



Permanency Enhancement Project Technical Assistance Annual Report Update

Southern Region St. Clair 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 **St. Clair Action Team** encompasses the following counties listed below:
St. Clair 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 **St. Clair Action Team** and explored PEP goals, accomplishments, barriers and activities. Communication with the following individuals occurred:

Name	Role in DCFS or PEP Action Team
Dianne Parker	Action Team Leader
James Toole	Immersion Site
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.

- **Sustain Action Team membership as well as attendance**
- **Large workload with being one of four Immersion Sites in the state of Illinois**
- **Facilitate integration of Action Team and Immersion Site so that needs are easily apportioned (if needed) and identified.**
- **Review and evaluate the PEP objectives have been communicated during every meeting since integrating Action Team with Immersion Site**
- **No current data supplied by DCSF to assess current service data trends and updates on permanency numbers for region**

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 St. Clair action team was combined with the Immersion Site for St. Clair. The action team leader struggles with communication from University Partners when emailing regarding about action team. On May 8th, James Toole has emailed many documents to University Partners which has greatly enhanced the understanding of St. Clair’s Immersion Action Team. James Toole has greatly improved the emailing specifically regarding Immersion Site which is reducing previous barriers. James discussed many Immersion Site activities in Quarterly Steering Committee Meeting on May 11th through teleconference. It is important that PEP objectives are discussed at every quarterly Immersion Site meeting due to combining both teams. 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.

- **Sustain Action Team Membership as well as attendance**
- **Integrating PEP objectives into agendas of future Immersion Site meetings**

- **Implement survey to assess support needs of ‘Action Team’ to garner ongoing specified support form University partner which will further specify work with local community**
- **Solicit and await the arrival of updated data to continue to assess area permanency trends**

Action Team Goal Related Activity Overview

Activity	Location	Date & Length of Time	Stakeholders Represented	University Partner Role	Other
Emailing University Partner information of Immersion Site Activities	N/A	5/4/17 5/5/17 5/8/17 5/10/17	Action Team Leader Shiela Reed	Emailed documents for St. Clair Immersion Site including three months of Immersion Site Community Stakeholder Meetings and Agendas	
Quarterly Steering Committee Meeting	Teleconference, Mt. Vernon	5/11/17 2.5 hours	Action Team Leaders, Committee Co-Chairs, Immersion Sites	Discussed previous Action Team goals, challenges, and updates for all Southern Region	

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

St. Clair Immersion Site is self-sustaining and actively growing. This Immersion Site focuses on community stakeholders. The site is engaged in a number of process changes such as CAPU process, discontinuation of Matching Tool, and Norman Cash Assistance. They are working towards development and implementation of trainings and conferences such as LGBTQ Conference, CFTM training, Core practice FTF training, and Procedures 315 training. It is important to remember the foundation of action teams as well as communicate with University Partners to communicate the high involvement.

Action Team Next Steps:

St. Clair Immersion Site will continue to work on action team membership as well as attendance. An important goal is for St. Clair Immersion Site to integrate the PEP objectives into agendas for all future Immersion Site meetings. This site will implement survey to assess

support needs of 'Action Team' to garner ongoing specified support form University partner which will further specify work with local community. This site will continue to solicit and await the arrival of updated data to continue to assess area permanency trends. The site has the FY 17 Southern Region Action Team Presentation which has been requested to distribute to their Immersion Site community stakeholders. The site will continue to set dates for quarterly meetings and email University Partners information regarding meetings.

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