

**Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition**  
**Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (Air Center)**  
**4200 East Fifth Avenue**  
**Columbus, Ohio 43219**  
**November 14, 2018**  
**10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
**Bridge Line: 614-728-7910**

**Minutes**

**I. Welcome – Dr. Ollie Jones (Co-President)**

**II. Introductions – Officers and Attendees**

|                         |                                                    |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. Ollie Jones         | Heart 2 Heart Family Support Center                |
| Jennifer Johnston-Baker | Muskingum Co. Children Services                    |
| Marsha Cairo            | Muskingum Co. Children Services                    |
| Barbara Turpin          | Retired (ODJFS)                                    |
| Lu Zipfel               | Clintonville Resource Center, Columbus             |
| Toni Kleckley           | G.E.M (Grandparents Educating Minds)               |
| Wendi Turner            | OFCA                                               |
| Karen McGormely         | ODJFS                                              |
| Mozelle Mackey          | Retired (ODA)                                      |
| Lynn Stevens            | State of Ohio                                      |
| Clarissa Epps           | B.R.E.A.D.                                         |
| Aley Wilson             | B.R.E.A.D.                                         |
| Dee Williams            | Wayne Co. Children Services                        |
| Ronald R. Browder       | OH Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice |

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Jones asked for the reading and approval of the July 25, 2018 meeting minutes. Louan Zipfel motioned for approval; Wendi Turner seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Mozelle Mackey presented the bank statement for June 2018 through December 2018. Beginning account balance \$1,399.17; deposits \$60.00; expenditures \$80.75; ending balance \$1,378.42. Dues (\$10/individual; \$25/agency) will be collected at meetings or can be mailed to: Mozelle Mackey, 1282 Harlow Rd., Cols, OH 43227.

**V. HB 126 Kinship Navigator Bill update:** Ron Browder updated bill activity. After bill was voted out of the House it was moved to the Senate and has not been assigned a Senate bill number, which makes it difficult to support passage. It is the end of the legislative session and prior to the holiday recess, bills may be added to other bills in order to get them through. This could mean that the entire bill will not pass if legislators have issues with any provision in any of the bills. Sponsor Rep. Janine Boyd doesn't want to take this chance and is waiting to see if the Senate will pass the bill as a separate piece of legislation or reintroduce it in next year's session.

Clarissa Epps, representing B.R.E.A.D., indicates that their members met and agreed to support pushing the bill through the Senate. They met with Sen. Charleta Tavares who has agreed to push it through the Senate. Senator Hottinger and Senate President Obhof have

also indicated support. B.R.E.A.D. is meeting with Rep. Boyed this week to get a better idea of the status of the bill.

ODJFS has received federal money to help set up the navigator program. Title IV-E will reimburse 50% of costs if the navigator program is evidence based. Currently, there are no programs nationally that are evidence based. A committee will be developing a plan. The commitment of newly elected administration will be in question.

- VI. **Family First Prevention Services Act:** Wendi Turner: Regional exploration and design forums to establish a vision for the plan were held throughout Ohio in October. A leadership committee made up of agencies, organizations and families will be meeting. OGKC is not part of the committee and there is one kinship parent from Cuyahoga Co. Ron spoke with Cynthia Dungey, ODJFS Director, about concerns with the overrepresentation of agencies. OGKC is proposing to run statewide community forums to get input of kinship families. Results of the meetings will be provided to the legislature and ODJFS. Marsha Cairo and Jennifer Johnston-Baker from Muskingum County suggested that including the children at the meetings and providing activities for them has been successful in getting participation for their program.
- VII. **Ohio's 2018 Grandrally:** The rally was held on September 26; 10:00 – 2:00 at the State House. There were 100+ participants from around the state. A bus was provided from Cleveland and Mansfield. Several legislators, including some that weren't originally on the program; Ohio Dept. of Aging representative; caregivers and a youth in kinship with his grandmother spoke. Each kinship speaker was given a \$25 gift card. Lunch was provided by The Berwick catering. The Columbus Dispatch did a front-page article; other newspaper outlets provided coverage; and WBNS-TV featured interviews on the noon news. Financial support was provided for the cost of buses, the statehouse facilities, tents, and lunch from CareSource, The Ohio State University College of Social Work, and HealthPath Foundation. Volunteers from the OSU College of Social Work and Age Friendly Columbus did registration and assigned legislative visits. Legislative visits to provide key asks were made to the House of Representatives. The day was educational, and the stories were powerful which resulted in commitments of new advocates.
- VIII. **Ohio Family Care Assn. (OFCA) Board Meeting w/OGKC**  
Ron, Barbara, Mozelle, Wendi and Dr. Jones attended the OFCA Board meeting to discuss how the two organizations can partner to address kinship care issues. OFCA advocates for foster, adoptive, primary, respite and kinship families who are involved with the child welfare system; which is broader than OGKC's focus on kinship families who may or may not be involved with the child welfare system. The organizations will continue to communicate about the issues and collaborate when appropriate.
- IX. **B.R.E.A.D. Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity: Aley Wilson** a member of B.R.E.A.D presented an overview of the organization. A nonprofit organization established in 1996, comprised of diverse religious congregations to practice justice for those who lack the power to get it individually. The group identifies issues each year to research, mobilize and advocate for change. The issues in 2018 are affordable housing and kinship families.
- X. **Age-Friendly Columbus/Franklin County: Katie White**  
Katie was out of town. She will present in January. OGKC wants to examine replicating kinship family HUD housing developments in Cleveland, OH.
- XI. **By-Laws and Position Descriptions**  
Copies of the By-laws and officer/committee position descriptions have been provided for review and comments at the January meeting. Comments and revisions can be emailed to Barbara Turpin @ [angel\\_51350@yahoo.com](mailto:angel_51350@yahoo.com)

XII. **Website Review**

Discussion about revising the website to create a more visually appealing experience to include caregiver stories and support groups. Members are encouraged to look at other websites around the country and provide input. Wendi gave information about TapRoots a group that provides pro-bono technical assistance to non-profits.

XIII. **Miscellaneous**

a.) Ron provided information about the HHS Federal Administration for Community Living/Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren's request for caregiver and professional nominees from Ohio to serve on the council. The Ohio Dept. of Aging is coordinating the nominations. OGKC is recommending Dr. Toni Kleckley for the caregiver representative because of her experience as a caregiver and the development of her grandparent intergenerational mentor support program; and Dr. Ollie Jones for the professional representative because of her varied and extensive involvement with kinship care. Participants will be evaluated and chosen from nominations around the country.

Ron Browder motioned, and Barbara Turpin seconded for the meeting to be adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Barbara Turpin.

For additional information visit the Ohio Grandparent Kinship website at:

[www.ohiograndparentkinship.org](http://www.ohiograndparentkinship.org)

**2019 Meeting Dates**

**January 23**

**March 27**

**May 22**

**July 24**

**September 25**

**November 20**

**Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (Air Center)**

**\*4020 East Fifth Ave. Room A118\***

**Bridge line 614-728-7910**

**Meeting ID: 6144667233#**

**Columbus, OH 43219**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**\*Please note change in location.**