



Permanency Enhancement Project Technical Assistance Annual Report Update

Southern Region St. Clair Immersion Site

This two-part report provides an update of all PEP Action Team and University Partner activities during the 2019 fiscal year (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019). 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 **St. Clair Immersion Site** encompasses the following counties listed below:*

- St. Clair

University Partner Activity Overview

During fiscal year 2019 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 2019. Consequently, the analytic report, provided by the University research team documents permanencies, by age and race, over the current 2019 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 **Gideon Nketsia Sampson**) contacted representatives who had been identified as

leaders of the **St. Clair Immersion site** and explored PEP goals, accomplishments, barriers and activities. Communication with the following individuals occurred:

Name	Role in DCFS or PEP Action Team
Dianne Parker	St. Clair Action Team Leader
James Toole	St. Clair/Belleville Immersion Site Team Leader

Research Assistant has made 2 successful contacts with the team leaders the rest has been unsuccessful. Due to unresponsiveness on the part of the leaders, information used for this part of the report is from the past fiscal year report

Context of Permanency Barriers for Action Team Catchment Area

St. Clair Immersion site expressed the need for frequent communication with university partners. The Team is concerned about addressing permanency due to lack of data or availability of limited data. The Team finds facilitating the integration of action team and Immersion site for easy identification of the needs.

Fiscal Year 2019 Action Team Goals

The team has a goal to:

- Increase communication with Action Team Leaders and University Partners
- Integrate PEP objectives into agendas of future Immersion Site meetings

Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview

Immersion Site has no events.

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

Site leader James Toole has emailed many documents to University Partners which has greatly enhanced the understanding of St. Clair’s Immersion Action Team. Team engaged in a number of Process Changes (i.e. CAPU process, discontinuation of Matching Tool, Norman Cash Assistance). Team focused on development/Implementation of training and conferences (i.e.

LGBTQ Conference, CFTM training, Core practice FTF training, Procedures 315 training). Southern Region and St. Clair County's first Emergency Foster Home became operational in March 2017 and assisted in reuniting a child/youth and family. POS approved for 1 Foster Parent Support Specialist per Foster Care Agency on 4/20/17.

Action Team Next Steps

For the next Fiscal year, the Action Team plans to:

- Sustain Action Team Membership as well as attendance.
- Implement a survey to assess support needs of 'Action Team' to garner ongoing specified support from University partner which will further specify work with the local community.
- Soliciting the arrival of updated data to continue to assess area permanency trends.

The University Partner will continue to support this team's efforts by:

- ✓ Helping the action team revitalize their operation
- ✓ Helping them understand data trends
- ✓ Maintaining communication with team members and division leaders
- ✓ Provide guidance on the implementation of action team goals.

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/Ef9MIbCmsyxluka5XPAQqQBpi2Jh9d-A1_EL_Bw_QKhTQ?e=2IKKcm