



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

- Bond
- Clinton

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 **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	Carlyle Action Team Leader

Research Assistant has attempted to contact the team leader twice which were unsuccessful with no response.

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
- Garnering interest from former action team members in rejoining the team
- 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

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.

Fiscal Year 2018 Action Team Goals

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

- Action team goal is to reconstruct the team and Action team membership
- Action team wanted to work on renewal of action team membership
- Action wanted to explore innovative ways of communication with the membership

Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview

Action team had no meetings or events

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

Carlyle Action team has not been able to be active. As the team was in transition period and concerned about re constituting the team and recruit the members and less active in addressing permanency. Building and maintain the team has been ongoing challenge. As of February 2018, last meeting of action team was in early 2016. Action team has not scheduled any meeting since then.

Team is currently Re-constituting action team and renewing membership by contacting different community providers for rebuilding the team. Team is also exploring use of innovative communication strategies (i.e. phone conference call or video conference meetings such as Skype to overcome barriers with traveling time and accessibility.

Action Team Next Steps

Action team planned to continue to build action team membership by outreach to identify new potential members and conduct regular meeting schedule for Action Team and market to constituents and prospective members. Team was working on to identify necessary resources and capabilities to engage in innovative, efficient communication strategies, such as conference calls and videoconferencing. Team was interested in implementing survey to assess support needs of 'Action Team' to garner ongoing specified support form University partner which will further specify work with local community.