**The Chicago North Action Team**

Permanency Enhancement Initiative (PEI) Strategic Plan

**Vision:** Kids Staying With Their Families

**Mission:** To reduce the disproportionate number of African American youth in foster care through collaborative planning, community action, and policy advocacy.

**Strategies:**

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| 1. Promote diverse stakeholder involvement in Chicago North Action Team (Outreach) |
| 2. Provide practice recommendations to DCFS/ POS, Service Providers, and community-based orgs. in the Chicago North area |
| 3. Provide education and training to Chicago North community stakeholders on disproportionality and cultural sensitivity |
| 4. Increase child and family access to effective services in Chicago North |
| 5. Provide recommendations for policy modifications to the PEI Transformation Team |

**Objectives:**

**Outreach**

**#1** – By March 2012, increase youth service agency involvement in the Chicago North Action Team by 1 agency.

**#2** – By March 2012, increase community involvement (such as parents/caregivers, religious leadership and residents) in the Chicago North Action Team by 1.

**Education/ Training**

**#3** – By June 2012, develop and implement one public education piece on racial disproportionality in child welfare.

**Resource Assessment/ Development:**

**#4** – By September 2012, assess the needs of families within the Chicago North area.

**Action Plan (action steps)**

Objective #1 – By March 2012, increase youth service agency involvement in the Chicago North Action Team by 1 agency.

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| **Action Step** | **Person(s) Responsible** | **Date Completed** | **Resources Required** | **Potential barriers or resistance** | **Collaborators** |
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Objective #2 – By March 2012, increase community involvement (such as parents/caregivers, religious leadership and residents) in the Chicago North Action Team by 1.

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| **Action Step** | **Person(s) Responsible** | **Date Completed** | **Resources Required** | **Potential barriers or resistance** | **Collaborators** |
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Objective #3 – By June 2012, develop and implement one public education piece on racial disproportionality in child welfare.

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| **Action Step** | **Person(s) Responsible** | **Date Completed** | **Resources Required** | **Potential barriers or resistance** | **Collaborators** |
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Objective #8 – By September 2012, assess the needs of families within the Chicago North area.

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| **Action Step** | **Person(s) Responsible** | **Date Completed** | **Resources Required** | **Potential barriers or resistance** | **Collaborators** |
| 1. Invite Dana Weiner of the Geo Map Data base for action team training. | John | January 21, 2010 / Completed |  | Scheduling Conflicts | Dana Weiner |
| 2. Identify or Develop a family needs assessment tool. | Donnella Ward  Susan Mellema  Jenetia Marshall  John | Completed development of survey tool in May 2011 |  | Getting a DCP person on the Action Team.  Getting consistent participation  POS and DCFS accessibility and lack of use | Differential Response Teams (DCFS)  DCP Supervisor or workers  Jeffrey Walker, ACR |
| 3. Conduct Survey with parents and caregivers | AIC- Leslie  UCAN- April  RPCC- Jennifer  C-4- Jae  CCLV- Astrid  Salvation Army- John  Between Friends- Yesenia  In-tact families- Ralphael | On-going | Surveys and cover letters; envelope for collecting surveys | Not reaching enough families within our target population; time-intensive | AIC, UCAN, RPCC, C-4, CCLV, Between Friends |
| 5. Translate survey into Spanish | Astrid | Completed July 2011 |  |  |  |
| 6. Analyze Data | Astrid | On-going |  |  |  |
| 7. Create report of needs assessment findings |  |  |  |  |  |

Input for the Chicago North Action Team **Vision**, **Mission, & Objectives** provided by the following team members:

* Barbara Burnett, DCFS
* Donnella Bishop, Birth Parent Council
* Donnis Briscoe, DCFS
* Iris Cuevas, DCFS
* Jae Jin Pak, C-4
* Jenetia Marshall, GAL
* Jennifer Caruso, Rogers Park Community Council
* John Czarnecki, DCFS
* Russ Hopkins, National Military Family Association
* Ralphael Longmire, DCFS
* Robin Robinson, DCFS
* Nathan Rosato, Lawrence Hall Youth Services
* Susan Mellema, DCF

 Alan Dettlaff, UIC