PEP University Partners Meeting

December 14th, 2016

1040 W. Harrison Street

Chicago, IL 60607-7134

10 am-12 pm

1. Introductions

Attendance: Sabrina Tatum, Michael Burns, Jayme Swanke, Doris Houston, Jim Gleeson Angela Baron-Jeffrey, Sarah Agamah

1. Update on Action Teams

*Jim-shared some of the struggles UIC was having with being able to support the Action Teams. Leadership and participation is not as strong in several of the LANs. LAN 67 is very active and submitted a proposal to be an Immersion site, but has not been supported by the Department. It takes a village (ITAV)is focusing on their Birth Parent Orientation, and remains active. However, Jeff needs a more supportive co-convener who can help lead meetings when he is gone. Progressive Partners was only able to meet once in September. They planned to continue work on the fictive kin legislation, but need more consistent involvement of the action teams. South Suburban has not been able to meet since the summer, and their support base Sadie Manor lost funding. Northside Action team has not been meeting due to the two co-chairs being unable to lead. The lack of data by zip codes has been a huge barrier to UICs ability to provide support to ATs.*

*Jayme- voiced struggles with supporting Action Teams down state similar to UIC. A lot of funding has been cut, and it has been hard to keep teams going. Lack of data and lack of funding make it hard to be of assistance, and it feels like we are back at square one. In St Clair, judges attend meetings. More rural teams are also having troubles, and there is a high turnover. University partners are trying to help by asking ATs what they are doing on a daily basis, and how they can make their tasks easier*.

1. PEP steering committee meeting Update

*Jim- Mindshare is a new data management software that DCFS is rolling out. At the last PEP Steering committee meeting, we were told that it won’t be available until March. Data can be aggregated at a certain level, or by case. Data can be downloaded into Excel analyzed by fields and can be manipulated.*

*Michael- Resources are being funneled into making the data available across state agencies. Cynthia had a conversation with Richard from Chapin Hall and they should be able to get more data for FY16 but the data would not be broken down by zip code.*

1. Regional Update on PEP

*Michael- Identify tools that University partners /provide to the ATs. Jayme said that they have worked on helping foster parents with writing letters to the judge, form letters to recruit new members, and a manual for St. Claire etc.*

*Doris suggested that we upload the resources to the website for everyone to access and to offer a sub header that makes it easy to find.*

*Sabrina suggested that posting recruitment letters, fliers that have been developed, and newspaper articles featuring events to the website is a way to encourage people to go onto the website*

1. Program Plans

 *Michael asked that we submit Program Plans this month so that he can get the spending plan in place, ideally by next week. We must consider how we are going to make sure that we can continue the relationship of PEP University Partners with DCFS once Michael retires. Angela asked, how should we be modifying the program plans so that the Immersion sites can be included? Michael said to include a broad paragraph that would allow for collaboration with Immersion Site directors. Sabrina mentioned that we should emphasize how university partners can provide continuity to the action teams.*

1. Reports

*Start Monitoring process earlier, around march. Michael will send us any information that he has about what needs to be done.*

*We should hold off on the Annual Report because we need the data from DCFS to provide a complete report.*

*Michael- June 16th African American Council will be held at the Bone Center at ISU-potentially focus on adoption.*