



# Permanency Enhancement Project Technical Assistance Annual Report Update

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## **Southern Region Metropolis Action Team**

*This two-part report provides an update of all PEP Action Team and University Partner activities during the 2018 fiscal year (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018). 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 **Metropolis Action Team** encompasses the following counties listed below:

- Hardin
- Johnson
- Massac
- Pope

### **University Partner Activity Overview**

During fiscal year 2018 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.

During the year, the Department of Children and Family Services Quality Assurance Department did not provide updated annual county level permanency data. Thus, this report is based on the last data received. That data was received in Quarter 4 of FY 2016. Consequently, the analytic report, provided by the University research team documents permanencies, by age and race, over the 2016 period and not the current 2018 fiscal year. This data analysis will be provided in a **supplementary Permanency Action Team Data Report**.

In addition to analyzing permanency data, the PEP Community Liaison (University Graduate Student **Meghan Miller**) contacted representatives who had been identified as leaders of the **Metropolis action team** and explored PEP goals, accomplishments, barriers and activities. Communication with the following individuals occurred:

Name	Role in DCFS or PEP Action Team
Shelly Glasco	Assisting with Leadership
Esther Meader	Metropolis Action Team Leader

*\* 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.*

- No current data for the current fiscal year 2018 was provided by the Division, so current service and permanency data trends are based on data provided in 2016. FY2016 was the last time data was received from the Division.
- Transition period due to new leadership

*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.*

Team is concerned about lack of data or availability of limited data in addressing the permanency. Team is trying to keep up with the transition period due to new leadership. Team emphasizes on heavy turnover rate of supervisors in 2018, so it has been a challenge to keep leadership of action team consistent and membership stable. Team is still trying to stabilize leadership and membership.

## Fiscal Year 2018 Action Team Goals

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

- Build the partnerships with different providers in the community. Providers include the Family Advocacy Center and Hope unlimited.
- Building B-3 initiatives

### Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview

Activity	Location	Date & Length of Time	Stakeholders Represented	University Partner Role	Other
Meetings to build partnerships	Illinois Department of Children Family services foster care licensing	November 17- Current	Family advocacy center members	Retrieving information about and documenting community collaborations	

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

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The action team reported having quarterly meetings, though no specific dates were shared with the University partner for reporting in this documentation.

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

Team is currently supporting new Action Team Leader, Tracey Elliot in new role and offer assistance [from past/current Action Team Leaders across system, past/current Action team members, and University Partners. Team is also working on upcoming Quarterly Meetings. Team is building the partnerships with the providers at Family advocacy center and Hope Unlimited.

## **Action Team Next Steps**

Metropolis action team continues to build Action Team membership by outreach to identify new potential members. Team also plans to set up regular meeting schedule, at least quarterly, for Action Team and market to constituents and prospective members. Team is willing to identify necessary resources and capabilities to engage in innovative, efficient communication strategies, such as conference calls and videoconferencing. Team is interested in implementing survey to assess support needs of 'Action Team' to garner ongoing specified support from University partner which will further specify work with local community

**Attached you will find related meeting minutes, correspondence, event flyers, and/or other relevant materials that document Action Team activities.**

[https://siuecougars-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/kimcart\\_siue\\_edu/EdtDeL1U8SBAuGz\\_s\\_Yv1WcBb4ToLUx9X48r0XWGbUFA7Q?e=0v1d5l](https://siuecougars-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/kimcart_siue_edu/EdtDeL1U8SBAuGz_s_Yv1WcBb4ToLUx9X48r0XWGbUFA7Q?e=0v1d5l)