



Permanency Enhancement Project Technical Assistance Annual Report Update

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

**Bond
Clinton**

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

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

Name	Role in DCFS or PEP Action Team
Teresa Towler	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.

- **The Action Team is currently reorganizing and seeking new members**
- **Team has not had a meeting in over a year**
- **No current data available to assist in setting permanency goals**
- **Unsure of what problems to address**

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 team is currently in a reorganization period and the team has not met in over a year. The action team leader is unsure of who used to be a part of the team. Action team leader is in the progress of identifying former and potential new members. 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 permanency goals to address.

Fiscal Year 2017 Action Team Goals

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

- **Identify former and potential new members**
- **Send invitation to members to be a part of action team**
- **Hold initial action team meeting**
- **Identify permanency goals**

Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview

Activity	Location	Date & Length of Time	Stakeholders Represented	University Partner Role	Other
Action team leader has been identifying potential members	N/A	N/A	N/A	University partner tried to track down former team roster	

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

Action team leader told university partner that team had not met in over a year and that she was unsure of who had once been on the team. University partner worked to help track down former team roster, but it could not be found. Action team leader is in the process of identifying potential members and reconstructing the action team.

Action Team Next Steps:

- Identify former and potential new members
- Draft a letter to invite potential members
- Invite potential members to be a part of action team
- Hold initial meeting and identify goals
- Wait to receive current data
- Participate in survey developed by university partners

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