



Permanency Enhancement Project Technical Assistance Annual Report Update

Southern Region Effingham Action Team

This two-part report provides an update of all PEP Action Team and University Partner activities during the 2017 fiscal year (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017). Information herein is based off of communication and correspondence with key Action Team members and all other stakeholder group members. These individuals potentially include action team lead contact persons, PEP regional staff, other division employees, area community members, and families involved in the PEP initiative in the related counties.

Action Team Catchment Area

The **Effingham Action Team** encompasses the following counties listed below:

Effingham
Fayette
Jasper

University Partner Activity Overview

During fiscal year 2017 the Department of Children and Family Services worked with the University Partner (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville- SIUE) to retain faculty researchers and graduate students (who serve in the role of PEP Action Team Community Liaisons) to explore barriers to permanency, including but not limited to trends in racial disparity and disproportionality as it impacts child outcomes in the Southern Region of Illinois.

In the month of **May** the Department of Children and Family Services Quality Assurance Department provided county level permanency data for **Quarter 4 of fiscal year 2016**. The data provided spans the following months: **March - June FY 2016** to SIUE, so that the University research team could analyze trends in permanencies, by age and race, over the period in question. This data analysis will be provided in a **supplementary report**.

In addition to analyzing permanency data, the PEP Community Liaison (University Graduate Student) **Jordan Boyer Madden** contacted representatives who had been identified as leaders

of the **Effingham Action Team** and explored PEP goals, accomplishments, barriers and activities. Communication with the following individuals occurred:

Name	Role in DCFS or PEP Action Team
Kari Rogers	Action Team Leader
Kelly Hegarty	New Action Team Leader
Michael Burns	DCFS Partner

**** To see dates of contact and method of communication please refer to attached contact log document***

Context of Permanency Barriers for Action Team Catchment Area

This section includes a list of the permanency barriers discussed by action team members that are prevalent in the action team catchment area.

- **Reduction in Action Team Membership**
 - **Members from private organizations in fluctuation**
 - **DCFS staff fluctuations, transitions**
- **Large area covered with three rural counties**
- **Place and space logistic challenges (i.e. travel across distance, time, and convenient/accessible location for all)**
- **No current data supplied by Department to assess current service data trends and updates on permanency numbers for region**

This section provides a discussion of the permanency barriers identified above. This discussion is based on information provided by action team members and is supported by the data presented in the supplementary report.

The Effingham Action Team is currently working on re-constituting the action team and renewing membership. Effingham is a three-county region which is primarily rural. This action team has similarities with the Olney Action Team. The team is considering a more targeted approach to address logistic challenges such as focus on one county at a time and create action team subcommittees if necessary. There are travel and time concerns regarding the large geographic area. The team has discussed exploring the use of innovative communication strategies with University Partner. The strategies discussed were phone conference call or video conference meetings such as Skype to overcome barriers with traveling time and accessibility.

Fiscal Year 2017 Action Team Goals

This section includes a current list of goals identified by the action team membership.

- **Sustain Action Team Membership as well as attendance**

- Integrate PEP objectives into quarterly meetings with facilitation by Kari Rogers and Kelly Hegarty
- Implement survey to assess support needs of 'Action Team' to garner ongoing specified support from University partner which will further specify work with local community

Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview

Activity	Location	Date & Length of Time	Stakeholders Represented	University Partner Role	Other
Emailing University Partner regarding upcoming Steering Committee Meeting	Emails	2/9/17 2/10/17	Action Team Leader Kari Rogers	Reported updates from emails at Steering Committee meeting in Mt. Vernon; working towards building up membership in the Effingham region.	
Phone Meeting with Action Team Leader and University Partner	Phone call	2/24/17 30 minutes	Action Team Leader Kari Rogers	Collecting information regarding history of Effingham Action Team, previous year Action Team activities and challenges, upcoming goals, and working with University Partner to assist in building up Action Team.	

Discussion of Action Team Activities to Improve Permanency in the Catchment Area

Effingham has appointed a new Action Team Co-Leader, Kelly Hegarty. The two leaders will work to build membership and create rapport with community stakeholders across the three counties. It is important for leaders to try different strategies that have worked for rural action teams. Networking will be crucial to build membership and sustain membership. There will be an upcoming survey which can help address barriers by participation of action team

members. It is important for Effingham to schedule quarterly meetings ahead and prepare for issues with attendance such as setting up a teleconference.

Action Team Next Steps:

Kari Rogers will work to help Kelly Hegarty to train for new role as action team leader. Effingham action team will continue to build membership, outreach to identify new potential members, and market to constituents and prospective members. The team will identify necessary resources and capabilities to engage in innovative, efficient communication strategies, such as conference calls and video-conferencing to best fit their region. Implement survey to assess support needs of 'Action Team' to garner ongoing specified support form University partner which will further specify work with local community and await the arrival of updated data to continue to assess area permanency rates.

This site will implement survey to assess support needs of 'Action Team' to garner ongoing specified support form University partner which will further specify work with local community. This site will continue to solicit and await the arrival of updated data to continue to assess area permanency trends. Kari Rogers has been emailed the FY 17 Southern Region Action Team Presentation which has been requested to distribute to their Immersion Site community stakeholders. The site will continue to set dates for quarterly meetings and email University Partners information regarding meetings.

Include all meeting minutes, contact logs, event flyers, and other relevant materials with the report document.