



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, 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 **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 **Sriteja Vangala**) 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

Research Assistant has made 2 successful contacts with the Action team leaders as of 2019. The communication slacked down since April 2019 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 meetings due to inactive team
- Limited resources for children transitioning from residential facilities to next steps toward permanency.
- Large area spread out to five counties with predominately rural setting
- Limited on family counseling contracts and drug testing contracts (Lack of ability to utilize Indiana resources)
- Issues with confidentiality in past with community stakeholders in rural towns within Action Team

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 continues to have the same barriers as in 2018 with few added issues. Action team slacked down in regularity of meetings due to inactive action team. Team 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 also expresses the lack of ability to utilize the resources.

Fiscal Year 2019 Action Team Goals

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

- Action team's goal is to plan new projects and work on the projects
- Action team wants to maintain the confidentiality of the team
- Action wants to utilize the resources thoroughly
- Action team's goal is to maintain current action team engagement and leadership

Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview

Action team has new projects planned and being worked on. Projects such as pajama project, Shop with a cop, coats for kids were/are the projects by the Action team.

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

Action team worked on several projects in addressing the permanency. Team has several meetings and discussed about building trust between sections of community and increasing representation and involvement by people of color or other subcultures. As the team is spread out to large areas predominantly, addressing permanency has been challenging. 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 continues to work on the projects and address the permanency successfully. Team is currently focusing on successfully finishing the pajama project. Team continues to have the similar future directions as in 2018 such as focusing on sustaining the Team Membership as well as attendance and focus on region, court subcommittees, etc for the membership of the team.

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

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