



# Permanency Enhancement Project Technical Assistance Annual Report Update

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

- Franklin
- Jackson
- Perry
- Williamson

### **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 **Sriteja Vangala**) 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	Previous Carbondale Action Team Leader
Shelly Glasco	Current Carbondale Action Team Leader

Research assistant made several attempts to communicate with action team leaders in the initial months of the year which were unsuccessful. Latest attempts made in contacting the Action team leaders were successful and informative.

### **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.*

- Lack of Staff in the team has been a major barrier.
- High Caseloads on the team has also been a barrier for permanency.

Carbondale Action team has been facing issues with staffing since long period. Lack of staffing and high caseloads have been major barriers in addressing the permanency. Team underwent through transition of leadership which made it difficult in keeping up with the permanency issues.

### **Fiscal Year 2019 Action Team Goals**

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

- Action team goal was to rebuild the membership of the Action team
- Action team goal is to focus on birth to three cases
- Action team goal is to provide timely permanency for children
- Action team goal is to conduct frequent meetings with the membership
- Action team was determined to support new action team leader and assistance.
- Action team wanted to explore innovative ways of communication with the membership

- Action team goal is to review the funding opportunities for southern region permanency Enhancement

*Carbondale Action team continues to persist the same goals as in 2018 with few new goals added.*

## **Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview**

Action team has outreached to different community partners to identify the potential members of the action team. Team conducted discussions on community participation. Team also reviewed a proposal called “ Mentoring to Manhood”.

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

Team has concerns with the action team membership. Lack of staffing has been a major issue in addressing the permanency. The main concern is with reconstituting the team with eligible members. Team is outreaching to multiple community partners to identify potential members for the Action team. Action team has been inactive since November 2017 to 2018 due to inactive membership . Team has started conducting meetings since early 2019. Not having a consistent leader has been a hinderance to the team to being able to keep it active. Team was still trying it’s best to keep up with the meetings in addressing the permanency.

Team was also diligently working to support new Action Team Leader(Michelle Glasco), in new role and offer assistance. Team was also focusing on birth to three cases. Team was diligently working to explore 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:**

Carbondale Action team continues to focus on Building Action Team membership. Action team wanted to discuss the needs of community and lack of resources, specific to older youth. Action Team continues the outreach in identifying the potential members and the community participation. Team is planning to setup regular team meetings with the membership. Team has also planned to work in birth to three cases in upcoming fiscal year.

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

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