

### Semi-Annual Reporting: IDCFS Permanency Enhancement Action Plan Follow-up

#	Selected Outcome	Outcome Objective
<b>X</b>	Improve <b>Remain Home</b> Permanency Outcomes	Increase the % of Youth who are diverted from foster care following an indicated CANTS report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve <b>Return Home</b> Permanency Outcomes	Increase the % of youth in foster care who return home within 12 months
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve <b>Adoption/Guardianship</b> Permanency Outcomes	Increase the % of youth in foster care who achieve permanency through adoption or guardianship
<b>X</b>	Improve Cultural Responsiveness to Reduce <b>Overrepresentation of African American Youth</b> in Foster Care	Decrease the % of African American youth who enter or remain in foster care

<p>Summarize actions, decisions, and policies implemented to move your action plan forward</p>	<p><b><u>Action team priority outcomes:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Return home is the action team's priority outcome</li> <li>● Reducing overrepresentation of African American youth in foster care is the action team's priority outcome and a region wide priority outcome</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Targeted actions: community related (communication)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The action team has implemented community brown bags to promote education and awareness about issues that contribute to child abuse and neglect.</li> <li>● The action team has implemented several sub-committees that focus on education and community outreach. The sub-committees include:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parenting</li> <li>- Family Affair</li> <li>- 24 hour crisis</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The action team will plan two community-wide forums per year to engage stakeholders in a dialogue about family preservation, permanency, and available resources.</li> </ul>
--	---

<p>Describe successes/milestones associated with your action plan</p>	<p><b><u>Success/milestones</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stakeholder participation has been outstanding. The group has established a monthly, consistent meeting time.</li> <li>● Several subcommittees have been established as follows:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Family affair ( plans family oriented outings and activities that promote family health and wellness)</li> <li>- Parenting ( identifies prevention and intervention resources to support family life)</li> <li>- Family Support and training (24 hour crisis intervention and advocacy for families and youth)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Describe barriers that have hampered progress related to your action plan</p>	<p><b><u>Barriers: agency related</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lack of recent, local data to track and document changes in permanency rates</li> <li>● Lack of recent, local data to track and document disproportionality among African American Youth in care.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Barriers: Community related</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lack of contracted service providers that have a demonstrated record of effectively serving African American families and youth.</li> <li>● There is disagreement among community stakeholders regarding the action team priority goals and actions. The team needs to work more effectively to engage in focused efforts to address permanency outcome goals</li> </ul>
<p>Identify any additional information or resources needed to overcome barriers</p>	<p><b><u>Information/Resources needed:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recent, local permanency data is needed to track progress related to permanency</li> <li>● The action team needs assistance in strategic planning to achieve the desired permanency outcome goals</li> <li>● The action team needs assistance in addressing group dynamics that may hamper the group from prioritizing action plan goals and objectives</li> </ul>
<p>Identify any changes in strategies or actions that your team plans to make during the next six months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The action team will work toward more focused efforts</li> <li>● The action team is establishing a new community –based agency/service provider to implement culturally responsive services and advocacy to meet the needs of overrepresented African American Families and youth.</li> </ul>

**ISU Notes/Recommendations:**

**Community Collaboration:**

Based on the semi-annual summary, community collaboration appears to be strong. The team may want to think about ways to promote greater action team participation among underrepresented stakeholders such as birth parents, foster parents, former DCFS wards, faith based groups, and business community leaders. Additional recommendations to promote community collaboration include:

- Use the “Community Partnership Planning Guide” as a planning tool for strategically targeting new stakeholder participants and the roles they can play in contributing resources, manpower, ideas toward the achievement of the action plan goals.
- Partner with local businesses to plan and fund a media campaign (newspaper, radio, TV, church flyers, etc), to invite community participants to become engaged in the action team meetings.
- Partner with the local access television station to videotape and televise the action team meetings as a means of informing the community about permanency issues and community needs. This would be ideal for rural residents who want to stay informed but who cannot attend meetings.

**Use of data to inform decision making:**

- Work with DCFS RA and ISU to determine the best means of accessing current, local permanency data.
- Review and discuss 2007 county level permanency outcome data (available 3/08).
- Collect and examine the stats on adoption disruptions in order to plan for future permanency services.
- Based on permanency outcome data, determine the action plan steps that need to be prioritized.

**Racial/ethnic disproportionality:**

- Review current census data determine changes in demographic composition of the county that could impact future service needs for children and families in the targeted counties.
- Review foster care placement data to determine the number of African American and Latino children currently being cared for in foster homes to track permanency outcomes and determine service needs

**Documentation of progress:**

- Continue to document progress through Action Team Meeting Minute Notes.
- Consider developing a quarterly newsletter for your action team to be distributed among community stakeholders, churches, social service agencies, etc.
- Solicit a stakeholder volunteer such as a foster parent, school staff member, retired citizen, or church leader to develop and disseminate the newsletter/community update.

**Developing realistic and achievable action plan goals and activities:**

- Develop short-term, concrete actions and activities that are realistically achievable in 3-6 months
- Develop long-term goals that are achievable in 9-12 months
- Discuss and track action plan success, milestones, barriers at each stakeholder meeting
- Review and discuss county level permanency achievement goals and activities quarterly with stakeholders

**Annual review/revision of the 2007 action plan:**

- Action team leader should participate in a Central Region Action Plan workgroup meeting in spring 2008 facilitated by ISU (Date TBD). The purpose of the workgroup will be to re-visit the original action plans, and develop the following strategies:

ISU Center for adoption studies

(Spring 2008)

Team leader(s): Heidi Gulbrandson, PSA  
(Oscar Gipson/Gi Gi Lambert)  
508 S. Race  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217-278-5469  
Heidi.Gulbrandson@illinois.gov

- Strategies for assessing the effectiveness of the original action plan.
- Strategies for revising reformulating the original action plan.
- Strategies for community engagement and stakeholder participation.
- Strategies for assessing and addressing key areas of cultural competence (internal and external) that could impact disproportionality.
- Strategies for documenting action team progress.