

Happy Spring!

This newsletter will update you on changes within the advisory board as well as provide information from the most recent advisory board meetings on December 10, 2015 and March 7, 2016. The highlighted areas below are important changes or areas where a response is needed.

- ❑ In January, Joan Jurich, a faculty member from Ohio University, assumed the role of president and Carmen Irving, an extension educator in Union County, assumed the duties of President-elect. Both will serve until December 2017. Audrey Kraynak became the past president. Maureen Blankemeyer (Kent State Univ.) continues to serve as secretary-treasurer. Rachel Brown, a graduate student at Ohio State was re-elected to a two-year student position on the advisory board. In addition, we welcomed two professional members to the advisory board, Katie LaPlant and Patrice Powers-Barker, extension educators in Erie and Lucas Counties, respectively, who will serve a three-year term on the advisory board. Courtney Walsh and Kyle Bartholomew continue as student reps on the advisory board.

- ❑ Rebecca Ward, president of the NCFR Affiliates Council, has asked each affiliate president to gather information regarding questions pertaining to strengthening the individual affiliates. Questions follow:
 - ✓ What resources can we use for marketing, outreach, training and/or to disseminate policy?
 - ✓ What challenges do you believe the OHCFR affiliate is facing?
 - ✓ What is your perception of the support provided by NCFR and how can this be improved?

OHCFR members, your thoughts would be greatly appreciated. Please send them to arkraynak@aol.com with the subject heading Strengthening Affiliates.

- ❑ At the March phone conference, the Advisory Board members agreed to suspend the annual travel award stipends awarded to an undergraduate and/or graduate student as well as professional who is presenting at the November NCFR annual conference. This decision was made because of the decrease in number of NCFR members, which affects the amount of our rebate from NCFR. At the present time, our sole source of revenue is the \$5.00 rebate that we receive from NCFR dues. The Advisory Board is checking to see if we can augment our treasury by listing OHCFR with AmazonSmile. Other NCFR affiliates sometimes earn a small amount of money from conferences/workshops that they sponsor or by charging affiliate dues. However, we have not had the opportunity to sponsor our own conference or workshop and the board was not comfortable, at this time, levying additional dues on affiliate members. Carmen Irving and Courtney Walsh audited financial records at the close of the December 2015 meeting.

- ❑ The Advisory Board members spent a considerable portion of our December meeting discussing the survey that Carmen has recently sent to Ohio's Certified Family Life Educators for feedback about how OHCFR can support their professional needs. Here is a summary of the findings of the survey. The results were based on responses from 30 CFLEs, 19 of whom were also members of NCFR. The highest degrees earned by the

respondents ranged from a Bachelor's degree held by nine respondents to six respondents with a Ph.D. and three with an M.D. or J.D. Twelve had earned master's level degrees. The results provided a list of current job titles: nine were employed at a college/university in administration, teaching or student services; four were extension educators, four others served in an administrative capacity as directors engaged in Family Life Ministry, Education & Mentoring or as CEO of a FLE training company. The remaining 13 respondents were employed in applied positions such as Wellness Manager, Clinical Counselor/MFT, Military Family Consultants, Paralegal/interpreter, and Parent Educators. Data also tabulated the respondent's area of expertise, primary audience with whom they worked, and information about preferences for receiving OHCFR email updates, attending an OHCFR sponsored state conference or webinar and services that they would like to see OHCFR offer. Interest in various topics as well as willingness to serve as a panelist/presenter or participate in OHCFR was also tabulated to help in planning future continuing development opportunities or appointing individuals to various committees.

- ❑ Maureen Blankemeyer reported on information shared at the Affiliates Workshop in Vancouver.

 - ✓ BillTrack50 is a database of legislation from every state and federal bill that has been introduced. It provides a person the ability to search for topic-specific policies.
 - ✓ Members were also encouraged to call and meet with legislators in their respective regions.
 - ✓ Starting in 2015. The Clery Act requires all colleges/universities to provide training on sexual assault.
 - ✓ Questions were posed regarding what affiliates are doing to promote professional development for students and how do affiliates connect themselves with NCFR.
 - ✓ **Wearefamilyscience.org** is a website created by NCFR to educate future employers as well as current and future students about what family science is. A link is being added to the OHCFR blog for this website. Please check it out.

- ❑ Patrice Powers-Barker informed the board that a marketing campaign entitled "Knowledge You Can't live Without" (www.oatfacs.org) provides information about how family life educators and family and consumer educators complement each other. Check out the website when you have a chance!

- ❑ Courtney Walsh, a graduate student at Kent State University, is managing the OHCFR blog, Facebook page and any gmail that is directed to our affiliate. Conferences, job opportunities & other news can be posted if you let her know about it - courtney.walsh625@gmail.com Jason Samuels has edited the OHCFR website so that it has the same format as other NCFR affiliates.

- ❑ February is Family Life Education month while April is Child and Family Awareness/Child Abuse Prevention Month. What does your county do to promote this awareness? In Summit County, a poster contest sponsored by the [Beacon Journal](#) and the Summit County Department of Jobs and Family Services, provided workshops in the fall for students in preschool through grade 8 to develop posters that depict “What ‘family’ means to you.” Winners will be announced in February 2016 and their posters displayed at the Akron-Summit County Library as well as the Akron Art Museum.

- ❑ Jin-kyung Lee, a graduate student at OSU, received a travel award from OHCFR for the 2015 NCFR annual conference in Vancouver, Canada. Her research focused on whether father involvement buffers the relationship between family risk factors and child behavior problems. Subjects were drawn from wave 4 and 5 of the Fragile Families & Child Well-being study; the targeted child was 5 and 9 years of age, respectively, when data was collected. The subjects included 1153 children who resided continuously with their father and 1669 who did not live continuously with their father. Independent variables in the study included family income (poverty), maternal stress, and father involvement, i.e., positive engagement with the child such as singing songs/nursery rhymes and reading or for the non-residential fathers, providing material support. As would be expected, family risk factors were predictive of children’s behavior problems. Father involvement significantly reduced children’s problem behaviors in spite of poverty and maternal stress. The moderating effects of father involvement on children’s behavior problems increased as poverty increased. For the non-residential father families, maternal stress was associated with a greater number of children’s problem behaviors. However, when father’s provided material support, the positive association between maternal stress and children’s behavior problems was reduced.

Jin felt that the benefits of presenting at NCFR enabled her to receive feedback regarding how to develop a future study that would reveal the moderating effects of father involvement that serve to protect children from high risk backgrounds as well as incorporating other demographic variables that might influence the effects of father involvement. (The OHCFR blog contains a picture of Jin-kyung as well as more details about her research study.)

- ❑ Joan, Maureen Blankemeyer, Rachel Brown, Carmen Irving, and Audrey Kraynak met in Marysville on Feb. 5 to begin to develop a strategic plan for OHCFR. We will use the information from the CFLE survey as well as any information that members forwarded regarding the questions posed in this newsletter as we develop this strategic plan. At future advisory board meetings, we will be focusing on revising by-laws to parallel the model used by the Southeast Affiliate and approved by NCFR.

Audrey Kraynak, Ph.D., NCSP, ABSNP, CFLE
Past President