



Permanency Enhancement Project Technical Assistance Annual Report Update

Southern Region Madison Action Team

This two-part report provides an update of all PEP Action Team and University Partner activities during the 2017 fiscal year (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017). 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 Action Team** encompasses the following counties listed below:

Madison County

University Partner Activity Overview

During fiscal year 2017 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.

In the month of **May** the Department of Children and Family Services Quality Assurance Department provided county level permanency data for **Quarter 4 of fiscal year 2016**. The data provided spans the following months: **March - June FY 2016** to SIUE, so that the University research team could analyze trends in permanencies, by age and race, over the period in question. This data analysis will be provided in a **supplementary report**.

In addition to analyzing permanency data, the PEP Community Liaison (University Graduate Student) **Jordan Boyer Madden** contacted representatives who had been identified as leaders of the **Madison 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	Action Team Leader
Tammy Iskarous	Active Community Stakeholder, Wood River Ministries Director
Michael Burns	DCFS Partner

** To see dates of contact and method of communication please refer to attached contact log document*

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.

- **Maintain current level of action team engagement and leadership**
- **Recruit additional Action Team Co-Chair and potentially an active community stakeholder**
- **No Current data supplied by Division to assess current service data trends and updates on permanency numbers for region**
 - **Previous data reported Madison showed higher racial disparities than other counties in Southern Region (2014); thus being able to track progress is critical for this 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.

Madison action team has a high attendance rate of 44 members with active participation in each team meeting. The action team started August 2016 with monthly meetings. In March 2017, the team decreased to quarterly meetings due to high efficiency of meetings. It was discussed in Quarterly Steering Committee Meeting on May 11th to add an additional action team leader to co-facilitate. The University Partners are working hard to obtain data. A survey will be sent out to the action team leaders and it is important for participation.

Fiscal Year 2017 Action Team Goals

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

- **Acquire new data**
- **Identify potential Action Team Co-Leaders**
- **Continue to build on networking for enhancing the lives of children and families in foster care and specifically addressing racial disparities and inequalities in permanency**
- **All members to participate in upcoming survey from University Partners**

- Work towards preparing for Immersion sites and communicating changes to members within Action Team.
- Upcoming quarterly meeting on June 14, 2017 with high Action Team attendance.

Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview

Activity	Location	Date & Length of Time	Stakeholders Represented	University Partner Role	Other
Phone Meeting with University Partner	N/A	1/31/17 20 minutes	Action Team Leader Shiela Reed	Asked questions to gain information on current Madison Action Team	
Quarterly Action Team Meeting	Wood River Ministries, Wood River	3/8/17 2.5 hours	Shiela Reed, Action Team members, Community Stakeholders	Discussed previous Action Team goals, challenges, and updates	

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

Madison action team is self-sustaining and actively growing. It is important to use previous data from 2014 as a reminder why it is important for this action team to address racial disparities. There are other action teams who are struggling and could benefit from adapting strategies of this action team. The action team developed a subcommittee to focus on continue court-related issues. It is important for this action team to sustain active participation and continue to increase membership.

Action Team Next Steps:

Madison Action Team will continue to work on increasing community stakeholders. The Team plans to continue to sustain both quarterly action team meetings as well as the court subcommittee meetings. The next quarterly meeting is set for June 14th at the Wood River Ministries in Wood River. Shiela Reed will distribute the FY 17 Southern Region Action Team Presentation to the action team members.

Madison Action Team will to grow membership, set action team meeting dates quarterly, and work towards the objectives towards permanency enhancement. The university partners also ask that the Madison Action team participate in the survey that they developed.

Include all meeting minutes, contact logs, event flyers, and other relevant materials with the report document.

