



Permanency Enhancement Project Technical Assistance Annual Report Update

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

- Madison

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

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

Name	Role in DCFS or PEP Action Team
Shiela Reed	Madison County Action Team Leader

Research Assistant has made one successful contact with the team leader during the PEP steering committee meeting on March 29th, 2018. Several other contacts made were unsuccessful due to no response to the emails.

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.

- Need to network for enhancing the lives of children and families in foster care
- Concerns around addressing staff safety
- Need to be more involved in the court system – wants to become involved with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)
- Increasing case management at Riverbend
- Expansion of programs/locations/services

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 Madison County Action Team expressed major concerns with the lack of data, in regard to addressing permanency. The team also expressed the struggle with networking within the community to enhance the lives of children and families in foster care. A major issue was racial disparities within their foster care system. Upon happenings with staff in the Madison County Action Team office, there was a concern with addressing staff safety measures within and outside the office.

Fiscal Year 2018 Action Team Goals

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

- Madison Action team has a goal to be more involved in court systems- wants to involve with CASA
- Team is looking to gather new data regarding permanency
- Action team is trying to address the permanency and children from birth to three years old
- Team wants to network with private organizations and community stake holders
- Team aims in expanding programs/ services/ for parenting, substance abuse, violence prevention, youth, opioid hostile, head start, home based things related to B-3services.

Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview

Action team had no formal activities however team was constantly working on building the network with community members, private organizations.

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

Team wants to network with community members, private organizations, and other important organizations to make relationships that will ultimately enhance the lives of children within DCFS and help spread awareness of permanency enhancement and racial disparities. The team expressed the issues with those involved in the court system not completely understanding how everything works within DCFS, especially the judges so they expressed an interest in becoming more involved with the court system, especially with the Court Appointed Special Advocates.

Team is constantly trying to get involved in the community and to address issues related to permanency and children from birth to three years old .Team is working on increasing case management at Riverbend and the need for expanding programs/locations/services for parenting, substance abuse, violence prevention, youth, opioid hotline, head start, home-based things to do related to B-3 services.

Action Team Next Steps:

The Madison County Action Team truly works diligently to make community connections and to use these relationships to improve permanency enhancement. The next step would be to build on these relationships and to keep spreading awareness of the work DCFS does. This team should

also consider building upon their Action Team leadership – throughout this fiscal year, the leadership was on and off – so possibly bringing on a co-leader would help with this. If the leader cannot make time for the Action Team, or cannot lead for whatever reason, at least the Action Team would not lie dormant with a co-leader.

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

https://siuecougars-my.sharepoint.com/:w/g/personal/kimcart_siue_edu/EYB_CsyF8eROphnQAtJzQqABxZpl9haC4-PdPqmVWv5QQw?e=UQDW50