



**Ohio Children's Trust Fund  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2017**

**Board Members Present:**

Carrie Baker  
Christina Klefeker  
Grace Kolliesuah (Director Tracy Plouck)  
Senator Stephanie Kunze  
Representative Sarah LaTourette  
Ronald Rees  
Brandi Robinson (Director Rick Hodges)  
Dan Shook (Director Cynthia C. Dungey)  
Diana Starkey  
Senator Cecil Thomas

**Board Members Absent:**

Representative Janine Boyd  
Dr. Kathi Makoroff

**Staff Present:**

Kristen Rost, Executive Director  
Eric Campfield, Program Manager  
David Monder, Program Manager  
Nicole Sillaman, Program Manager

**Guests:**

Denise Pleska, Senior Staff Attorney for ODJFS  
Ciara Price, Senior Legislative Aide, Representative Sarah LaTourette  
Lisa Valentine, Senior Legislative Aide, Senator Stephanie Kunze  
Cayla Burton, Senator Cecil Thomas  
Fawn Gadel, Associate Director & Clinical Supervisor, Family and Youth Law Center, Capital University Law School  
Byron Tocheri, Staff Attorney, Family and Youth Law Center, Capital University Law School

Vice-Chair Ronald Rees called the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) Board Meeting to order at 10:01am on February 16, 2017. A quorum of members was not present.

Vice-Chair Rees recognized new OCTF Board members Senator Cecil Thomas and Senator Stephanie Kunze and asked them to introduce themselves.

## **New Business**

### ***OCTF Regionalization Update***

Executive Director Kristen Rost provided a regionalization update to members that included a review of the status of each of the eight regions' prevention plans, council vacancies and their Request for Grant Applications.

### **Regional Prevention Plans**

Director Rost explained that the Northeast and Northwest regions submitted their regional prevention plans to the Trust Fund by the February 6, 2017 deadline.

The Director noted the components of both regional prevention plans and reminded members that the materials provided in their packets outlines for each of the two regional prevention plans: the priority needs for the region; the strategies proposed for the region; the target populations; the proposed strategies alignment with the OCTF strategic plan and logic model; the evaluation methodology for the region; the timeline for implementation; the return on investment; leveraged funding information; and other considerations.

Board members and OCTF staff discussed each regional plan as well as their funding level requests.

Following this discussion, and with a quorum of members now being present, Diana Starkey motioned approving the Northeast regional plan for funding at 75% of their requested level and the Northwest regional plan for funding at 50% of their requested level with the stipulation that this represents start-up funding and that this level of funding should not be expected on an annual basis given that such a level would be unsustainable. Chris Klefeker seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the motion with Vice-Chair Rees abstaining.

### ***Legal Services for At-Risk Families***

Vice-Chair Rees recognized Fawn Gadel and Byron Tocheri from the Family and Youth Law Center at Capital University who provided a summary of their work over the past year pursuant to their grant with the OCTF. This work included providing four webinars (Paternity Establishment, Custody & Estate Planning Tools for Families at Risk; Legal Issues impacting Families at Risk of Child Abuse and Neglect; Custody Options Available for Kinship Providers and the Ramifications of Each Option; and the Intersection of Poverty and Child Welfare) for caseworkers, attorneys and others who wants to learn about relevant legal issues that would assist them in providing services to at risk populations. Ms. Gadel advised that 100 individuals attended each of the four webinars and she provided the website where the webinars are available for viewing.

The Family and Youth Law Center has also provided three brief advice clinics where parents can come in the evenings to receive advice on issues as well as receive services or referrals for services. The majority of clients are located in Fairfield, Licking and Pickaway counties and the issues most commonly seen by referrals are custody issues most of which are contested custody matters.

Mr. Tocheri provided an overview of the clients served as part of the grant. He noted that 70 families have been served to date while 16 families have been or are being given extended legal representation. A majority of families served have between 1-2 children living in their homes and

they have a household income between \$10,000 and \$20,000. Mr. Tocheri also explained the services that are utilized by the families including assistance with uncontested custody cases, grandparent power of attorneys, obtaining guardianship, landlord/tenant issues, obtaining public benefits and securing housing.

Mr. Tocheri then gave a brief overview of some of the cases his organization took on as part of the Trust Fund grant.

Following the Family and youth Law Center presentation, board members thanked them for the information they provided.

### ***OCTF Budget and Finance Committee Update***

Vice-Chair Rees asked OCTF Board Treasurer Diana Starkey to provide an update on the OCTF Budget and Finance Committee. Treasurer Starkey explained the status of fee collections and donations received for the fiscal year thus far. The Treasurer then explained the SFY 2018 operating budget planning process and the assumptions that went into it. She advised that if assumptions hold and we funded regions at their requested level, it would lead to significant negative balances for both SFY 2018 and 2019.

Treasurer Starkey then discussed possible ways to increase revenues and noted that the Trust Fund has or is in the process of applying for multiple federal grants that would provide important funding. She also explained that the Trust Fund could seek an increase in birth and death certificate fees and that the OCTF had last done so in 2001. It was also explained that the OCTF had requested an increase in revenue through General Revenue Funds and that such an increase is not currently in the state biennial operating budget. Members were advised that if they approved seeking an increase in fees for the Trust Fund, this would be requested by increasing the total amount of the birth and death certificate fee. In other words, the Trust Fund would not seek to obtain increased revenue by altering the amount of funding that the Ohio Department of Health or the Ohio Department of Public Safety receives from birth and death certificates fees.

The Treasurer and board members next discussed seeking a program code for the Trust Fund that is separate from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

Following discussion, Vice-Chair Rees motioned that OCTF staff work with ODJFS staff to obtain a new program code in the biennial operating budget. Diana Starkey seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the motion.

### ***SFY 2018 & 2019 Regional Prevention Coordinator Costs***

Chairman Sarah LaTourette asked Director Rost to discuss the upcoming SFY 2018-2019 grant agreements that the OCTF will be working on with regional prevention coordinating entities. The Director reviewed the main coordinator entity duties and responsibilities and explained several of the lessons learned and information gathered during this past year of working with coordinators.

Director Rost also provided the SFY 2018 and 2019 budget amounts that the coordinators requested over a year ago to carry out their duties and responsibilities. She explained that in examining these costs, some are far higher than they need to be based on the lessons learned and knowledge gained from working with coordinators this past year. As a result, members discussed

directing the OCTF staff to enter into negotiations with the coordinator entities to obtain more accurate information and lower costs.

Vice-Chair Rees motioned to make a recommendation for reasonable regional coordinating costs for specific activities authorizing the Executive Director to approve final costs per region. Grace Kolliesuah seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the motion.

### **April 2017 Discussion**

Director Rost briefly explained April 2017 activities including the #InTheNext30Minutes statewide campaign, the Youth Art Contest, statewide public service announcements, social media ads, interviews and earned media appearances. In addition, she outlined the OCTF statewide toolkit, the OCTF campaign kickoff event and the Kids Bake for Kids Sake Bake Sale.

### ***Regional April Plans***

Director Rost then reviewed Regional April Prevention Month Plans and explained that plan guidance was sent out January 6, 2017 outlining the four types of allowable activities (Regional Kickoff Event; Collaboration with Community Partners; Local Media Engagements and Advertising; and Other Regional Activities).

The Director then shared the proposed activities outlined by each region in their Regional April Prevention Month Plan.

Following this, Vice-Chair Rees motioned to approve all of the regional April Prevention Month plans. Chris Klefeker seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the motion.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Minutes***

Vice-Chair Rees reverted to old business and asked for any additions or revisions to the November 17, 2016 board meeting minutes. Carrie Baker motioned that the November 17, 2016 board meeting minutes be approved as written. Christina Klefeker seconded the motion and without objection the minutes were approved.

### **OCTF Biennial Operating Budget Discussion**

Director Rost updated members on the status of the revisions to the OCTF sections of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) that they had approved at the prior board meeting in order to facilitate the implementation of the OCTF 2016-2021 Strategic Plan.

Specifically, the approved revision 1 authorizing the OCTF Executive Director to seek the insertion of language into legislation that will ensure the original intent of the Board as it relates to conflicts of interest on regional prevention councils was inserted as an amendment into House Bill 463. The bill was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. This revision will become law on April 4, 2017.

The approved revision 2 clarifying that regional prevention council members serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties was also inserted as an amendment into House Bill 463.

OCTF board approved revision 3 seeking to add language creating a statewide prevention task force that would be chaired by the OCTF and charged with looking holistically at prevention across the state was not added into the Governor's budget, House Bill 49.

Trust Fund board approved revision 4 authorizing the OCTF Executive Director to seek General Revenue Funds to assist with regional program sustainability was not added into House Bill 49. The Director noted that the Trust Fund had discussed divorce, dissolution, birth and death fee increases in addition to increasing General Revenue Funds.

Director Rost explained that as the needs assessments have shown, there is great need in the state for child abuse and neglect prevention services. Simultaneously, revenue streams for prevention services have been in a steady decline over the past few years. The Director provided information noting that the State Special Revenue has declined over the past decade by 20%. The last fee increase was in 2001 in the amount of \$1 on each birth and death certification and divorce and dissolution decrees. She noted that the OCTF regional prevention model and the data obtained through the completed needs assessments have shown what effective prevention services will cost throughout the state. She added that considering that the cost of prevention services has increased while state special revenue is decreasing, it is clear that additional revenues must be secured in order to ensure effective prevention programs and services statewide.

The Director explained that a proposed fee increase of \$3 on birth and death certificates and divorce and dissolution decrees could result in an increase of \$3.5 million additional revenue per fiscal year, which would cover the estimated cost of prevention services. As a result, it may be a wiser course of action to seek these increases (i.e. increases in State Special Revenue) rather than General Revenue Funds.

Director Rost also discussed budget revision 5 for consideration that would eliminate the Metropolitan Statistical Area provision from ORC 3109.15 regarding the composition of public appointees to the Trust Fund Board. She explained that the composition of the Trust Fund Board is determined by ORC 3109.15. One particular provision requires that public appointees to the Trust Fund Board be comprised of suggested professions and that five public appointees be residents of Metropolitan Statistical Areas. These areas are defined by the federal Office of Budget and Management. This requirement is unique to the Trust Fund, as no other Board or Commission contains this provision. She explained that removal of this language will facilitate board appointments.

Director Rost reminded members that approval of biennial operating budget priority revisions 3, 4 and/or 5 would signify the OCTF's endorsement of them and the OCTF Executive Director would then work with legislators to include the revisions in the biennial operating budget.

Board members discussed the revised budget revision 4 authorizing the OCTF Executive Director to seek an increase in State Special Revenues through a fee increase of \$3 on birth and death certificates and divorce and dissolution decrees.

Diana Starkey motioned to approve authorizing the OCTF Executive Director to seek an increase in State Special Revenues through a fee increase of \$3 on birth and death certificates and divorce and dissolution decrees. Chris Klefeker seconded the motion. With four members abstaining, the motion was not approved.

Consideration of The Women's Fund of Central Ohio Statewide Application was postponed until the next OCTF Board meeting.

**Other as Requested by Board Members**

While members did not have any other items for discussion, Director Rost reminded members that financial disclosure statements are due to the Ohio Ethics Commission by May 15, 2017. The Director also advised members that they are required to have taken annual ethics training by December 31, 2017.

As there was no further business to come before the board, Vice-Chair Rees adjourned the February 16, 2017 OCTF Board meeting at 12:10pm.

*Handouts:*

OCTF Board Meeting Agenda – February 16, 2017  
OCTF PowerPoint Presentation – February 16, 2017  
OCTF Board Draft Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2016  
Senator Kunze Bio  
Senator Thomas Bio  
SFY 2016 OCTF Operating Budget  
SFY 2016 Income Statement  
SFY 2017 OCTF Operating Budget  
SFY 2017 Income Statement  
The Women's Fund of Central Ohio Application  
Northeast Regional Prevention Plan  
Northwest Regional Prevention Plan  
FFY 2016 CBCAP Annual Report  
OCTF Ohio Revised Code sections  
Executive Director's Report