



Permanency Enhancement Project Technical Assistance Annual Report Update

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

- Crawford
- Edwards
- Lawrence
- Richland
- Wabash

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 **Olney action team** and explored PEP goals, accomplishments, barriers and activities. Communication with the following individuals occurred:

Name	Role in DCFS or PEP Action Team
Lindsey Tompson	Olney Action Team Leader
Aundrea Brooks	Olney Action Team Leader

Research Assistant has made 2 successful contacts with the Action team leaders as of Feb 2018. The communication slacked down since March 2018 even after making several attempts in contacting the leaders.

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.

- Limited on family counseling contracts and drug testing contracts (Lack of ability to utilize Indiana resources)
- Large area spread out to five counties with predominately rural setting
- Limited resources for children transitioning from residential facilities to next steps toward permanency.
- Issues with confidentiality in past with community stakeholders in rural towns within Action 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.

Team's concern is focused on the limited resources for children in transitioning state, majorly from residential facilities to next steps of permanency. Team expresses the concern about confidentiality of the cases within the community stakeholders in rural towns within the action team. Team is concerned about the limited, or lack of data leads to addressing the permanency. Team also expresses the lack of ability to utilize the resources.

Fiscal Year 2018 Action Team Goals

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

- Action team's goal is to maintain current action team engagement and leadership
- Action wants to utilize the resources thoroughly.
- Action team wants to maintain the confidentiality of the team.
- Team wants to focus in one county at a time to provide effective and efficient resolutions to the cases in permanency.

Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview

Action team has no events related.

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

Team is spread out to large areas predominantly with rural areas makes it challenging in addressing permanency effectively. Team's major focus is on one county at a time to focus on case-by-case systematic areas of improvement and resources by area. Team also continues to discuss with other DFCS professionals, community stakeholders, and University Partners resources and networking opportunities for contracts.

Action Team Next Steps:

Olney action team is focusing on sustaining the Team Membership as well as attendance, Growth of committee focusing on court-related issues similar to Madison County's Court Subcommittee (Utilizing Juvenile Court Act) . Team focuses on region, court subcommittees, etc for the membership of the team. Team also 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.

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

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