

**Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition**  
**Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (Air Center)**  
**4020 East Fifth Avenue-Room A118**  
**Columbus, Ohio 43219**  
**March 27, 2019**  
**10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
**Bridge Line: 614-728-7910**  
**Meeting ID: 6144667233#**

**Minutes**

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

**II. Introductions – Officers and Attendees**

Dr. Ollie Jones	Heart 2 Heart Family Support Center
Patrick Donovan	Muskingum Co. Children Services
Marsha Cairo	Muskingum Co. Children Services/Navigator
Barbara Turpin	OGKC Co-Secretary/Retired ODJFS
Lu Zipfel	OGKC Co-Secretary/Clintonville Resource Center
Toni Kleckley	OGKC Co-Treasurer/Grandparents Educating Minds
Karen McGormely	ODJFS/Ohio KAN Project Manager
Lynn Stevens	OGKC Co-Vice President/State of Ohio
Ronald R. Browder	OH Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice
Renee Whitfield	ODJFS Oh. Children’s Trust Fund
Mariah Moore	Franklin County
Marisa Sheldon	Age-Friendly Columbus
Crystal Turner	Grandparent caregiver/Handsup2Success
Nancy Mendoza	OSU College of Social Work Asst. Professor
Lydia Jolly	St. Stephen’s Community House
Rhonda Marsh	Richland County Children Services
Judy Bailey	OGKC Co-President/Caregiver Cincinnati, OH
Vera Brewer	Caregiver, Cleveland, OH
Quo Vadis Ellison	Caregiver, Cleveland, OH
Beth Bullock	OGKC Co-Vice President/Caregiver, Hamilton, OH
Becky Murray	ODJFS
Jennifer Wikette	Beech Acres
Bill Hobstetter	Beech Acres
LaJoi Collins-Brewer	Cleveland, Oh
AQeela Brewer	Cleveland, OH
Phillip Merritt	Cleveland, OH
Rosalind Caro	Stark Co. CSB/Kinship Supervisor
Shannon Deinhart	Kinnect
Rep. Janine Boyd	Ohio State House of Representatives

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Jones asked for the reading and approval of the January 23, 2019 meeting minutes. Toni Kleckley motioned for approval; Patrick Donovan seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Lynn Stevens presented the bank statement for November 5, 2018 through March 19, 2019. Account balance **\$6,397.42**

**V. Officer Vacancies**

Judy Bailey, caregiver Hamilton Co. has been appointed Co-President; Beth Bullock, caregiver Clermont Co. has been appointed Co-Vice President.

**VI. HB 126 Kinship Navigator Bill update:** State Rep. Janine Boyd, sponsor of the Navigator bill called in to provide an update. The 2018 Lane Duck legislation failed to pass. Being re-introduced with bi-partisan co-sponsorships, being added to the 2-year budget bill as an appropriation, making it a stronger possibility to be passed. The appropriation would provide \$5M state dollars to match \$5M federal dollars = \$10M. Currently the transportation bill is a priority. Sen. Sherrod Brown's office was contacted about federal match guidance. Ohio's kinship model has been approved as evidenced-based for funding. Waiting on federal guidance for implementation. No cap on matching federal funding. Patrick Donovan added that it's unsure whether ProtectOhio, which has been evaluated by HHS for years has been sent to the Federal Clearing House.

**VII. ODJFS RFP Kinship/Adoption Navigator:** Kinnect is vendor for the implementation of the KAN program. OGCK sent an inquiry to ODJFS Contract Administration to get clarification about the selection process. Shannon Deinhart from Kinnect explained that a stakeholder group will be convened for input into the process and meetings will begin in May; evidence-informed practice models research will be done; and 5-6 town hall regional meetings will be conducted for input. Implementation/evaluation plan is due Oct. 1. ODJFS will work from plan to implement regional navigators with the state/federal funds. Ron Browder expressed concern that there is a need to have a variety of navigator program representatives to get the statewide picture. OGKC has expressed the concern about the differences in adoption and kinship issues being addressed adequately.

Kinnect is a private organization which has been working on placement practices for 15 yrs. 10 yrs. supporting public child welfare agencies' kinship connection searches -30 Days to family. 5-10 yrs. Providing support to kinship families. Have worked with Richland and Muskingum Counties learning about navigator programs. Shannon plans to attend May 22 meeting.

**VIII. Family First Prevention Services Act update:** Dr. Jones serves on the Prevention Committee. The initial discussions have been about policy and procedures. Kinship is not part of current discussion. Dr. Jones is concerned that there are not enough caregivers represented, most attendees are agency representatives. Another barrier is the all-day meetings in Columbus. Twenty years ago, ODJFS surveyed 1500 caregivers which resulted in the formation of OGKC and statewide navigator program which was implemented in 77 counties, which has been nationally replicated. The focus should be on kinship as the initial effort in prevention, before foster care and adoption. OGKC will request a meeting with ODJFS Director Hall to discuss kinship issues.

**IX. September 2019 Kinship Conference:** Will be held on Sep. 21 at the Gateway Wellness Center, 112 Jefferson Ave. Cols, OH 43215. Focus will be on the needs of caregivers i.e., trauma and legal issues. Will be looking at nationally known individuals involved with kinship care issues to provide insight and knowledge to the caregivers. Will be looking for

sponsorships and grant funds to provide help with travel, food and other expenses. Will vote on theme next meeting.

X. **Review Mission Statement and Strategic Plan:** Vote on by-laws, mission statement, and officer/committee descriptions postponed until next meeting in order to obtain original copy of by-laws to work from.

XI. **Miscellaneous**

A.) Vera Brewer (Cleveland caregiver) Granddaughter placed in foster placement. She is a strong advocate for foster and homeless children. Help needed with legal issues. Wants to bring back Cleveland support group, with help from OGKC.

B.) Dr. Jones is meeting with national organizations about funding for multi-generational housing. Suggest OGKC begin recording history of kinship in Ohio.

C.) Becky Murray ODJFS provided information about the funding for childcare being switched to county departments of job and family services PRC plans. \$ 15M in proposed budget for kinship supports in PRC budget. Allocations will be sent to county dept. of job and family services agencies. \$717,000 was expended out of the \$15M allocated for the kinship caregiver program through the children services agencies. Barriers to eligibility may have caused low usage.

Dr. Jones 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 21 (symposium)**

**November 20**

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