

Minutes of the Advisory Board Meeting of the Ohio Council on Family Relations (OHCFR)

Conference Call

July 12, 2011, 3 p.m. – 4:35 p.m.

Members Participating: Ruben Viramontez Anguiano, Maureen Blankemeyer, Donna Crossman, Joan Jurich, Audrey Kraynak

1. Maureen began the meeting at 3 p.m. with the members listed above as call-in participants.
2. Minutes from the December 17, 2010 meeting were approved. (Donna moved, Joan seconded).
3. Treasurer's report indicated that we had a balance of \$6681.89 as of June 30, 2011. In 2009, OHCFR received \$800 in rebates from NCFR with expenses of \$2571.54. Fifteen hundred dollars of the expense amount was provided to OAGE to defray costs of the April conference.
3. Maureen reported that the talk provided by the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education (OAGE) conference keynote speaker as well as PowerPoint presentations from sessions were available at the OAGE website. Maureen, Donna, and Audrey had attended the conference and indicated that the conference provided interesting as well as diverse topics related to older adults and families. There was a reception on Thursday evening which provided students and professionals an opportunity to network. On Friday morning, a breakfast for undergraduate and graduate students gave them an opportunity to network as well as hear about career-related topics. The three OHCFR advisory board attendees felt that the money was well-spent in terms of the quality of the conference presenters and topics as well as the opportunity to increase the visibility of OHCFR. OHCFR had a table which contained our membership brochure as well as materials from NCFR.
4. The phone conference participants discussed whether to continue to collaborate with OAGE or to work with other professional organizations. Maureen reported that OAGE had been eager to collaborate with OHCFR for the 2011 spring conference. She also had contacted a representative of the Ohio Association of Family & Consumer Sciences and left a message. Reuben reported that he is in a leadership role with the Ohio Association of Family & Consumer Scientists (OAFCS) and felt that this professional group would be open to partnering with OHCFR to co-sponsor a conference. Reuben had attended the spring OAFCS conference in Perrysburg, Ohio and reported that, in spite of being attended by many practitioners, the conference attendees were also interested in research-related information. Reuben also stated that the national group, AAFCS, has a section of members whose interests include Family Relations/Human Development as well as a journal which is published regularly. The out-going President was from Youngstown State University.

A discussion regarding the feasibility of working with the Family Center/Marriage & Family Center housed at Bowling Green State University ensued. Reuben reported that this group is housed within the sociology department at BGSU and focuses on gathering demographic information which may be used in research studies.

Joan expressed a concern regarding a long-term partnership with OAGE because the early childhood/adolescent portion of the lifespan typically would not be represented at their conferences or part of the member's research focus. Joan suggested partnering with other states for an annual conference with the human development/family studies focus.

Maureen had talked at the 2011 NCFR annual conference in Minnesota with Michelle King from the Mid-Atlantic region who seemed interested in working together with the Ohio affiliate. Phone conference participants were not sure which states were included in the Mid-Atlantic region and speculated that it might include New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. Michelle lives/works in eastern Pennsylvania which

would be about five hours from Youngstown, the potential site of our next co-sponsored conference. Other states mentioned as potential partners included Michigan which has no NCFR affiliate, Indiana, and Illinois.

Donna reported that she had participated in the planning meetings for the OAGE conference which, at one point in time, had incurred \$5000 in expenses for speakers and other conference-related expenses.

The phone participants left open the possibility of partnering with OAGE for the spring 2012 conference which will be held in/near Youngstown, Ohio with Youngstown State acting as the host University. Reuben was going to check regarding collaboration with OAFCS for spring 2013. The committee agreed that we would ask OAGE to include a section of the conference presentations which focused on child and/or family development. The section might include a panel discussion or keynote speaker.

Reuben also suggested that a conference topic include cultural issues related to families and communities. He reported that there is a group in the Bowling Green area that focuses on issues related to the Latino population. This group is supported by BGSU student fees and might be willing to partner with OHCFR.

The phone conference participants authorized Maureen to contact OAGE regarding collaborating with this professional group to co-sponsor the spring conference and providing at least \$1000 to help defray expenses. The committee also suggested that an option for discounted registration fees for OHCFR members be explored.

5. Maureen reported on the May conference call in which the affiliate's presidents participated. During the phone call, two questions were posed: (a) How can the affiliate organizations help members feel valued? and (b) What makes OHCFR important to its members? How has membership helped personally and/or professionally?

Discussion of questions a and b. Joan suggested that membership allows for professional development and networking opportunities within the state. University/student affiliate groups help students and new professionals develop a network of resource people.

Joan was interested in starting a student affiliate group at Ohio U. Maureen will forward information to her. Reuben reported that BGSU has a student council on family relations which is involved with developing leadership skills, fundraising, and outreach to nearby communities.

6. Maureen reported that at the Affiliates workshop, which will be held at the NCFR conference in November, information will be presented regarding developing a strategic plan. She suggested that advisory board members register for this session which will be held on Weds. November 16, 2011 from 8 a.m. to 1. The session will conclude after lunch. Although there is no charge for the luncheon, registration is required.

7. A list of possible volunteer opportunities which may serve to increase the number of active OHCFR participants was developed. Among the possibilities for affiliate members were maintaining the website and/or the face book page, overseeing or contributing to a newsletter and participating in a task force regarding family policy issues. Task force members might be called upon to write policy briefs or present information at local conferences. Opportunities to volunteer are available at the national and state conference by working at the registration desk.

8. The addition of a New Professional position on the advisory board was discussed. The new professional would have received their last degree within the previous five year time span. The position would be held for three years. Adding this position requires a change in the by-laws upon which members must vote.

9. Maureen asked about the phone conference participants' preferences regarding providing an auction item for the NCFR student scholarship fund. In 2010, OHCFR provided a Longaberger basket which contained a plastic and a plaid cloth liner and was filled with Ohio food products including maple syrup,

buckeyes (the confection), oatmeal, and Amish jams/jellies. The bidding started at an amount which was significantly below the dollar value of the basket.

The group agreed to provide another auction item for the 2012 conference that might include a variety of coffees/teas, a mug, etc. Joan was going to check with a store in the Athens area, Passionworks, to see if they had a bag/container that might be used to present the items. Audrey suggested that the mug(s) might come from the Summit County Sheltered Workshop whose developmentally delayed clients produce ceramic cups, pitchers, bowls, etc. Whoever takes the item to the national conference will be sure to specify a minimum bid based on the dollar amount. It was suggested that a student assistant might research food products made within the state of Ohio which could be included with the coffee and tea assortment or food products owned by Ohio-based companies such as Folgers which was/is a subsidiary of Smuckers.

10. It was suggested that a buddy system be instituted so that the person assuming a new board position had a mentor to use as a resource.

11. Maureen suggested that advisory board members check the Minnesota Family Forum website for ideas regarding ways to enhance membership numbers as well as benefits.

12. Maureen reported that Grace Chen has updated/maintained the OHCFR website with the help of NCFR. NCFR hosts the affiliate website, and WordPress is the publishing platform. If a \$12 fee is paid to WordPress for domain mapping, "WordPress" is not included in the affiliates web address. Donna moved to pay the \$12 fee and Joan seconded with all participants in agreement. Audrey will send a check.

13. Maureen reported that the Ohio Council on Family Relations has a Facebook page on which were posted photos from the jointly sponsored OAGE-OHCFR April conference. Members are encouraged to click "like" on the affiliate's page.

14. The membership brochure was reviewed. Maureen reported that anyone wishing to use the brochure could print it on a color copier or she would send copies. The brochure was used at the OAGE-OHCFR conference to publicize OHCFR. Joan suggested that we think about the order of wording on the page which provides the purpose/mission statement. It reads "serving Ohio's youth, individuals, couples, and families over the lifespan through research, education and practice." Joan suggested that the statement be changed to read: serving Ohio's youth, individuals, couples and families over the lifespan through education, practice and research." This change in wording reorders the emphasis and order of importance of the three components so that research is not as highly emphasized. Joan also suggested adding a check-off box that would indicate whether the person was interested in volunteering or being active within the affiliate group. Audrey suggested that the number of photos of youth, individuals and families be increased to show more diversity with respect to age and ethnic group.

15. Maureen asked for suggestions regarding dates for the call for presentations and the deadline for submission of the long abstract and verifying information (acceptance letter from NCFR and verification from a student's advisor) Ohioans who would be presenting at NCFR. Those submitting the required materials would be eligible to be selected to receive a \$200 travel stipend awarded by OHCFR to the "best" undergraduate, graduate and professional presenter. Maureen will send out the notice for submission around August 1 with a September 12 deadline for submission of the required materials. After advisory board members rate the abstracts, winners of the travel award will be announced in early to mid October.

16. NCFR has designated February as Family Life Education month and will award a \$250 prize to the student or affiliate group which submits an outstanding collection of materials by October to publicize Family Life Education month. The materials include a classroom project, fact sheet regarding what FLE is, a slogan, a poster/flyer and a press release kit. The phone conference participants felt that this was

short notice but might try out one or more of the required components at the OAGE spring conference at YSU.

16. The next meeting of the advisory board will be a conference call in October. An item to be included on the agenda is the filling of officer positions including president-elect, 2 board member positions, as well as a student and new professional advisory board member position. The members participating in the conference call suggested a weekday call rather than an evening/weekend time.

17. The conference call adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Kraynak