**PEP 2009**

**LOCAL ACTION TEAM**

**Christian, Logan, Mason, and Menard Counties**

(Lincoln and Taylorville Field Offices)

Christian, Logan, Mason, and Menard Counties are all rural communities with little cultural diversity. Covering 2180.93 square miles and having a total population of 93,457 (data from the 2006 census) the race breakdown is on an average 96.18% white, 2.55% African American, 0.23% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.43% Asian, and 0.30% Hispanic. Approximately 82.40% of the population in these three counties is high school graduates. Being a rural communities there are deficits and issues specific to each county. Below is a breakdown by county. It also lists Issues/Trends and what the PEP Action Team has done to address the problems and identify viable solutions.

1. Christian County
   * 1. Demographics
        1. Land Size; 709.6 square miles
        2. Population in 2006 35,063
        3. Population breakdown by percentage
           1. white 96.2%
           2. black 2.3%
           3. American Indian/Alaska Native 0.2%
           4. Asian 0.7%
           5. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander –
           6. Hispanic/Latino 1.2%
        4. High school grad 81.0%
     2. Issues/Trends
        1. Court issues
        2. transportation (on short notice)
        3. Substance abuse treatment
        4. Education
     3. Solutions
        1. There is a quarterly meeting with Judge Brad Paisley, State’s attorney David Martin, Christian County probation, law enforcement, and DCFS staff (investigator, supervisors, and managers). The next meeting will be in February 2009.
        2. There is a contract with Help at Home but they will not do last minute transportation. It is imperative for the caseworker and the client to plan ahead.
        3. Substance abuse treatment was being provided by Wells Treatment Center up until late 2008. There is Liberty in Taylorville who offers substance abuse treatment services. Supervisor will see if DCFS contract can get involved.
        4. Even Start meets Tri-annually. The meeting includes Lincoln Land Community College, schools, probation, local library director, public aid, and U of I extension. Next meeting is 01-20-09. This is a federally funded program and works with GED, English as a second language, teen parents, etc.
2. Logan County
   * 1. Demographics
        1. Land Size; 618.14 square miles
        2. Population in 2006 30,302
        3. Population breakdown by percentage
           1. White 91.4%
           2. Black 7.0%
           3. American Indian/Alaska native 0.2%
           4. Asian 0.8%
        4. High school grad 80.4%
     2. Issues/Trends
        1. Truancy
        2. Domestic Violence
        3. Court issues
        4. Transportation
        5. Substance abuse
     3. Solutions
        1. There is a truancy meeting that use to occur quarterly over the last 3 years. It now meets on an as needed basis. The meeting included LAN 15 representatives, Dist. #27 superintendent, Rural Family Services, DCFS caseworker/supervisor, school principal, teacher, special education coordinator, truant officers, probation, and parent/guardian. At the inception DCFS was receiving 20-25 cases through juvenile court for educational neglect. Over the last 18 months there has been one case received. There is a meeting in mid-January with the truant officers, DCFS, and Lincoln College representatives to set up a tutoring program in accordance with “No Child Left Behind”.
        2. There is a Domestic Violence Task Force which meets monthly. The committee includes DCFS, Healthy Community Partnership (hospital, health department), probation, school staff, law enforcement, circuit court staff, truancy officers, mental health, and local ministers. They work on trends and education.
        3. Over the last 3 years a DCFS caseworker has been required to be present at all POS (private agency) court hearings. This has been discussed with the judge who stated that DCFS is the legal guardian and will be present.
        4. There is one cab company in town (2 cabs). CIEDC is working on a grant for transportation for all residents in town. However, this will not be available until 2010 if the grant is approved. Help at Home is a DCFS contract agency for DCFS clients and will provide transportation with advanced notice.
        5. There are no providers in this county.
3. Mason County
   * 1. Demographics
        1. Land size; 538.94 square miles
        2. Population in 2006 15,503
        3. Population breakdown by percentage
           1. White 98.6%
           2. Black 0.3%
           3. American Indian/Alaska native 0.3%
        4. High school grad 79.9%
     2. Issues/Trends
        1. Substance Abuse
        2. Truancy/drop-out
        3. Transportation
        4. mental illness
     3. Solutions
        1. Mason County established the Mason County Drug Court about 18 months ago. Every Wednesday from 2pm-3pm Judge Brownfield, probation, law enforcement, the public defender, Circuit Clerk, Wells Treatment Center staff, and (sometimes) DCFS meet to discuss progress on the drug court participants. However, if a person is not a participant in the Mason County Drug Court there are no treatment providers in this county.
        2. There is a truancy meeting that use to occur quarterly (or more often as needed) over the last 3 years. It now meets on an as needed basis. The meeting included LAN 15 representatives, School Dist., Rural Family Services, DCFS caseworker/supervisor, school principal, teacher, special education coordinator, truant officers, probation, and parent/guardian. At the inception DCFS was receiving cases annually through juvenile court for educational neglect. There have been no cases received in the last 18 months.
        3. There is no public transportation. CIEDC is working on a grant for transportation for all residents in town. However, this will not be available until 2010 if the grant is approved. Help at Home is a DCFS contract agency for DCFS clients and will provide transportation with advanced notice
        4. There are no providers in this county.
4. Menard County
   * 1. Demographics
        1. Land size; 314.25 square miles
        2. Population in 2006 12,588
        3. Population breakdown by percentage
           1. White 98.5%
           2. Black 0.6%
           3. American Indian/Alaska native 0.2%
           4. Asian 0.2%
        4. High school grad 88.3%
     2. Issues/Trends
        1. Court issues
        2. Truancy/drop-out
        3. Transportation
        4. Substance abuse
        5. mental illness
     3. Solutions
        1. There is a quarterly meeting with Judge Pope, the state’s attorney, law enforcement, DCFS etc. The next meeting is scheduled for 01-05-09.
        2. There is a truancy meeting that use to occur quarterly over the last 3 years. It now meets on an as needed basis. The meeting included LAN 15 representatives, School Dist. superintendent, Rural Family Services, DCFS caseworker/supervisor, school principal, teacher, special education coordinator, truant officers, probation, and parent/guardian. At the inception DCFS was receiving cases through juvenile court for educational neglect. There have been no cases received in the last 18 months.
        3. There is no public transportation. CIEDC is working on a grant for transportation for all residents in town. However, this will not be available until 2010 if the grant is approved. Help at Home is a DCFS contract agency for DCFS clients and will provide transportation with advanced notice
        4. There are no providers in this county.