

HAWAI'I STATE - COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Time: 1:00pm



APPROVED

8.27.2021 km

Location: virtual meeting via Zoom
Zoom Meeting ID #8082816682 password Thrive
Zoom waiting room opened at 12:55pm to log-on prior to 1:00pm.

I. Call to Order – Chair Mattos called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

MISSION Statement - read by Commissioner Woolfork

The mission of the Hawaii State - Commission on Fatherhood (HS-COF) is to promote healthy family relationships by emphasizing the important role fathers play in the lives of their children. The commission serves in an advisory capacity to state agencies and makes recommendations on programs, services, contracts, policies, and laws relating to children and families.

Commissioners present: David (Kawika) Mattos, Charles Woolfork, Allen Cardines Jr, Alan Sunio, Sam Kippen, Jeff Esmond & Anthony Mendez (*Missing: David Lunceford – unexcused*)
Daniel Kittredge (in-coming commissioner to be sworn-in next month).

Ex-Officio(s):

Mimari Hall (DHS - Policy Director, O`ahu for Malia Taum-Deenik)
Matthew Shim (DOH – Chief of Family Health Services, O`ahu)
Chet Okayama (OYS - Director, O`ahu)
Erin Yamashiro (AG - Commission Counsel, O`ahu)

Public Attendees:

Bob Weier (Inmates Initiative, 501(c) - Prison Ministry, Maui)
Catherine Sorensen (DOH - Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program, O`ahu),
Edel Baguio-Lorena (CEO – Maui Family Support Services, Inc.)
Genevieve DeRego (Imua Family Services - Kōkua Health Insurance Lead Outreach & Eligibility Specialist)
Jeny Bissell (RN with DOH Supervisor - Maui District Health Office / Family Health Services Department)
Jimmy James Thennes (Kāne Connections & Ku Imua Foundation, Maui),
Maka Brautigam-Suapaia (starting a men's/father's support 501(c) org. Ku Imua Foundation, Maui),
Matthew LoPresti (State House Representative – O`ahu: District 41)
Sara Larrimer (Maui Family Support Services, Inc., Program Assistant - Early Literacy Project)
Stacelynn Eli (State House Representative – O`ahu: District 43)
Stewart Choi (Aloha Father of the Year Awardee for 2021, Mililani, Community)
Tom Davis (Rising 2L EPT Richardson School of Law Student: Administrative Law - O`ahu)
Vince Razo (Inmates Initiative, 501(c) - Prison Ministry, Maui)

I. Introductions:

- a. Fatherhood Commissioners
- b. Ex-Officio(s)
- c. Counsel to the Commission

- II. Conduct Agreement & Rules of Conduct – read by Mattos
- III. Quick Review Of Commission’s Statutory Duties - read by Mattos
- IV. Community shares or concerns:
 - a. Public Testimony (introduction - allowed 1-2 minutes)
 - b. Special Guests (prior request – allow 10 minutes) / *no presentation made*
- V. Approval of Minutes
 - a. May 25, 2021
 - i. Commissioner Woolfork motioned to accept the May 21, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Kippen seconded the motion. Yes – 7 / No – 0.
Motion passed and this approved minutes will be posted on the DHS HS-COF website.
 - b. No meeting held in June 2021
- VI. Ethics & Boundaries / Office of Information Practices (OIP): updates or information
 - a. Commissioner Woolfork shared that he will be creating a Facebook page for the commission and has been in touch with Ms. Chan (Office of Ethics) and Amanda Stevens (DHS). Stevens has organized a training by Facebook for Commissioners Woolfork and Chair Mattos to attend on July 19th, along with other DHS and government staff, board members and other commissioners. Woolfork expressed that this will be a great tool to use for outreach and communication to support fathers. Woolfork shared in brief the importance of monitoring the Facebook page efficiently, effectively and ethically. He expressed his excitement about rolling out this task and using it to give out information and possible collect data through surveys.
- VII. Discussion
 - a. Ex-Officio(s) updates:
 - i. Department of Health (DOH) - Matthew Shim shared that DOH is in process of receiving several different grants. They received a health equity grant from the CEC of which 7.5 million of that grant is for health equities for rural communities throughout the state. They will be working on different projects to get internet connectivity and tele-health, including telehealth navigators in rural communities. The focus is to ensure people get connected with health services. Other project to be announced soon. Shim expressed that DOH is pleased to have been one of 32 states to receive a grant under the early childhood comprehensive system grant for community base system grants under the first five year grant as a pilot for the County of Maui. This was for development screening for 3 year olds, along with maternal and paternal depression screening, etc. DOH will be receiving another five years of funding for statewide to connect the 0-3 year olds parent’s and families with their pediatricians. An application was also submitted to the Maternal Child Health Bureau for a pediatrics mental health access grant and was awarded for a five year term to health promote pediatrics mental health for families and service providers. Commissioner Mattos chimed in and shared that he has been involved with the County of Maui Multi-agency Impact Team (CoMMIT to Keiki) and is excited about the father to baby Skin-To-Skin campaign currently being worked on. Shim shared that the first five year grant project has ended on July 1st, however Ka’iulani Galon will continue under DOH-Maui office under the next five year grant. He also shared that under DOH Family Health Services, Jeny Bissell is the family health services rep at the Maui district health

office, Catherine Sorenson is the community base child abuse prevention coordinator, Nā Leo Kāne coordinators under the maternal child health branch, (PLTI) Leadership Institute is also funded by family health services.

- ii. Office of Youth Services (OYS) – Chet Okayama shared that today was the first session of a series training by Matt Burton, which went very well. Today’s session covered ACEs and practical information. It was well attended and other people can still join the next sessions.
- iii. Department of Human Services (DHS) - Mimari Hall shared that a lot is happening across the state with the different departments concerning childcare, early childhood education and health, housing and homelessness to address as the state re-opens since COVID. Parents are still struggling to find childcare and DHS are still trying to address to help families as parents are trying to get back to work. The concerns of eviction since the moratorium has been lifted for renters as families may now face evictions and other struggles. Families are worried about becoming homeless and is a big concern to address. There is a lot going on to support families and they are assessing systems to better serve families. DHS is focused on meeting and address the needs of families through services and programs. They are looking at ways and processes to better serve and be accessible for families to help them. She expressed that working with entities like the fatherhood commission is important to move forward.
- iv. Department of Education (DOE) – currently no representative
- v. Department of Public Safety (DPS) – currently no representative

b. 2021 Events Recap –

- i. MFSS – Celebration of Fathers event on June 12, 2021. Mattos shared that he and the CEO of MFSS, Edel Baguio-Larena, express a big mahalo for the commission’s support for their presence and for providing funds to give gifts to patrons. Mattos shared that for the initial processes and decisions for funds, he recused himself through that earlier process.
 - i. Event video – Mattos shared and played a 3 minute video that was created for that event.
 - ii. Travel of five (5) commissioners to Maui – Commission Cardines expressed about his positive experience at the event, complimenting and thanking everyone involved in making the event a success. Commissioner Mendez also expressed his thoughts on how important it is for communities to be supported, especially to support fathers. Mattos encourage the other commissioners to initiate similar events like this in partnership with other non-profit agencies.
- ii. HI 3rd Annual Fatherhood Conference held on June 18, 2021 -
 - i. Final updates & recap: Commissioner Cardines expressed his gratitude to the commission for supporting the event.
 - a. Sponsorship support to father/male-caregiver registrations – Cardines shared:
 - ii. Report from Parents, Inc. of 185 people registered that included :
 - a. 33 different organizations
 - b. 40 scholarships given to fathers
 - c. MFSS registered 16, HCAP registered 17, the fatherhood commission had 5 register.
 - d. \$2000 of donation of gift cards and items came from companies such as Walmart, FWAY, Home Depot, Big Island Candies, ACE Hardware, Kuhio Grill, Hilo Surplus Stores (etc.).
 - e. Feedback received by participants:
 - i. Liked the format of the ½ day and hours of conference.

- ii. Guest speakers were well liked, especially Kelly Boy DeLima. Cardines shared that DeLima has committed to speak next year again.
 - f. Business Partner Award – PARENTS, Inc. expressed their gratitude for being selected for the award. Commissioner Esmond interjected with a question to clarify the description of services provided and asked if the commission would consider also adding another award for companies or agencies who provide benefits for parents. This to be discuss for next year award(s).
 - g. Father of the Year Awards - Seven (7) Recognitions: Hawai'i Island, Maui, Kaua'i, and 3 for O'ahu. (Present at this commission meeting was a recipient, Stewart Choi, who expressed his gratitude earlier during introductions for being selected.)
 - h. Final Budget & Finances – no further discussion about the funds for the conference.
- c. Fatherhood Sponsorship Award Program & System
- a. Final Reports – Mattos shared that reports and receipts were received in July by the two non-profits selected. He will forward to DHS for record keeping.
- d. Budget / Finances
- a. Final Budget for FY 2020-21 – Mattos shared that the year finished with a balanced budget.
 - a) Update of Budget / Expense Status – *no further comments or information*
 - b. Budget for FY 2021-22 – Mattos shared that the funds for the new FY is \$16,000 starting July 1st. Mattos suggested that the commissioners start thinking about allocations for the new budget, especially including travels monthly for the commission meetings and outer-island meetings. Ex-officio Shim and Chair Mattos shared about current Governor's proclamation due to COVID that allows virtual meetings on Zoom verses the past statute of meeting expectations of in-person and/or virtually. It was expressed that the AG's office is awaiting confirmation that there may be an extension to the proclamation. If not, the old statutes fall in place and the commission will need to figure out how to function for public access to in-person meetings, etc. The new law to allow Zoom for governmental public meetings will take effect in January 2022. More updates to follow on the function of the August meeting.

VIII. Commission TEAM

- c. Current Status / Updates / Boards & Commissions Info. – Mattos shared that returning Commissioner Dan Kittredge and also Allen Cardines Jr. to be sworn-in in August. Also, more follow-up is needed to see if current Commissioner David Lunceford will resign because he has not attended any of the (13) meetings since the swearing-in on August 4, 2020. Current statute states that only if the absence of a commissioner affects the commission quorum and after three times can a commissioner be removed by the governor, unless the commissioner willingly resigns. Mattos expressed that the commission needs to work on a bill to propose to change this statute with the upcoming legislation.

- IX. Strategic Planning (HS-COF / SP-FY 2020-21) – Mattos shared and recapped that the Professional Development OSF Training in July was well attended and helpful to build on commissioners’ strengths. Mattos gave examples of how commissioners can contribute to the following statutory duties:
- a. Commission’s nine (9) Statutory Duties
 1. Central Information Clearinghouse (informational center)
 2. Identify Best Practices
 3. Identify Obstacles
 - a. Family Court
 - b. Child Welfare Services
 - c. Other obstacles
 4. Raise Public Awareness – Mattos highlighted Woolfork as an example person in this area. Mendes interjected that he wants to be a part of this focus area.
 - a. Create Social Media Platform
 - i. Create Social Media platforms to also identify obstacles and issues
 5. Recommend Policies and Practices – Kippen and Esmond volunteered to take charge of researching and identifying possible proposed bills for the commission’s review for this upcoming legislation session. Mattos shared that all commissioners should be researching proposed bills as well and bring forth for commission review.
 - a. Revision of statutes for unexcused absences of commissioners
 - b. Shared Parenting Laws for review
 - c. Child Support issues for review
 6. Promote Education to train fathers
 7. Support Fatherhood Programs – Mattos shared that every commissioner from each county must be find out what’s happening annually in their county.
 - a. HI 4th Annual Fatherhood conference – *Cardines previously shared*
 - b. Ho`ola Na Pua Starfish Mentoring Program update – (Allen Cardines) *No updates*
 - c. Early Childhood Actions Strategizes (ECAS) update – (Kawika Mattos) *No updates*
 8. Increase Fatherhood Capacity
 - a. Create a Go-Fund / Fundraising – *No action*
 - b. Create a Financial Business Checking Account – *No action*
 9. Do any and all things necessary to carry out duties and purpose.
- X. Legislation Session 2022
- i. Review of Proposed House and Senate Bills / and other matters – *as stated previously; Kippen and Esmond volunteered to take charge of researching and identifying possible proposed bills for the commission’s review for this upcoming legislation session.*
- XI. Work Plans / Updates & Reports
- i. 2021-22 Annual DHS Report preparation & plan – Mattos is requesting that a commissioner take charge of this task. We need a volunteer stated in August.
 - ii. Community Collaborations and Volunteers

1. Hawai'i State – Fatherhood Conference update: Cardines shared that proposed dates for 2022 is Friday, June 17th and Saturday, June 18th and to do ½ day each day. *No further discussion.*
 2. NPCL's 2021 International Fatherhood Conference update – *No update*
 3. Other upcoming conferences/events –
 - a. Children and Youth Day – in October to be held virtually. *No action or discussion. (Sunio no longer present on commission meeting for updates or to share.)*
- XII. DHS / HS-COF webpage updates / status of meeting minutes & other matters - Mattos shared that meeting minutes are up to date.
- XIII. County of Honolulu/districts of O`ahu and the Neighbor-Island Counties updates – *No updates*
- XIV. Marketing materials updates / marketing options - *No action or updates. (Sunio no longer present on commission meeting for updates or to share.)*
- XV. Decision Making
- a. Fatherhood Sponsorship Award Program – Final Reports (*no decisions needed*)
 - b. Strategic Planning (HS-COF / SP-FY 2020-21) (*no decisions needed*)
 - i. Commission TEAM - Current Status / Updates / Boards & Commissions Info.
 - ii. Commission's nine (9) Statutory Duties / Status & Updates - *No decisions needed for the following:*
 - i. Start HS-COF Social Media streams
 - ii. Start Shared Parent Petition & Rights to/for fatherhood
 - iii. Create a Go-Fund to increase fatherhood capacity
 - iv. Create a Financial Business Checking Account
 - c. Community Collaborations and Volunteers (*no decision needed*)
 - d. Marketing (*no decision needed*)
- XVI. Next meeting:
- a. Friday, August 27, 2021 at 1:00pm virtually via Zoom. (*Note: original date on August 20th as the 3rd Friday was changed due to Aug 20th being a state holiday.*)
- XVII. Executive Session – *no session needed*
- XVIII. Adjournment -
- a. As closing remarks, Commissioner Mendez encouraged the commission team to step up and make big things happen this FY, especially because the commission is going through the professional development training. He expressed his hope that the commission will put the training in to action. Woolfork conferred. Esmond expressed his gratitude for the support given since he came on board as a commissioner and hospitality through this learning curve. Mattos thanked everyone still in attendance.
 - b. Commissioner Mendez motions to adjourn the meeting at 3.21pm. Commissioner Woolfork 2nd the motion. Motion passed and meeting adjourned.