



**CENTRAL REGION
PERMANENCY
ENHANCEMENT
PROJECT**

PEORIA COUNTY,
ILLINOIS

DECEMBER 2008



*Central Region
Permanency
Enhancement
Project*



From Robert Blackwell, Central Region Administrator for Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, March 14, 2007:

“The Central Region Permanency Enhancement Symposium was held in 2007 and represents the culmination of a six year process to address the over representation of African American children in foster care that began with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services African American Advisory Council. During this period, representatives from the Council met with several directors of the Department to discuss the role, philosophy and practice of staff that affected the safety, permanency and well-being of African American children in care. The issues presented focused on examining our current practices and how to engage birth parents, community stakeholders, and child welfare professionals to provide better results . . . with the goal of reducing over representation of African American children in care.”



Goals of the CRPEP Team

1. *Reduce overrepresentation of African American youth in foster care*
2. *Improve Return Home permanency outcomes*
3. *Maintain children in the home*
4. *Improve Adoption/Guardianship permanency outcomes*

The overall goal of DCFS is to provide quicker reunification and to prevent entry into the system. It is of high priority to move clients through the system as quickly as possible to gain permanent outcomes in a timely fashion.

Join the Action Team!

Next Meeting:
Peoria County Courthouse
324 Main St. Peoria, IL
January 8, 2009 11:30a.m.



2004 Peoria County	Number of Children	
	Caucasian	African American
Permanency at 12 months	14	8
Permanency at 24 months	28	28
Permanency at 36 months	58	52
Median Length of Stay (Months)	33	31

*University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana

2007 Peoria County Statistics	
Caucasians under 18	28,311
African American under 18	12,561
Caucasian child abuse reports	279
African American child abuse	339

*United States Census Bureau

- Current Participants
- CASA
 - DCFS
 - GAL
 - State's Attorney
 - Children's Home
 - Lutheran Social Services
 - Catholic Social Services
 - Judges
 - Family to Family
 - ISU School of Social Work
 - South Side Mission

2007 in Peoria County	Number of Children	
	Caucasian	African American
Traditional Foster	68	133
Specialized Foster	52	103
Kinship Care	83	177
Institutional/Group	10	22

*United States Census Bureau

Current CRPEP Team Projects

- Recruitment of foster homes in specific areas and populations
- Reducing time in care and addressing the issues and barriers that exist
- Improving staff training as there appears to be inadequate foundations training as staff are unprepared for court
- Continue to the next step regarding a cross-training needs assessment that has been completed
- Standardization of counseling and treatment reports to make charts easier to understand
- Utilize in-service trainings to train staff with outside speakers
- Addressing communication breakdown between DCFS and private agencies, case workers, supervisors, and management regarding court report problems

Web Links of Interest



DCFS

<http://www.state.il.us/dcfs/index.shtml>

CASA

<http://www.nationalcasa.org/>