

Agency Name: Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Point of Contact: Kim Hettel

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives:

The Advisory Board has five statutory functions established by ORC 107.12. These functions are listed below:

(1) Provide direction, guidance, and oversight to the office.

In each meeting, board members engage in open discussion making suggestions on direction or future change. As the office was developing the Ohio Compassion Map and Bright Ideas Ohio sites (outlined in function number three (3) below), the board members were very helpful in offering feedback and brokering relationships with other individuals and groups to aid in the project.

(2) Assist in the dissemination of information about, and in the stimulation of public awareness of, the service programs supported by the office.

For example, Advisory Board Member Father Kevin Maney has been very supportive in helping reach faith-based organizations and houses of worship to implement parts of the Governor's Start Talking! youth drug prevention program. Some board members have also offered aid in outreach for Mapping Ohio's Compassion and Bright Ideas Ohio, which is outlined more in the next function.

(3) Review the budget and finances of the office, proposed initiatives and policies, and the executive director's annual strategic plan at board meetings.

Every year The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI) provides funding to nonprofit organizations in consultation with the advisory board. The office's strategic plan was established and has remained the same. One strategy identified in the strategic plan is to help grow the capacity of nonprofit organizations to better serve their local communities. The office has provided grants to support four (4) non-profit organizations (Moms2B, Mom's House, Truly Reaching You, and After-School All-Stars) by offering grants that will allow them to grow to capacity.

Mapping Ohio's Compassion and Bright Ideas Ohio are two other strategies included in the strategic plan that currently drive most of GOFBCI's work. Mapping Ohio's Compassion helps to show Ohio's compassion landscape by plotting nonprofit organizations statewide on a county by county interactive map. In Ohio, the nonprofit sector is the 4th largest employer (including Colleges, Universities, and Hospitals) so the economic impact of these organizations is large. The map helps to answer two very critical questions for Ohio's nonprofit sector: "Who is doing

what” and “Where are they doing it”? These questions are answered by allowing the user to click county by county to see which nonprofits and houses of worship are active in their community and in which service sector they self-identify their work. The Map was created to help local communities identify service gaps and to assist with local collaboration to solve local issues. Bright Ideas Ohio serves as a repository for best and promising practices for the Ohio nonprofit community. GOFBCI is actively seeking nonprofit organizations to add to both Mapping Ohio's Compassion and Bright Ideas Ohio.

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GOFBCI is also the funding source for the Governor's Summer Meals Program. This program provides shelf stable meals to low-income eligible kids during the summer months, There are three components to the program; the mobile farmers market, rural delivery and summer meals. By offering both the site sponsored summer meals program and the rural delivery system, transportation is not a barrier for children to receive nutritious meals during the summer months when school is not in session.

In the winter months, GOFBCI helps to provide funding for Coats for Kids and Operation Warm. Both programs supply kids with American made, warm winter coats.

The Summer Meals and warm winter coat programs are operated in partnership with multiple faith-based and nonprofit organizations across the state. There were 215 organizations in the Summer Meals Program and 10 Community Action Agencies distributing warm winter coats.

(4) Provide feedback for and proposed modifications of the executive director's strategic plan.

At the beginning of each meeting, the GOFBCI staff provides the Advisory Board members with an update on each part of the strategic plan. All board members have the opportunity to ask questions or voice concerns. Board members are invited and encouraged to attend any Mapping Ohio's Compassion outreach meetings that may interest them as well as to attend site visits to summer weekend meal programs, winter coat distributions, or any of the nonprofit programs.

Another example, Advisory Board Member Deb Givens has traveled with the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives staff two summers in a row to visit Summer Food Program sites. After experiencing the program first hand, she is able to become a better spokesperson for the office and help to forge linkages with other programs serving the same population of people.

(5) Publish a report of its activities and accomplishments on or before the first day of August of each year, and deliver copies of the report to the governor, the speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the president and minority leader of the senate

Each year, an annual report is created by GOFBCI staff and submitted on behalf of the Advisory Board to the appropriate entities mentioned above.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff:

GOFBCI has four staff members. Currently, the board has 20 members. Those members are outlined in question 4. Board meetings are held quarterly. Given the functions outlined in question 1, we believe that this number is too high. A number of the members on our board are from state agencies. These members should be removed. It would be more efficient to bring representatives from state agencies into specific meetings as needed. We believe a better board structure would be four (4) appointees from the Governor's Office, one (1) appointee from the House, and one (1) appointee from the senate who represent the non-profit, faith-based and other non-profit community, and one (1) member from both the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate, one person from each party, for a total of 8 people.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding:

The Advisory Board of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives does not have a budget. The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is a line item in the Department of Job and Family Services budget; the sources are \$6.54 M Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and \$179,895 in General Revenue Funding (GRF). The four nonprofit programs, Summer Food, and winter coats are funded by TANF and the Ohio Compassion Map and Bright Ideas Ohio are funded by GRF.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any:

Twenty members are appointed to the Advisory Board of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives; Directors of seven state agencies or their designees, two members of the Ohio House of Representatives, two members of the Ohio Senate, and nine members appointed, three each, by the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House.

Members of the board are not entitled to compensation, but the members appointed by the governor, the speaker of the house, and the president of the senate who are representatives of the nonprofit, faith-based and other nonprofit community can be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses that are incurred in relation to board meetings. To date, no board member has ever asked for compensation.

Additional notes:

It is GOFBCI's recommendation that the board should be reauthorized, but we believe that it should be restructured for efficiency. The recommendations are listed in question number 2 above; to summarize, the recommendations are: four (4) appointees from the Governor's Office, one (1) appointee from the House, and one (1) appointee from the senate who represent the non-profit, faith-based and other non-profit community, and one (1) member from both the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate, one person from each party, for a total of 8 people.