



**Ohio Children's Trust Fund
Board Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2009**

Board Members Present:

Representative Brown, Chair
Mary Deel
Kelly Lynch

Crystal Allen, Vice Chair
Arlene Jones
Lisa McDuffie

Senator Schuring
Sheriff Gene Kelly
Representative Wagner

Board Members Absent:

Director Lumpkin
Senator Turner

Director Dawson
Ericka Thoms

Karen Hughes

Staff Present:

Candace Valach, Executive Director
Karen Minton, Trust Fund Program Administrator
David Monder, Program Manager
Kristen Rost, Program Manager
Carolyn Brewer, Administrative Assistant

Representative Brown called the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board Meeting to order at 9:38 am on March 11, 2009.

Introduction of New Staff

Candace Valach thanked everyone for coming to a full day CTF Board Meeting. The first hour of business will be focused on board business, and the remainder of the day will be devoted to strategic planning.

Candace introduced the new OCTF staff..

David Monder – hired as Program Manager. He joins the Trust Fund having worked in the Ohio General Assembly for ten years. David will be managing CTF grantees at both the state and local levels and assisting us in leveraging additional sources of funding.

Kristen Rost – hired as Program Manager. She joins the Trust Fund having worked as a grant manager with the Children's Hunger Alliance. Kristen will be working side-by-side with David managing CTF grantees at both the state and local levels and assisting us in leveraging additional sources of funding.

Carolyn Brewer – hired as the Administrative Assistant. She joins the Trust Fund having professional experience with the child care and child welfare system in Ohio. She will be coordinating the administrative functions of the Trust Fund, managing the CTF website, planning April activities, and many more!

Candace Valach informed the board that the board roster has been updated and a new copy could be found in their board packets. Board packets also included an *Ohio Children's Trust Fund Regional Areas* map. The map shows the state divided in two parts, with Kristen Rost responsible for the Western Region and David Monder responsible for the Eastern Region.

Executive Director's Report

Candace Valach stated that future board meeting times will be on the April board meeting.

SFY 2010/2011 Budget

OCTF is appropriated \$5,881,011 in SFY 2010 and \$5,881,011 in SFY 2011. The \$5.8 million appropriation authority equates to a 13.4% reduction from the SFY 2009 appropriation amount of \$6,788,522. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Office of Fiscal Services (OFS), confirmed that this reduction is due to the depletion of the OCTF cash balance and declining annual revenues.

House Bill 1 has been introduced. If you would like to read the bill visit the following link:
http://legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_HB_1.

SFY 2009 Operating Budget

The operating budget for SFY 2009 was highlighted. The OCTF has 43% of the budget remaining, with CBCAP being a majority of these dollars.

SFY 2009 County Allocations

All but two counties have received their SFY 2009 allocation.

SFY 2008 County Allocations

The county allocations for SFY 2008 are now closed out with the exception of one county that needs to return their unspent dollars.

Incredible Years Request for Grant Agreement (RFGA)

The OCTF Request for Grant Applications for the Incredible Years was officially released on March 10, 2009. You may view it at: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/rfp/R89018013/R89018013.stm>. We will need to have at least two OCTF Board members participate on the review team in order to score the applications. The scoring will take place in late April (the last week) or early May. Director Valach asked any Board members interested in participating to contact her.

Darkness to Light, Stewards of Children Contract

The contract with the Ohio Network of Child Advocacy Centers was approved in February. The contract implements a statewide evidence based sexual abuse prevention program.

April 2009 Prevention Month Activities

Candace Valach shared the plans for the OCTF's April 2009 activities for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention month. OCTF is planning to have a blue ribbon display in state buildings downtown. An example of the content of the display was shared with the Board. Several Board members offered comments about the display and the content. The display will include 2 informational handouts (examples were shared with the Board) as well as blue ribbon pins. Crystal Allen requested that we also provide the information handouts electronically as well, due to the time frame we have until April.

Candace Valach also shared information about the OCTF's plans for the proclamation, media packets and Legislative visits.

Crystal Allen requested that OCTF let everyone know how to get the blue ribbon pins from OCTF to disburse to their counties and agencies.

Mandatory CBCAP Grantees Meeting

Candace Valach will attend the CBCAP Conference the last week of March in Georgia. This is a mandatory grantees meeting in order to receive federal funding.

OCTF Website

The OCTF website is being updated. We will be adding county grantee information, April activities, a resource tab and more. Please check it out and let us know your comments: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/octf>.

Child Advocacy Center Applications

David Monder, Program Manager for OCTF presented the CAC Applications for review and approval by the board. CAC applications for start up funding and ongoing primary prevention funding were due February 27, 2009. A total of eleven applications for ongoing primary prevention were received. Board members, Lisa McDuffie, Crystal Allen and Kelly Lynch volunteered to participate in a review of the applications. The group determined that five of the eleven applications needed to be reviewed by the full board.

The board expressed concerns of ongoing CAC dollars being utilized for funding Child Abuse Prevention Month activities as opposed to primary prevention programs or services. Crystal Allen discussed her concern in using OCTF dollars to fund the Pinwheels and indicated that she would rather see the dollars used for prevention services or programs. Representative Jeff Wagner agreed with Crystal Allen adding that Primary Prevention programs should be the focus. Kelly Lynch agreed and stated that as a board we need to be able to identify primary prevention strategies.

Sheriff Gene Kelly moved that the Executive Director of the OCTF Board be empowered to incorporate comments by the board in making final funding decisions for the eleven applications. Senator Schuring seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mental Health America Spanish ParenTalk Contract

Karen Minton presented the proposal from Mental Health America of Franklin County. Mental Health America is seeking to renew their contract for the Spanish ParenTalk newsletter. Two proposals were shared: the first maintained the current level of families served (approximately 17,000 families), and the second proposal was for an additional 500 families.(17,500 families). Copies of the newsletters were distributed to the Board for review. Upon review of the proposal, the Board requested that Trust Fund staff gather additional information. Specifically the board inquired as to whether the program was evidence based, how many families were served (i.e. why were only 5,397 served in 2008), and had additional questions about the proposed budget. The Trust Fund will follow up with Mental Health America and report these findings to the full board at the April board meeting.

Crystal Allen moved that the staff go back and challenge Mental Health to rethink their proposal and bring back the information at a later date. Kelly Lynch seconded. The motioned was unanimously approved.

Strengthening Families Initiative

Kristen Rost presented the Strengthening Families through Early Care & Education Initiative. She gave an overview of the program, including the protective factors and the evidence

supporting the program. She then discussed the steps Ohio is taking in exploring this framework. She highlighted the following: Hamilton and Lucas County are using their county allocation to fund this program; the OCTF joined the Strengthening Families National Network; and the OCTF will be submitting an application to join the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Fund's Early Childhood Initiative Learning Community. She finished with the Trust Fund's next steps: 1. creating a Strengthening Families Leadership Team and 2. continuing to explore the implementation of effective strategies.

March 12, 2009 is a kick-off event for the Strengthening Families Initiative in Cincinnati. Kristen will be attending the event and will report back to the Board at the April meeting.

The board raised a few questions about the cost of the program and more specifically, the cost of training and if this was a burden to daycare centers and family childcare providers. Kristen stated that she would get more information and report back to the board at the April meeting.

The OCTF business portion of the agenda concluded at 10:45 am. Strategic planning started at 11:00am and continued until adjournment at 3:46 pm.

Strategic Planning

What Surprised You?

- Stakeholders Surprised / Board Surprised
- Understanding Role – some think Board can assume a National Role
- Legislators tapping into Trust Fund

What was Confirmed?

- Not clear what boards charge is / Board Orientation
 - Lack of board member attendance
 - Have a retreat get to know each other
 - Does not know the board members
 - Challenged to get together / know mission
- Need to prioritize
- Once a month for 2 hours too much / for board meeting
- Role / members / discussions in related fields some way not understanding (common language) – feel like meeting is between a few members
- Everyone need common knowledge base
- Staff / support (great)

What is missing?

- No

What does success look like?

- We are focused on 0-5
- A reduction in maltreatment
- Strong families, strong communities, healthy children
- Succeeding generations of strength
- Be recognized as the leader
- We have a “box”
- Stable, committed educated board
- Charged, vocal & public about mission
- Board roles & expectations are clear & met
- Board members are ambassadors for OCTF
- Good start of public/private partnerships
 - On Capital Beat
 - On the Square
 - Media exposure
- We are the State Prevention Entity
- Prevention is valued & funded more
- We have a prevention network – local & state level

- Stable, educated staff
- Executive Director has authority to recommend/decide

As the 1# Strategic Plan – what are we funding?

- County
- Statewide

Funding Framework

- County collaboration encouraged
- Supported by OCTF through training & technical assistance
- Primary & Secondary Prevention
- Evidence-base of promising Practice Program + Fatherhood & Strengthening Families

Keep Doing

- Focus on prevention
- Counties need to take the lead in identify which prevention programs they need
- Reviewing spending of money allocated in programs
- Finish statewide needs assessment
- Ensure that strategies address data @ county level
- Continue – to collect evaluation data at the county level so can be more effective
- More useful / informative website for OCTF
- Working on & identifying OCTF brand & logo & development of statewide & local communication plan

Start Doing

- Fatherhood programs
- Do stakeholders feedback
- Look for partnerships & statewide collaborations
- Provide counties with clear expectations as to which prevention programs work, for what, how much they cost & ways to continue doing them
- Routine board member –to-board member outreach / contact
- Routine staff outreach – 1 on 1 – to board members
- Create an innovative framework for prevention, Tie all funding decisions to it
- Toot OCTF Horn!
- Assign OCTF staff to counties
- Education & training for staff & board
- Do more with legislators (agenda for prevention, media, etc.)
- Speaking for prevention
- Establish what we will and do fund
- A retreat for board members to learn terms, board policies and agencies
- Delegate “work / tasks” to OCTF staff – Governing to board

- Review board committees
- More public / private relationships
- Engage funders in our work, invite them to be on committees
- Develop an e-newsletter to share OCTF work
- Clearly ID OCTF funding priorities
- Seek philanthropic & corporate partners
- Identify 2010 * 2011 budget + strategies aligned with prevention mission & strategic plan
- Update / revise ORC
- Empower Executive Director
- April – Prevention month planning start sooner next year
- Actively engage private / non-profit world – develop partnerships (program + \$)
- Host a OCTF stakeholder forum to get everyone on our new page
- Convene advisory committee of external stakeholders & experts to inform Ohio prevention efforts
- Initiate advisory group
- 2009 have a base line of data
- Streamline prevention \$ into OCTF
- More efficient meetings (either less frequent / shorter)
- Provide training to grantees
- Focus on statewide \$ opportunities (like Strengthening Families)
- Do more outreach to board members within their communities
- Become a clearinghouse for research – partner with universities
- Prevent OCTF being used as “ATM”
- ODJFS supports, values & funds prevention work, activities
- Focus on children 0-5

Stop Doing

- Stop holding on to projects that haven't proved success
- Stop funding strategies not aligned with mission & because “we have always done it”
- Stop focusing on what's wrong with an application but how could they improve their applications?
- Stop doing so many things, do something well!

Suggestion was made to have a 2 page summary of the strategic plan and submit/propose to the board at the April meeting.