

Transforming the Child Welfare Outcomes for Alaska Native Children

The Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact

Senate Health and Social Services Committee
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DATA POINTS

As of February 13, 2018:

2,855 Alaska Children were in State Custody
1,734 of which are Alaska Native/American Indian

Racial Disproportionality Rate: 61%

The percent of Alaska Native/American Indian Children who were reunified in 2016 was 55%, while the number of Non-Native children who were reunified was 71%.

The percent of Alaska Native/American Indian Children who experienced repeat maltreatment in 2016 was 17.7% while the rate was 10.2% for Non-Native children.

HOW DID THE WORK BEGIN?

- Tribal State Collaboration Group: 23-year history
 - Goal: Reduce Disproportionality
 - Indian Child Welfare Act Compliance
- Tribal Title IV-E Agreements
 - 11 Tribes/Tribal Organizations receive federal reimbursement for Administrative and Short-Term Training
 - 2 of the 11 also include Maintenance (foster care, adoption and guardianship payments)
- Great progress but still not reaching the tipping point such that Alaska Native children and families outcomes were significantly improved

Transforming Child Welfare Outcomes for Alaska Native Children Strategic Plan 2016-2020

To read more and/or print a copy of the plan go to:

http://www.dhss.alaska.gov/ocs/Documents/Publications/pdf/AK-Transforming-Child-Welfare-Outcomes_StrategicPlan.pdf



THE SIX STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Respectful Government-to-Government Collaboration & Partnership
2. Self-Governance
3. Embrace & Implement the Spirit of ICWA
4. State Government Alignment
5. Community Engagement
6. Continuum of Culturally Specific Services & Supports

HEALTH CARE: 20 YEARS OF TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Image credit: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium



ALASKA TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE COMPACT

- A government-to-government agreement between the State of Alaska and Alaska Tribes and Tribal Organizations.
- Recognizes Tribes' inherent sovereign authority to serve their citizens as they have since time immemorial.
- Defines the services to be carried out by Tribes and Tribal Organizations in a defined jurisdiction or service area.
- This is Alaska's first Tribal-State compact has opened the door to create other government-to-government agreements in other service areas beyond Child Welfare and beyond Health & Social Services.

18 TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SIGNED THE COMPACT

- Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
- Arctic Slope Native Association
- Association of Village Council Presidents
- Bristol Bay Native Association
- Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- Cheesh'na Tribal Council
- Chugachmiut
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Copper River Native Association
- Native Village of Eyak
- Kawerak, Inc.
- Kenaitze Indian Tribe
- Maniilaq Association
- Mentasta Traditional Council
- Nome Eskimo Community
- Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
- Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
- Tanana Chiefs Conference

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- FY2018: Program development, infrastructure and capacity building, training and technical support through individual agreements
- FY2018: Sharing Protective Services Reports (Screen Out/Screen In) Initial Diligent Relative Search
- FY2019 focus is primarily on:
 - Safety Evaluation for Unlicensed Relatives & Prospective Foster Parents
 - Family Contact

LONG TERM VISION

- Outcomes for all Alaska children will be improved.
- Families will be served closest to home, in their own communities in a way reflective of their culture and traditions.
- Families will be more receptive and engaged in changing behavior which will mean over time that the number of Alaska Native children in foster care will decline as does the rate of maltreatment.
- More Tribes accessing Title IV-E funding to operate programs autonomously with both the state and federal funding required to be successful.

Questions?