families

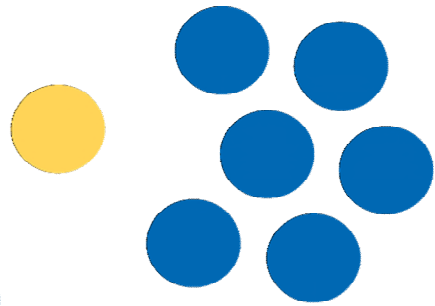
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- Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative
- Quarterly meetings at the leadership level
- Monthly outreach visits by Child Support representatives to meet one-on-one with obligors
- Driver's License restoral
- Programming for individuals convicted of felony nonsupport



Harold Howard, Director of Community Care  
Service Line, Talbert House



# Talbert House

Building a Stronger Community...  
One Life at a Time.





# Hamilton County Infant Mortality Rate

## In Hamilton County, our infant mortality rate has long exceeded the national average.

Babies who are born alive but die (for any reason) before their first birthday define a community's infant mortality rate. 487 babies have died in Hamilton County since 2013.

## However, in the past 5 years, fewer babies died in Hamilton County than ever before.

With our lowest infant mortality rate on record, we have lost 88 fewer babies in the past 5 years. In fact, after more than a decade of stagnant rates, our recent 15% drop is double the national pace of change, and we are the fastest improving large county in Ohio.\*



## We still have work to do.

While our rates over the past 5 years are far better than earlier years, we still rank among the worst 10% for infant mortality in the country.\*\*

\*Comparing 2008-2012 rates to 2013-2017 rates among Ohio counties with populations greater than 500,000  
 \*\*Source: CDC Wonder, comparing Hamilton County's 2013-2017 rate to the 2013-2015 rate of all counties with populations greater than 250,000 in the U.S.

## Why does our infant mortality rate matter?

Each infant death deeply affects mothers, fathers, siblings and surrounding community members. Infant mortality is a telling indicator of overall community health, education and poverty. Communities with high infant mortality rates have substantially higher medical care costs, education costs and workforce costs. We must protect each of our most vulnerable citizens to improve community life as a whole.

## What's improving?

There are 3 main causes of infant death: birth defects, unsafe sleep and preterm birth. Hamilton County's rate of birth-defect related deaths is holding steady at the national average. Thanks to the work of hundreds of individuals, we've seen considerable recent progress in the area of sleep-related deaths and preterm births. Still, these two areas continue to exceed national rates and more must be done.

### WHERE WE'VE BEEN



2008-2012  
Annual Infant Deaths By Cause (Hamilton County)\*

### WHERE WE ARE



2013-2017  
Annual Infant Deaths By Cause (Hamilton County)\*

### WHERE WE COULD BE



National Average For a County the Size of Hamilton County\*\*

\*Source: Ohio Vital Records, FIMR: 2008-2012; 2013-2017  
 \*\*Source: CDC Wonder: 2011-2015



# Maternal and Infant Health Home Visitation Agencies

- Every Child Succeeds (ECS)
- Healthy Moms and Babies (HMB)
- Cincinnati Health Department (CHD)
- Cradle Cincinnati
- Families First (Middletown Ohio)



# What can providers do?

- Assess the needs of fathers
- Develop programs in response to needs
- Evaluate program effectiveness
- Realize that each father has strengths, needs, and concerns –

*individualizing is key*





# Fatherhood Project Features:

- Parent Education Classes
- Legal Services
- One-on-One Coaching
- Employment Services
- Co –Parenting Coaching
- Other benefits
- Fellowship Support Meetings
- Father and Child Activities
- Housing Assistance



# Fatherhood and Child Protective Services



**ForeverDads**

Prepared by **Burl Lemon**, CEO/Executive Director -  
*ForeverDads*

&

**Nick Lyons**, Case Manager/Coordinator of Services  
*- ForeverDads*



# Children's Services Fatherhood Engagement

- Children's Services wants to engage fathers because they believe fathers are critical to the following:
  - Strengthening of families
  - Preventing maltreatment
  - Preventing unnecessary removal of children from the home
  - Promoting safety
  - Stability and permanency
  - Child well-being

Prepared by **Burl Lemon**, CEO/Executive Director - *ForeverDads*

**Nick Lyons**, Case Manager/Coordinator of Services - *ForeverDads*



# Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and ForeverDads

- The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood is a state-wide commission whose mission is *to enhance the well-being of Ohio's children by providing opportunities for fathers to become better parents, partners and providers.*
- ForeverDads is funded through and works in conjunction with the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood *to encourage, educate, and equip men as fathers to develop positive relationships with their children, family, and community.*

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**Nick Lyons**, Case Manager/Coordinator of Services - ForeverDads



# Children's Services and ForeverDads

## Referrals

- **Children's Services** refers fathers to ForeverDads as part of their case plan.
- **Other referrals** are either self-referrals or agency based.

## Relationships

- **While being involved with ForeverDads**, fathers build relationships with the staff, facilitators, mentors, and other fathers.
- **As a team**, we met with a former executive director of a Children's Services agency, who provided insight of their outcome mission, stages in their process, and barriers they may face when serving fathers and families.

## Report

- **Individual Case Management Plans** and other client documents are secured in our Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) software provided by the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood.
- **Upon request**, a personalized summary can be made available to Children's Services for case management purposes.

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**Nick Lyons**, Case Manager/Coordinator of Services - *ForeverDads*



# Success Stories

- Mike was an attorney referral who had a case plan with Children's Services. Mike needed to complete a fatherhood program. He had an employment barrier that would not allow him to participate in our Nurturing Fathers for Life program.
  - As a result, Mike participated in fatherhood coaching and the Fathering in 15 program. Fathering in 15 is a self-guided curriculum which includes a mentor. A mentor is carefully selected to work with each father. After successfully completing the program, Mike received a Certificate of Completion. That certificate validated his efforts to become a stable and healthy father. As a result of these efforts, Mike gained full custody of his daughter, Michelle.

A dad's wish for those who serve children and families:

*"Hire qualified people, who are professional and care, and think beyond 9-5."*

Prepared by **Burl Lemon**, CEO/Executive Director - ForeverDads

**Nick Lyons**, Case Manager/Coordinator of Services - ForeverDads



# Thank You !!

## You have been an amazing audience



*Time for Questions and Answers*

*????????????????????*



# To learn more

[www.fatherhood.ohio.gov](http://www.fatherhood.ohio.gov)

[kimberly.dent@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:kimberly.dent@jfs.ohio.gov)

(614)752-0583

