**University Partners PEP Annual Program Report**

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| **University Name: University of Illinois at Chicago Contact Person: Alan Dettlaff**  **Period covered: July 2013 – June 2014** | | |
| **Program Plan Activity** | **√ check all that apply for the month** | **Notes: Currently there are 6 “active” Action Teams; South Suburban, ITAV, Chicago Northside Families Safety Net, LAN 67, Progressive partners, 1911. LAN 60 has agreed to absorb the LAN 57, 58 & 60 and LAN 75 Action Teams effective August 2014.** |
| **General Technical Assistance and Training** | | |
| Support for Action Team goal setting and outcome planning | **√** | Six of the nine Cook Region Action Teams continue to use their strategic plans (mission, vision, objectives, strategies and action steps) to guide their work. Most of the teams have revised/updated their strategic plans to guide future work and to address the need for more collaboration to stabilize the membership within the teams. See attached Action Team Status Update for June 2014 for further details on the status of each action team and future plans. |
| Support for Stakeholder Engagement and Linkages | **√** | UIC’s Technical Assistant (TA) continued to help teams re-engage stakeholders with a variety of strategies including direct outreach (phones calls, emails, site visits), holding monthly meetings at partner agencies, and ensuring that the PEP website contains the most up to date information on each of the teams. |
| General Troubleshooting | **√** | The TA continued efforts to re-engage the three inactive Action Teams; with the help of some former members of the LAN 57, 58, 60 Action Team, LAN 60 (led by Rick Tangedahl) has agreed to absorb the action team along with the LAN 75 action team beginning in August 2014. They will follow the model being used by South Suburban whereby the Action Team is a subcommittee of the LAN. In addition, the 1911 Action Team has begun to meet again and is still being chaired by Derrick Faulkner. |
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| **Targeted Support for “High-Need” Action Teams** | | |
| Support for race-informed, culturally responsive child welfare practice | **√** | Progressive Partners Action Team received the preliminary report from the African American Family Commission on the survey results regarding fictive kin. The team is working through Rochelle Crump to secure the final report so that they can began strategic planning for the next fiscal year.  It Takes a Village Action Team’s Birth Parent Guides have been printed. The team is working to secure final approval from DCFS Communication before distributing them. The team is also awaiting results of their Birth Parent Survey from the African American Family Commission. They would like to host a town hall meeting with Birth Parents to debut the Birth Parent Guide, as well as the results of the survey.  The Chicago Northside Families Safety Net Action Team has successfully completed Statewide Database Training in order to provide their community partners with needed access to resources. Additionally, they have completed Parent Café training and are currently working with one of their community partners to co-host. The team plans to survey current and former Action Team members in order to plan the future direction of the team and to increase participation levels.  The South Suburban Action Team is looking into acquiring funding in order to continue with being able to provide wrap around services to the community.  The LAN 67 Action Team continues to serve as a resource clearing house for the communities it serves. The team is currently looking at ways to use social media to help in this effort.  All of the Action Teams have discussed their struggles with engaging community members and getting them to the table, specifically the justice system, law enforcement, and school staff. The Action Teams’ have committed to using the most recent data from DCFS reports to drive strategic planning for the upcoming fiscal year.  In addition, Dr. Dettlaff met several times throughout the year with the PEP Data subcommittee to identify strategies to improve the data available to the action teams to further support the goals of this project. |
| **Evaluation Services (Statewide and/or Regional):**  Examine the following research questions using a series of qualitative and quantitative evaluation techniques: | | |
| Question 1:To what extent are diverse sectors of community stakeholder groups represented and engaged with Local Permanency Enhancement Action Teams? | **√** | The six action teams have been meeting monthly during this period in a combination of in-person and conference call meetings. Meetings have been attended by core members of each Action Team and some new members, however each team recognizes the need to have personnel from the courts, health and law enforcement, as well as staff members from DCFS, POS agencies and community-based organizations. |
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| Question 2**:** To what extent have stakeholder and staff attitudes, beliefs and practices changed in ways that promote permanency as a result of PEP Action Team participation? | **√** | The Action Teams used DCFS data to develop their strategic plans. This year has focused on re-engaging former members and recruiting new members.  The teams have also worked on keeping the PEP website up to date. |
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| Question 3: To what extent have cross-systems collaboration and communication improved as a result of PEP Action Team participation? | **√** | South Suburban Action Team has been absorbed into the South Suburban LAN as a subcommittee. Similarly, LAN 60 has agreed to absorb the LAN 57, 58, 60 and LAN 75 Action Teams.  ITAV and Progressive Partners co-chairs have been in talks about ways that they can collaborate or merge in order to maintain sustainability. |
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| Question 4: To what extent do racial disparities and disproportionate outcomes exist as evidenced by: 1) abuse and neglect reports; 2) total indicated reports; 3) foster care entries, and 4) current children in foster care? | **√** | Data continue to indicate the presence of racial disparities at most decision points. These disparities are observed primarily for African American children. |
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| Question 5: To what extent have racial disparities in foster care entries changed over time (between FY 08-FY13)? | **√** | Data indicate that although disparities exist, they have slightly decreased since 2008. |
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| **Statewide University Partner Initiatives** | | |
| Develop outcome evaluation measurement tools and data collection protocols | **√** | The six active teams understand the importance of using the VMOSA/logic models to help them measure the outcomes and effectiveness of their activities. Reports continue to show the existence of disproportionality and disparities within the Cook region. |
| Facilitate statewide and/or national presentations related to the Permanency Enhancement Project at the request of DCFS administrators | **√** | Dr. Dettlaff has presented data at area meetings and at the Quarterly Regional Stakeholder meeting. Dr. Dettlaff also presented at a data summit organized by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University. |
| Host annual/semi-annual University Partner Collaborative meetings to share technical assistance strategies, materials, information/problem solving | **√** | University Partner meetings were held this year to focus on improving the data provided by DCFS to support the PEP and the Action Teams. |
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| **Statewide Permanency Enhancement Website** | | |
| Host the PEP statewide website (ISU) |  |  |
| Contribute to the PEP statewide website (all university partners) | **√** | The TA worked with Action Teams and website contacts to update the PEP website with the latest meeting minutes, agendas, flyers and strategic plans. |
| **Statewide and National Information Dissemination** | | |
| Information dissemination (per DCFS request): Conference presentations, videotaped vignettes of stakeholders, policy papers, and written and/or oral reports as requested by DCFS leadership. | **√** | Dr. Dettlaff presented data from the Southern Region to a data summit organized by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University. |
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| **Collaborations with partner initiatives** | | |
| Collaborations (per DCFS request): Collaborate with leaders of partner initiatives such as the “Illinois Transformation Teams”, the “Illinois Family Advocacy Center program initiates, and Illinois Court Improvement initiatives.” | **√** | Dr. Dettlaff continued to participate as a member of the Cook Region Transformation Team |
| Additional Notes: | | |