DCFS Northern Region Permanency Enhancement Project

Community Engagement

Fiscal Year 2014
July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014
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Introduction

For more than a decade, a voluminous amount of research has focused on disproportionality and disparity of children of color in the child welfare system. Efforts were undertaken in each of the four DCFS regions statewide. This research indicates that racial disparities exist at key decision points for children of color in the foster care system. Overrepresentation and disparity for children of color have negative consequences on the permanency goals for children in foster care and on their outcomes. These issues are of great concern to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). In fact, DCFS began to examine these issues several years ago and has been taking measures to understand and address racial disproportionality, disparity, and permanency for children of color in the child welfare system.

This report will provide information on efforts by DCFS to begin eliminating racial inequities and inequitable treatment in the Illinois child welfare system. Efforts were undertaken in each of the four DCFS regions statewide. The report provides an overview of the DCFS Permanency Enhancement Project in the Northern Region, data findings related to racial disproportionality and disparity, and a summary of activities undertaken by local community action teams that are working to improve permanency outcomes and reduce racial disproportionality and disparity in their counties.

DCFS Permanency Enhancement Project-Northern Region

As mentioned above, DCFS is committed to addressing issues related to racial disproportionality and disparities. Recognition of these issues and the desire to achieve greater equity for all children in child welfare has led to the Illinois Permanency Enhancement Project (PEP). PEP is a statewide initiative that began with the DCFS African American Advisory Council, and was launched in the Northern Region of the state in 2008 following a two year pilot in the Central Region.

DCFS in partnership with Northern Illinois University Center for Child Welfare and Education (NIU-CCWE) hosted community forums in several of the larger counties bringing community stakeholders together to discuss issues and concerns in their neighborhoods. Following this, DCFS, the African American Family Commission and NIU-CCWE collaborated in organizing and offering a region wide symposium at which participants reviewed permanency data and qualitative data from focus groups and community forums. Through this process, DCFS started to engage community stakeholders in its work to improve permanency outcomes and reduce racial disproportionality. The work has continued to the present.¹

¹ Additional information on the steps that DCFS took to implement PEP statewide is in Appendix 1.
Northern Region PEP Action Teams

One of the primary ways in which DCFS maintains its commitment of addressing disproportionality and disparity in the Northern Region is through continued support for and collaboration with local county action teams. Seven of the largest counties in the Northern Region sustained action teams and activities this fiscal year despite challenges of changing leadership and participation. Currently, PEP action teams are located in: DeKalb, Kane, Kankakee, Lake, McHenry, Will, and Winnebago. This accounts for 71% of the 3,501 children in foster care in the Northern Region.

These local county action teams are comprised of a DCFS appointed co-leader, a voluntary community co-leader, and various community stakeholders (churches, court, caregivers, schools, agencies, DCFS, law enforcement, etc.). The co-leaders share the responsibility of facilitating the action team meetings and keeping the team focused.

Members of the community collaborate with DCFS and take an active role in supporting PEP goals, and NIU-CCWE provides consultation as needed. Local action teams develop objectives designed to help attain at least one of the primary PEP goals, which are: a) improve efforts to prevent foster care entry b) improve reunification permanency outcomes, c) improve adoption/guardianship permanency outcomes, and d) address disproportionality and disparate treatment of children of color.

Action teams work on activities they believe will be beneficial to the children and families in their local communities. Teams dialogue about issues that cause or impact racial disproportionality and/or permanency, develop objectives to address the issues, create plans to accomplish the objectives, and implement strategies.

Action teams also receive county specific permanency and disproportionality data from DCFS during the year. This data provides information on the number of children in their counties and the demographics of the children by gender, race, permanency goal, and DCFS living arrangement type. Counties also receive information pertinent to permanency such as: number of entries into foster care by race and age group; source of abuse/neglect reports and indicated reports; number of children investigated, etc. Action teams are able to use the data to become more aware of issues regarding disproportionality, disparity, and permanency in their counties; identify where to focus their attention; and monitor their outcomes. The following sections present the racial demographic profile of these counties and permanency data that reflects racial disproportionality and disparity rates.
Demographic Profile of Counties with Action Teams

As noted earlier, there are action teams in seven of the largest counties in the Northern Region, namely: DeKalb, Kane, Kankakee, Lake, McHenry, Will, and Winnebago. The action team data reported below is derived from 2013 to 2014 data provided by DCFS Quality Assurance. Altogether there were 2,846 children in foster care in these seven counties as of 6-30-14 (see Appendix 2). Of these children, 1,468 were male and 1,378 were female. As shown in Figure 1, there is slightly more male than female in all but one county. All counties had a distribution of children from birth to over 18, yet in each county the largest percentage of children were under five (see Figure 2). In fact, on average, 39% of children in foster care were five years old or less. The population sizes in these counties range from 23,184 in DeKalb County to 190,857 in Lake County according to the US Census Bureau’s 2013 projected estimate. The number of children in DCFS’ care in these counties as of 6-30-14 ranged from 92 to 1,321 (see Appendix 2).

Figure 1: Gender

Figure 2: Age Ranges
The vast majority of children in these seven counties were in foster and/or relative placements. Of all the counties, Kankakee County had the highest percentage of children in residential placement (14%) and Will had the highest percentage of independent living arrangements (10%). (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Placement Type**

Furthermore, nearly half of the number of children in care in these seven counties had a permanency goal of reunification, approximately 44%, while a quarter of children had the goal of adoption or subsidized guardianship (see Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Permanency Goals**
Racial Disproportionality in the Northern Region

The vision of PEP in the Northern Region of Illinois centers on improving permanency outcomes and reducing disproportionate representation and disparate treatment/outcomes of African American and Hispanic American children in foster care through DCFS partnership with community stakeholders.

Disproportionality refers to differences in the percentage of children of a certain racial or ethnic group in the population as compared to the percentage of children of the same group in the child welfare system. The disproportionality between the percentage of African American children and white children in Northern Illinois is prominent. According to the 2013 projected estimate of the US Census Bureau, African American children comprised only 7% of the general population under 18 in the Northern Region, yet 44% of children in foster care in this region are African American. Actually in this region, African American children are the only racial/ethnic group that has a higher percentage of children in foster care than in the general population. This is illustrated below in Figure 5.

**Figure 5: Race/Ethnicity Disproportionality in the DCFS Northern Region**

The disproportionality rate for African American children in the Northern Region (calculated by dividing the percentage of African American children in foster care by the percentage of children in the general population) is 6.34. This rate varied across the seven counties with action teams, yet each had a rate that exceeded three times that of children in the general population. The disproportionality rates of African American children in the population from highest to lowest are as follows: Lake 8.6%, Kane 6.7%, McHenry 5%, Will 3.9%, Kankakee 3.5%, DeKalb 3.4% and Winnebago 3.3%.

Racial/Ethnic Disparity in the Northern Region

Disparity is observed when there is unequal treatment in services to one segment of a community relative to other segments. In child welfare, disparity is often examined at the following key decision points: investigation of reports, indicated report, entry into foster care placement, and long term...
placement. When DCFS receives a hotline call that a child has been abused or neglected, they make a decision as to whether or not to investigate to determine if there is evidence that support the alleged accusation. If the investigation determines there is credible evidence of the alleged abuse or neglect, an indicated report is filed. The decision that follows is whether the child should be removed from the home of the caregiver and placed in the care and custody of the state (foster care). Following this, a child remains in foster care until DCFS is able to achieve the permanency goal of returning the child into his/her family or community, that is reunification with family, adoption/guardianship or aging out for older youth.

Disparity existed at some key decision points in the Northern Region, for both African American and Hispanic children. African American children were over six times more likely to be investigated as victims of abuse or neglect than any other children; Hispanic children were less likely to be investigated than white children. However, Hispanic children were about 20% more likely to have indicated reports while there was no disparity for African American children. Both African American and Hispanic children were more likely to enter foster care than white children. African American children were 76% more likely and Hispanic children were 14% more likely to enter foster care than white children (see Figures 6 and 7 below).

**Figure 6: Disparity between African American and White Children in the Northern Region at Key Decision Points, 7/1/13 – 6/30/14**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disparity (AA/Wht)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Investigated: 6.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indicated: 1.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entry: 1.76</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Figure 7: Disparity between Hispanic and White Children in the Northern Region at Key Decision Points, 7/1/13 – 6/30/14**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disparity (Hisp/Wht)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigated: 0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicated: 1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry: 1.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disparity in Action Teams

At the county level, action teams examined the source of hotline reports of abuse or neglect that bring children to the attention of the child welfare system. Law enforcement reported the highest number of alleged maltreatment. As such, law enforcement representatives are critical stakeholders in local action teams that are seeking to impact the goal of prevention. Schools had the second highest number of reports filed but a significantly high percentage of these are unfounded (see Appendix 4). Some of the action teams sought school representation and discussed perceived needs to modify mandated reporting to improve school’s understanding.

Furthermore, in all seven counties, African American children were significantly more likely to be investigated than white children. The disparities ranged from: Lake 6.36, McHenry 4.79, Kane 5.17, DeKalb 4.16, Will 3.81, Winnebago 3.32 and Kankakee 2.48. This means that disparity for African American children were anywhere from two to six times more likely to be investigated, than white children.

The key decision point that follows investigation of alleged child abuse or neglect is whether the report is deemed to be substantiated, that is whether the findings indicate abuse or neglect. In Kankakee County, African American children were 41% more likely to be indicated for child abuse or neglect following investigation of reports while Will County they were 18% more likely. There was no disparity in the rate of indicated cases in other counties.

During the fiscal year of this report, the combined total of entries in the seven active counties was 1,131, ranging from 26 children in Kankakee to 424 in Winnebago. The largest percentage of entries was birth to five. A significantly large proportion of children entering foster care in most of these counties were African American. The disparity indices for entry into foster care for African Americans ranged from no disparity in DeKalb County (0.90) to more than three times more likely to enter for Lake County (3.18). The other counties ranged between 30% higher entry rate to 63%. On the other hand, the entry disparity for Hispanic children ranged from: DeKalb 5.28, Kankakee 2.94, Winnebago 2.59, Lake 2.04, Kane 1.30 and Will 1.29. McHenry County did not have any disparity for this decision point for Hispanic children. It must be noted, however, that some counties such as DeKalb, McHenry and Kankakee had such a small data set for Hispanics, that these numbers may not be quite as reflective as those for African Americans.

Overall, the data did not show a high disparity for Hispanics for the investigated and indicated key decision points except for in Will (1.71) and Lake (1.40) counties. In fact, in all of the action team counties, Hispanics were much less likely to be investigated than whites.
Long Term Placement

Children of color are also more likely to remain in long term placement than other racial groups in Illinois. In the Northern Region, African American children remain in foster care the longest. As shown in Figure 8 below which demonstrates children in foster care with open cases after 36 months or longer, 35.1% of African American children remained in foster care compared with 28.0% White and 19.4% Hispanic children. Long term placement data for each county with action teams was unavailable.

![Figure 8: Percent of DCFS Cases Open for More than 36 Months* as of 6/30/14](image)

*Children who have returned home but their cases remain open as of 6/30/14 were not included.

Action Team Activities

The seven action teams have been working to address problems related to disproportionality, disparity, and permanency, each focusing on at least one of the primary PEP goals: reduce disproportionality and disparate treatment; reduce the rate at which children are brought into the child welfare system; increase the number of children who are reunified with their families; and stabilize post-adoptive placements.

Most of the action teams were active throughout the year. Some action teams got off to a slow start due to reorganization of DCFS staff and weather related conditions during the past winter. Despite these challenges, most teams were able to remain engaged and active. Action teams met monthly. They received DCFS county information about demographics of children in foster care, maltreatment reports, investigation, entry into foster care, permanency, etc. They were able to use these as well as anecdotal data from members of the action team to guide their discussions, plans and actions.

Below summarizes some overarching objectives that a number of the action teams worked on this year.

- Communicate, educate, and help families to fully integrate in the communities by connecting families to available resources that can improve their lives and defray involvement in the child welfare system
- Work to build trust and collaborative relationships and communication among
schools, court, private agencies, parents, and community members

- Seek grant opportunities to assist with action team goals and objectives
- Continue recruitment and retention of community stakeholders
- Maintain stabilization of action teams

The section below highlights some activities, challenges and accomplishments in action teams, specifically:

- Kankakee County Action Team - partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters to mentor youth
- Winnebago County Action Team - symposium with 180 participants to increase awareness of disproportionality and disparity, and encourage greater participation
- Lake County Action Team - strong DCFS field office and community support circle
- McHenry County Action Team - engaging the Hispanic community one family at a time

Kankakee County Action Team

Kankakee County Action Team is an example of a team that has continued to maintain a collaborative relationship with the Juvenile Court System and community-based organizations. The action team in collaboration with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) submitted a grant proposal to the Court Improvement Program (CIP) to offer mentoring services to foster children. CIP is a federally funded initiative designed to improve the quality of the court processes for children and families involved in abuse, neglect, dependency, and termination of parental rights proceedings. The proposal was awarded and the implementation of the program (Project Uplift) began in fiscal year 2014.

**About the program**

Project Uplift is a mentoring program that matches foster children ages 6-13 with positive role models in Kankakee County. The program is designed to provide mentoring services through supportive adult mentoring relationships, with a goal of reducing their time in foster care and increasing the likelihood of successful reunification with their biological families. The mentoring services focus on establishing a positive youth development framework.
Key staff, enrollment process and training
Project Uplift mentoring services are supported by a BBBS Match Support Specialist who worked with the Kankakee Action Team to recruit, screen, and train volunteer mentors. A committee of five people from various sections of the community participated in a focus group to determine where and how to recruit mentors in Kankakee County.

Each volunteer mentor undergoes screening and a rigorous enrollment process. The enrollment process includes a national criminal background check, national child abuse registry check, in-person interview, local criminal records, motor vehicle department check, and reference check.

Approved mentors for Project Uplift receive training conducted by BBBS. The training modules contain information on relationship building, cultural competency, communication skills, child development, family systems, problem solving, child sexual abuse, and positive youth development.

Mentor matching and support
In matching a mentor and youth BBBS takes into consideration factors, such as similar interest of the youth and volunteer, the mentor’s life experiences, and the needs of the youth. Mentors provide one-to-one mentoring that is intended to last a minimum of 12 months. Mentors meet with their youth on a regular basis and engage in various activities.

For the first year, BBBS monitors the mentoring relationships of Project Uplift through monthly phone contact with the mentor, foster parent and/or youth. Progress of the mentor-youth relationship, frequency of meetings, safety and other concerns are tracked and documented in the BBBS Agency Information Management System. After the first year, contact with participants is reduced to quarterly.

Becoming a mentor is a role of great reward and consequence. Research has shown that consistent mentoring relationships can have positive benefits. For those who choose this path it can become a beacon of light that guides youth as they navigate their way through the journey of life. So far, the program has matched 15 youth with a community-based mentor.

Winnebago County Action Team
Winnebago County Action Team (WCAT) continued to focus on the goals of addressing disproportionality and permanency. The action team objectives were to: host a symposium which would highlight community resources available throughout Winnebago County, provide educational sessions on various topics beneficial to the community, and recruit more stakeholder participation. The action team submitted a proposal for a CIP grant to fund the symposium.
Planning the symposium
In fiscal year 2014, the action team was granted $8,000 to host their symposium to child welfare employees, law enforcement, the courts, community organizers, caregivers, private agencies, and educational staff. The WCAT formed several committees within their action team to focus on completing the activities required to accomplish their goals and objectives. Committee groups were as follows:

- Registration committee
- Open house / symposium / logistics committee
- Vender invitation committee
- Invitation via Meeting Wizard committee
- Education: Keynote speaker / Breakout speaker / Panel committee
- Continental breakfast / Lunch committee

Committee members began meeting weekly instead of monthly in February 2014 to plan, discuss progress and address issues they were facing. These weekly meetings with committee members and WCAT played a significant role in the strategic planning of the symposium.

The symposium
On May 15, 2014 WCAT hosted their symposium at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford campus titled “The Race is On to Save and Protect Our Children.” One hundred and eighty participants representing diverse community stakeholders were in attendance. Symposium sessions included the following topics:

- Protective Factors: Building Family Resiliency
- Prevention Services within our Community
- Abuse vs. Discipline
- Working with Intellectually challenged population
- Should You Report: Mandated Reporting

Symposium outcomes
Evaluation forms were used to assess outcomes. Of the symposium participants, 92% indicated that their knowledge and awareness of disproportionality and disparity increased. Ninety-one percent indicated information received at the symposium was useful. Additionally, 80% of attendees who participated in the keynote address, plenary, breakout sessions and the vendor booth exposition agreed that they would take action.
Given that the objectives were to expose people to community resources, to increase knowledge and awareness about disproportionality and disparity and encourage engagement of more community stakeholders, the results were successful.

**Lake County Action Team**

The Lake County Action Team is one of the few that boasts of strong support from DCFS field office staff. This is very encouraging to the DCFS co-leader of the action team who emphasized that: “the Waukegan Field Office staff is very invested in the action team all DCFS divisions within the office participate.”

**Making connections to support families**

The Lake County Action Team benefits from the involvement and support of a cross-section of staff within the Waukegan field office. Increased investment of staff in DCFS local offices provide visible and practical evidence to people in the community that the Illinois child welfare system truly cares, and it is serious about the commitment to partner with stakeholders for better outcomes. DCFS has been using interns to connect with churches in the community and parents to find out about their needs and learning interest.

**Facilitating Families with Court Appearances**

Lake County Action Team identified that families whose children are in the DCFS system experience difficulty getting to and from court. The action team is in negotiation with representatives from PACE Transit Authority to extend the bus route which would enable families to attend their scheduled court appearances. In addition, the team notes currently, there is one court room that hears abuse and neglect cases on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The action team is in discussion with the juvenile judge court in an attempt to add another court room for abuse and neglect cases.

The action team has also been able to maintain a diverse group of community stakeholders including a juvenile court judge, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).
McHenry County Action Team

The McHenry County Action Team decided to focus specifically on disparate treatment and outcomes of Hispanic children in their county as compared to white children. This county has a significantly larger percentage of children who are Hispanic (17%) than those who are African American (2%) in their general population. Moreover, Hispanic children in this county have been more likely to have indicated reports upon investigation for abuse or neglect than white children and have been more likely to enter foster care. During the period 7-1-12 to 6-30-13, a Hispanic child was about 2.5 times more likely to be indicated than a white child and 21% more likely to enter foster care.

Addressing Disparate treatment of Hispanic Families
The action team expressed concern that Hispanic families had a negative perception of DCFS in the community. Fear and mistrust of DCFS amongst undocumented people is another factor they believed impacted the relationship with DCFS. To address disparity of this population, and improve community perception, the action team focused on family engagement as a core component. This became a large part of their discussion during action team meetings.

Also during this fiscal year a new bilingual investigator with a background as a DCFS intact worker moved to this office and began participating in the action team meetings. As such, he has been involved in the discussion about disparate treatment and outcomes and the negative perception the community has of DCFS.

Disparity Reversed for Hispanic children
During the fiscal year of this report (7-1-13 to 6-30-14), there was a complete reversal of the disparity for Hispanic children in McHenry County. The rate at which Hispanic children were indicated declined from 2.5 times more likely to equally as likely as that of white children. Moreover, in this time period the 21% disparity with regard to entry was eliminated; only one Hispanic child entered foster care (see Figure 9).

The DCFS action team co-leader attributed these improvements to the family engagement of the new bilingual investigator who participates in the action team meetings. The DCFS co-leader stated that this year when working with Hispanic families, a therapeutic, supportive approach was emphasized rather than a punitive response to addressing issues with families. She believed that this approach resulted in greater cooperation of families, fewer indications of abuse and neglect, and fewer instances of removal from home.
If the action team co-leader’s assessment of what made the difference is accurate, it would appear that engaging families differently can help in the Department’s effort to attain equity for children of color in child welfare and improve permanency outcomes.

**General Support for Action Teams**

This past fiscal year NIU-CCWE provided data analysis, planning, consultation and technical assistance to support PEP. NIU-CCWE has supported the action teams in the Northern Region in various ways; one method was collaborating with DCFS co-leaders and community co-leaders. Prior to scheduled action team monthly meetings, co-leaders and a NIU-CCWE representative met to discuss concerns, strategize and plan an agenda for the upcoming meeting. With this agenda co-leaders were able to focus the discussion within the timeframe of the meeting and facilitate action team members engaging in tasks outside the meeting. Co-Leaders have seen an increase in team chemistry through the planning prior to action team meetings. Community members are working together as they move forward with planning for their community.

In addition, NIU-CCWE analyzed county specific data and disseminated the information about population and permanency in a user friendly format that the action team members, co-leaders and county constituents could understand and act upon. NIU-CCWE trained action team co-leaders and community stakeholders on how to understand and utilize data to make informed decisions.

NIU-CCWE also offered support to the Northern Region action team administrators in planning the quarterly Northern Region Steering Committee meetings. Meeting quarterly created an environment in
which action team co-leaders were able to discuss accomplishments, issues, needs and barriers in an atmosphere of open communication and receive feedback from peers, NIU-CCWE consultants, DCFS administration, etc. Participants included: action team co-leaders, Northern Region administrators, the DCFS Statewide Permanency Enhancement Administrator, DCFS quality assurance, NIU-CCWE, etc.

NIU-CCWE also participated in data workgroup meetings with other university partners, DCFS quality assurance, the DCFS Statewide Permanency Enhancement Administrator, and the DCFS Racial Equity Liaison. The workgroup is seeking to develop methods for providing PEP data online and support for utilizing the data. The workgroup is also identifying additional PEP data indicators. The intent is to make child welfare permanency data more accessible to their communities in a user-friendly manner to enhance the capacity for communities to engage in data informed decisions making that will improve the outcomes for children and families.

**Conclusion**

As previously mentioned, African American children in the Northern Region are the only racial/ethnic group that has a higher percentage of children in foster care than in the general population. Furthermore, disparity in this region exists for both African American and Hispanic children at some key decision points, and African American children have the greatest disparity in the rates of investigation, entry and long term care. DCFS’ effort to address these inequities has not been alone as the agency continues to engage communities through local action team involvement.

PEP action teams experienced both highs and lows throughout the fiscal year. From a successful symposium in Rockford, a collaboration on a mentoring program with Big Brothers Big Sisters in Kankakee to teams trying to reestablish themselves. Through it all there has been great promise, passion and commitment.

Action teams worked to connect families with resources, recruit a broad-cross section of community stakeholders, establish collaborative partnerships, and worked to build trust within their communities. Community stakeholders contributed to PEP’s vision in their county by working with DCFS to ensure that local needs and interest were taken into consideration in the decision-making process. Action teams gathered to plan, organize, and take action around shared interest and goals. Some action team co-leaders faced challenges in the recruitment of a broad range of multidisciplinary community stakeholders.

Nevertheless, the recognition that community stakeholders play an integral role in the long-term success and sustainability of local action teams kept them forging ahead. Sustainability of community action teams involves collaboration, and an investment of time from both DCFS and the community. Despite challenges, action teams continued to work to overcome barriers. Action team members, like DCFS understand this work is critically important if we are to eliminate racial inequities, inequitable treatment and achieve better permanency outcomes for all children in the Illinois child welfare system.
Appendix 1- Historical Overview of DCFS PEP

DCFS began to implement PEP activities in the Central Region in 2006 and spread to other parts of the state in 2008. Some of the steps DCFS took to begin collaborations with community stakeholders to examine and address racial disproportionality, disparity and permanency are:

- Conducting focus groups with DCFS/POS caseworkers and administrators, court personnel, birth parents and foster/adoptive parents to understand barriers to permanency and the overrepresentation of African American youth in care.
- Hosting town hall meetings and community forums in several regions
- Convening regional symposiums
- Providing anti-racism training for staff and communities
- Collecting and analyzing data to assess factors that contribute to racial disproportionality and disparity
- Developing partnerships with DCFS African American Advisory Council, the Illinois African American Family Commission and four state universities (Illinois State University (ISU), Northern Illinois University (NIU), Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), and University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)).
- Recruiting and engaging local communities in addressing the issues.
## Appendix 2 – Northern Region Counties with Active Action Teams

### Number of Children in Foster Care on June 30, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County with Action Team</th>
<th>Total Foster Care Population</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other or Unknown</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DeKalb</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>59</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kane</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>146</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kankakee</td>
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<td>McHenry</td>
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<td>1321</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Percentage</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>47%</strong></td>
<td><strong>7%</strong></td>
<td><strong>42%</strong></td>
<td><strong>4%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 3 – Disproportionality Charts

DeKalb County
Population Under 18 Years - 23,184 / Youth in Foster Care - 92

Kane County
Population Under 18 Years -148,403 / Youth in Foster Care - 362
Appendix 3 – Continued

Kankakee County
Population Under 18 Years - 28,603 / Youth in Foster Care - 135

Lake County
Population Under 18 Years - 190,857 / Youth in Foster Care - 364
Appendix 3 - Continued

McHenry County
Population Under 18 Years - 83,478 / Youth in Foster Care - 148

Will County
Population Under 18 Years - 195,451 / Youth in Foster Care - 420
Appendix 3 - Continued

Winnebago County
Population Under 18 Years - 73,239 / Youth in Foster Care - 1321

Appendix 4 – Source of Reports, Filed vs. Indicated

DCFS receives hotline calls of abuse or neglect from various sources including: law enforcement, school personnel, medical personnel, social services, relatives, neighbors, and others. Indicated reports are cases where an investigation determined evidence of abuse or neglect. Unfounded reports are reports made where it was determined after an investigation there was a lack of evidence of abuse or neglect.

Dekalb County Filed vs. Indicated
7-1-13 to 6-30-14

Unfounded 64%
159
Unfounded 87%
21
Unfounded 58%
12
Unfounded 71%
34
Unfounded 56%
204
Unfounded 85%
89
Unfounded 88%
71

MEDICAL
SCHOOL PERSONNEL
DCFS PERSONNEL
SOCIAL SERVICES
LAW ENFORCEMENT
RELATIVE/NEIGHBOR
OTHER

% of Population Under 18
% of Youth in Foster Care

WHITE
HISPANIC
AFRICAN AMERICAN
Kane County Filed vs. Indicated  
7-1-13 to 6-30-14

Unfounded 45%  
Filed  
Indicated

Unfounded 59%  
357  
145

Unfounded 86%  
768

Unfounded 67%  
111  
27  
9

Unfounded 73%  
299  
82

Unfounded 88%  
217  
195

Unfounded 83%  
583

McHenry County Filed vs. Indicated  
7-1-13 to 6-30-14

Unfounded 45%  
Filed  
Indicated

Unfounded 56%  
144  
63

Unfounded 78%  
288

Unfounded 38%  
64  
24  
15

Unfounded 61%  
228  
90

Unfounded 78%  
247

Unfounded 97%  
152  
34  
14

Unfounded 78%  
447

Unfounded 61%  
247

Unfounded 97%  
120
Lake County Filed vs. Indicated
7-1-13 to 6-30-14

Kankakee County Filed vs. Indicated
7-1-13 to 6-30-14
Will County Filed vs. Indicated
7-1-13 to 6-30-14

Winnebago Filed vs. Indicated
7-1-13 to 6-30-14
Appendix 5 – Entries into Care by Age and Race

Dekalb County Entries Into Foster Care
7-1-13 to 6-30-14
Total Entries: 33

Kane County Entries Into Foster Care
7-1-13 to 6-30-14
Total Entries: 121
Appendix 5 – Continued

Kankakee County Entries into Foster Care
7-1-13 to 6-30-14
Total Entries: 26

Lake County Entries into Foster Care
7-1-13 to 6-30-14
Total Entries: 368
Appendix 5 – Continued

McHenry County Entries into Foster Care
7-1-13 to 6-30-14
Total Entries: 52

Will County Entries into Foster Care
7-1-13 to 6-30-14
Total Entries: 107
Appendix 5 – Continued

Winnegabo County Entries into Foster Care
7-1-13 to 6-30-14
Total Entries: 424