



Permanency Enhancement Project Technical Assistance Annual Report Update

Southern Region Carbondale 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 **Carbondale Action Team** encompasses the following counties listed below:

Jackson
Franklin
Perry
Williamson

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) **Bethany Richards** contacted representatives who had been identified as leaders of the **Carbondale Action Team** and explored PEP goals, accomplishments, barriers and activities. Communication with the following individuals occurred:

Name	Role in DCFS or PEP Action Team
Janelle Pulcher	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.

- **Action team leader is new to the position**
- **Team is currently recruiting new members under the new leadership**
- **No current data available to assist with permanency goal setting**

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.

Janelle Pulcher recently took over as the action team leader for Carbondale (Jackson) and is new to the position. The team is currently recruiting new members. Action team leader is in the process of identifying potential members and inviting them to be a part of the team. At this time, data has only been recently been supplied to the university partner by the Department of Children and Family Services Quality Assurance. However, the action team has been lacking current data for a long period of time and does not yet have access to this data. Such data will influence goals, activities, and encourage action team participation. This would be helpful for recruiting members and helping to identify goals to address.

Fiscal Year 2017 Action Team Goals

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

- **Identify and recruit action team members**
- **Hold first action team meeting and establish permanency goals**

Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview

Activity	Location	Date & Length of Time	Stakeholders Represented	University Partner Role	Other
Identify potential members	N/A	N/A	N/A	University partner has offered assistance	
Develop invitation to join team	N/A	N/A	N/A	University partner is helping to develop invitation letter	
Develop first meeting agenda	N/A	N/A	N/A	University partner is helping to develop sample first meeting agenda	

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

Janelle Pulcher, action team leader, is currently identifying potential members that she could invite to be a part of the action team.

University partner, Bethany Richards, is currently helping the action team leader to develop a letter of invitation to send to the potential members that she has identified.

University partner, Bethany Richards, is currently helping the action team leader to develop a sample first meeting agenda that action team leader could adjust to fit her needs.

Action Team Next Steps:

- Send letter of invitation to potential members
- Hold first meeting and establish permanency goals
- Begin outlining objectives and action steps to address goals
- Participate in survey developed by university partners
- Await receipt of data

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