



Permanency Enhancement Project Technical Assistance Annual Report Update

Southern Region Cairo Action Team

This two-part report provides an update of all PEP Action Team and University Partner activities during the 2019 fiscal year (July 1, 2018 – 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 **Cairo Action Team** encompasses the following counties listed below:

- Alexander
- Pulaski

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

Name	Role in DCFS or PEP Action Team
Trina Mayfield	Cairo Action Team Chair
Jacqueline Adkinson	Cairo Action Team Chair

Research Assistant has made several successful attempts to reach out to action team leaders out to discuss the revitalization of the action team. The team was initially not responsive until Jacqueline became the co-chair in July 2019. From then on, the research assistant has been in contact with the team to find ways to revitalize the team.

** To see dates of contact and method of communication please refer to attached contact log document on https://siuecougars-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/kimcart_siue_edu/EUumj-LUzqBPpaaxQSTV0iMBZ5a9Rap1KVbqD5vvmUMFHA?e=9Tj91j
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Context of Permanency Barriers for Action Team Catchment Area

The barriers are the people in the community are not exactly proactive as the team would like for them to be.

Fiscal Year 2019 Action Team Goals

1. To revitalize the action team to the maximum operational level.
2. To explore school processes (for working with families, particularly those getting DCFS services) with local school principal.
3. Keep up with partnering parents’ program and conduct frequent meetings.
4. Improve its ability to network with the community to address permanency. Team also wanted to conduct regular meetings with the membership.
5. Set up meetings

Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview

- Identifying the Action Team's community engagement activities.
- To examine and address factors that hinder permanency and factors that contribute to racial disproportionality among children.
- Reinstating quarterly meetings and participation.

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

Team expressed major concerns with lack of data addressing the permanency. Team also experienced issues with networking within the community. Team is continuously making efforts to examine and address factors that hinder permanency and factors that contribute to racial disproportionality among children involved with Illinois Department of children and family services (DCFS). The Team's major focus is on networking with different community partners. The purpose of networking with community members, private organizations, and other important organizations is to make relationships that will ultimately enhance the lives of children within DCFS and help spread awareness of permanency enhancement and racial disparities.

Action Team Next Steps:

For the next fiscal year, the team plans to:

1. Expand the networking by outreach to identify new potential members.
2. Continue conducting frequent meetings with the membership to address the permanency.
3. Identify the action team's community engagement activities.
4. Strengthen partnership with Alexander Pulaski Action Council (APAC) and university partners to assist in educating staff and community members about existing disparities and barriers to permanency in the region

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.

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