

**Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition**  
**Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (Air Center)**  
**4020 East Fifth Avenue-Room A118**  
**Columbus, Ohio 43219**  
**January 23, 2019**  
**10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
**Bridge Line: 614-728-7910**  
**Meeting ID: 6144667233#**

**Minutes**

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

Dr. Jones welcomed the newly appointed Co-President, Judy Bailey caregiver from Cincinnati and Co-Vice President, Beth Bullock caregiver from Hamilton, Ohio

**II. Introductions – Officers and Attendees**

Dr. Ollie Jones	Heart 2 Heart Family Support Center
Patrick Donovan	Muskingum Co. Children Services
Barbara Turpin	OGKC Co-Secretary/Retired ODJFS
Lu Zipfel	OGKC Co-Secretary Clintonville Resource Center
Toni Kleckley	G.E.M (Grandparents Educating Minds)
Wendi Turner	OFCA
Karen McGormely	ODJFS
Lynn Stevens	OGKC Co-Vice President/State of Ohio
Clarissa Epps	B.R.E.A.D.
Ronald R. Browder	OH Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice
Renee Whitfield	ODJFS Oh. Children’s Trust Fund
Lydia Jolly	St. Stephen’s Community House/Kinship Mgr.
Melissa Ruffner	Butler Co. Kinship ESC
Marisa Sheldon	Age-Friendly Columbus
Sid Daniels	Fr. Co. Children Services Kinship Administrator
Sonya Smith	Grandparent caregiver
Crystal Turner	Grandparent caregiver/Handsup2Success
Nancy Mendoza	OSU College of Social Work Asst. Professor
Rhonda Marsh	Richland County Children Services
Judy Bailey	Caregiver Cincinnati, OH
Vera Brewer	Caregiver, Cleveland, OH
Quo Vadis Ellison	Caregiver, Cleveland, OH
Nikki Thomas	Children’s Defense Fund – Ohio
Beth Bullock	Caregiver, Hamilton, OH
Becky Murray	ODJFS

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Jones asked for the reading and approval of the November 14, 2018 meeting minutes. Toni Kleckley motioned for approval; Lynn Stevens seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

**IV. Treasurer’s Report**

Wendi Turner presented the bank statement for June 2018 through December 2018.  
Account balance \$1374.42

V. **Office Headquarters**

The goal is to acquire office space with staff to occupy and a dedicated phone number.  
Louanne Zipfel offered to have someone look at space available at CRC.

VI. **HB 126 Kinship Navigator Bill update:** Ron spoke with Rep. Boyd. Bill has been reintroduced. It may be added to the 2-year budget bill as an appropriation, making it a stronger possibility to be passed. The appropriation would provide \$5M to establish regional kinship navigators which would serve formal and informal kinship placements.

VII. **ODJFS RFP Kinship/Adoption Navigator:** Released to hire a contractor who would plan how navigator program would look. OGKC met with ODJFS administration to discuss why adoption navigator is included, as there are different issues in kinship and adoptive placements. OGKC will be part of stakeholders group to make recommendations for the development of the program. Karen McGormley/ODJFS explained the concept will not diminish supports to families. Recommendations of the stakeholder's group will be considered. Ron is concerned about issues for kinship families who are not involved with children's services as are adoptive families. Sonya Smith raised the issue of the inadequacies of kinship supports vs. adoptive family supports, i.e., childcare and "child only" benefits. Gov. DeWine promises to include kinship supports in children's initiatives. OGKC will request to meet with Governor's staff about kinship issues.

VIII. **Family First Prevention Services Act update:** Wendi Turner: OGKC will be represented on the Leadership committee which meets monthly. There is 1-kinship family, 1-foster family, 1-adoptive family and 1-youth represented. Subgroups will also be established. Information can be found on the ODJFS website. OFCA is planning 4 regional forums in 2019 to educate about FFPSA.

IX. **September 2019 One-day Symposium:** To be held in Columbus to educate, provide awareness and support for kinship families. Will form planning committee. Will work with Nancy Mendoza and OSU College of Social Work.

X. **Age-Friendly Columbus/Franklin County: Marissa Sheldon Asst. Director**

Age-Friendly is a national movement which is an affiliate of AARP. Columbus joined in 2016. 1<sup>st</sup> year research and strategies; 2<sup>nd</sup> year planning, established villages with neighbors and supports; 3<sup>rd</sup> year incorporating kinship. Partnering with Nancy Mendoza to conduct needs assessment/survey of grandfamilies; service provider survey; focus groups with caregivers, services providers, children and parents. In-depth interviews with grandfamilies. Legal Aide of Central Ohio has \$1M planning funds for services and legal advice.

XI. **Review Mission Statement and Strategic Plan:** Handed out to group. Will be voted on at March meeting

XII. **Discussion of By-Laws and Officer/Committee descriptions for vote at March meeting:** Copies provided to group. Vote on at March meeting. Comments and revisions can be emailed to Barbara Turpin @ [angel\\_51350@yahoo.com](mailto:angel_51350@yahoo.com)

XIII. **Miscellaneous**

A.) Sonya Smith recommended class action lawsuit against pharmacies to provide financial support to families affected by opioid use. Ron stated that there are conversations about the distribution of monies from the current lawsuit.

B.) Crystal Turner/caregiver is organizing a support group to inform families about services, legal status, housing issues. There is going to be a preview in April of a documentary about caregiver families titled "New Normal".

C.) CareSource Grant was awarded to OGKC.

D.) Officer vacancies: Co-treasurers: Wendi Turner is vacating the position since it creates a conflict with her position on the executive committee and her position at OFCA. Mozelle is not able to fulfill her co-treasurer position responsibilities.

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  
September 25 (symposium)**

**May 22**

**July 24**

**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.**