

TRANSFORMING CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES FOR ALASKA NATIVE CHILDREN

STRATEGIC PLAN: 2016-2020

Vision: Alaska Native culture keeps Alaska Native children safe.

Mission: Alaska Native children, families and communities are thriving through respectful government-to-government collaboration, community leadership, and aligned systems of care.

Values:

- We believe Alaska Native families and communities are the best place for Alaska Native children to thrive
- We believe Alaska Native children are the future of thriving Alaska Native cultures
- We believe providing care for Alaska Native children as close to home as possible achieves better outcomes
- We believe the values and spirit encompassed in the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) are in the best interest of Alaska Native children
- We believe it is vital that all partners involved in the welfare of Alaska Native children commit to engage in courageous, transparent and forgiving conversations without fear of reprisal
- We believe in the strength of partnership and collaboration, and our work will be conducted in coordination with the Tribal State Collaboration and other concurrent initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for Alaska Native children and families
- We recognize the inherent right of Tribes to manage their own child welfare systems

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Respectful Government-to-Government Collaboration & Partnership	Self-Governance	Embrace & Implement the Spirit of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)	State Government Alignment	Community Engagement	Culturally Specific Services and Supports
GOALS					
<i>Achieve formal, friendly and forever recognition of Tribes by the State</i>	<i>Tribes self-govern the welfare of their children, and have the resources to do so</i>	<i>Embrace the spirit and values of ICWA to ensure Alaska Native children are with their families and community</i>	<i>Ensure state government systems are aligned and services provided are based on the values and spirit of ICWA</i>	<i>Alaska's child welfare system operates as a partnership among the community, Tribes, State and Federal governments to keep Alaska Native children with their family and culture</i>	<i>Provide a continuum of culturally specific supports that ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of Alaska Native children</i>

OBJECTIVES

A1: Develop and implement a Truth and Reconciliation processes A2: Achieve formal recognition of Tribes by the State A3: Institutionalize Tribal Consultation with mutual power, authority, and decision-making A4: Establish enforceable agreements built on true collaboration and mutual cooperation A5: Align systems so that Tribal processes are respected and interactions are conducted with mutual respect among sovereign leaders	B1: Clearly define the role and responsibilities of the Tribe, state and federal government as it relates to child welfare and align state agencies to support a smooth transition to self-governance B2: Ensure Tribes have the opportunity to design their own models for addressing the welfare of their children B3: Create a resource development plan to develop and maintain Tribal capacity and ensure parity of resources B4: Compact Child Welfare Services with Tribes B5: Resolve sovereign immunity issues	C1: End institutional racism C2: Educate and advocate for policy and practice changes to align the interpretation of ICWA with the original legislative intent C3: Create and implement processes that increase the number of children placed with family in their own communities C4: Improve awareness of the positive outcomes achieved as a result of Tribal participation in the judicial process	D1: Align agencies towards the shared value that protecting children is everyone's responsibility D2: Promote increased flexibility, coordination and collaboration across governments to ensure effective and efficient allocation of resources and delivery of services D3: Identify and reduce barriers to collaboration and alignment D4: Research mechanisms for providing improved access to services for children and families	E1: Foster a better understanding of each community's and partner's ability and responsibility to transform child welfare outcomes for Alaska Native children E2: Ensure communication among all partners is open, honest, and transparent E3: Help front-line workers meaningfully and respectfully engage with local Tribes E4: Solicit and incorporate feedback from the community E5: Provide continuity in engagement and interaction with families	F1: Collaboratively develop, implement and align individualized, culturally specific service plans F2: Support the availability and accessibility of a continuum of culturally specific services for children and families in their community, including focus on primary prevention and early intervention F3: Ensure systems, institutions and the OCS workforce are reflective of the culture and the community served F4: Address funding obstacles related to provision of culturally specific services
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