Permanency in Illinois

- Illinois is one of the lowest performing states as it pertains to permanency
- Median length of stay in foster care in Illinois is 32.7 months (as of 09-30-15*)
- Cases open after 36 months
  - African American – 44%
  - Hispanic – 34%
  - White – 31%

*Data Source: Fostering Court Improvement: http://fosteringcourtimprovement.org/IL/CTRegion/Northern/
Children of Color in Child Welfare

- Higher occurrence of placement changes
- Stay in the system longer
- Less likely to be adopted
- Less likely to be reunified
- Receive fewer supports

Northern Region PEP Vision

Improve permanency outcomes and reduce disproportionality and disparity of children of color in foster care in partnership with the communities.
Disproportionality: The over or underrepresentation of a particular group in a program or system.

Disparity: The differences observed in treatment, outcomes, resources and services between two or more groups.

Equality: Everyone should be treated in exactly the same way.

Equity: Everyone should be treated in ways that meet their specific needs so they have a fair opportunity to achieve their potential.

PEP Regional Goals:
- Improve remain home permanency outcomes
- Improve return home permanency outcomes
- Improve adoption/guardianship permanency outcomes
- Reduce disproportionality and disparate outcomes of African American and Hispanic youth in foster care
PEP History

- Partnership with DCFS African American Advisory Council, Illinois African American Family Commission, Universities*
- Focus groups with stakeholders, town hall meetings, community forums, and regional symposiums
- Anti-racism training for DCFS staff and communities
- Partner with community to form and sustain action teams co-led by DCFS and community representative

*Partnership Universities include Illinois State University, Southern Illinois University (Edwardsville), Northern Illinois University, and University of Illinois at Chicago.
Youth in Foster Care in Kane County

- How many are there?
- How old are they?
- Where do they live?
- What are their permanency goals?

Youth Entering Foster Care in Kane County

Kane Age and Race Youth Entering Care (44)

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 - 06/30/18
Number of Youth in Foster Care in Kane County

- 241 Total Children
- 115 Female (48%)
- 126 Male (52%)

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18

Age of youth in Foster Care in Kane County

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18
Where the Children Live

- Foster/Relative homes – 185
- Residential – 11
- Other Institutions – 18
- Independent Living – 15
- Other Care – 12

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18

Permanency Goals of Youth in Care in Kane County

- Foster Care is meant to be temporary, not permanent.
- The permanency goals for foster care children are:
  - Return Home 37%
  - Adoption and Guardianship 34%
  - Independence 20%
  - Other 1%
Permanency Goals for Youth in Care

Kane Permanency Goals by Race (241 Youth)

Adoption/TPR: 31 African American, 2 Hispanic, 1 White, 1 Other
Guardianship: 10 African American, 1 Hispanic, 2 White, 1 Other
Independence: 26 African American, 3 Hispanic, 10 White, 1 Other
Missing Goals: 7 African American, 3 Hispanic, 10 White, 1 Other
Other: 1 African American, 1 Hispanic, 1 White, 3 Other
Reunification: 27 African American, 13 Hispanic, 3 White, 30 Other

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18