



ALASKA CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL

**Annual Report to the Legislature
State of Alaska**

Standing Committee on Health and Social Services Committee

Diwakar Vadapalli, Chair
Dana Hallett, Vice Chair

Juneau, AK
February 12, 2015



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- What is the CRP, and what does it do?
- Goals and recommendations from 2013-2014
- Goals for 2014-2015
- Recent changes in Panel's work



WHAT DOES CRP DO?

Federal Mandate (42 U.S.C. § 5106a.(c)):

- Examine the policies, procedures, and practices of state and local child protection agencies and evaluate the extent to which these agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities
- Conduct public outreach, and

State Mandate (AS 47.14.205):

“The CRP shall examine the policies, procedures, and practices of State and local agencies and where appropriate, specific cases, to evaluate the extent to which State and local child protection system agencies are effectively discharging their protection responsibilities.”



BRIEF HISTORY

- Functioning Panel since 2002
- Increased resources
 - (over \$50,000 to over \$100,000 per year over the last 12 years)
- Increased autonomy
 - Staff support was from within OCS, now an independent contractor
- Improved methods
 - From town hall meetings to site reviews
- Improved relationships



VISION AND MISSION

Vision:

To *enable* the Office of Children's Services to implement its policies and procedures in a culturally sensitive and consistent manner across the state.

Mission:

- *Review and evaluate* the practices and procedures of OCS
- *Recommend* changes and improvements



WHAT CRP DOES NOT DO

- Comment on proposed or pending legislation
- Get involved in individual cases
- Micromanage OCS operations
- Program evaluation
- Lobby



CRPs CAN REVIEW, EVALUATE, OR EXAMINE

- Intake and screening
- Investigation or assessment
- Family Services (in-home or out-of-home)
- Practice behaviors
- Coordination of services
- Staff qualifications, training, and workload
- Utilization of technology
- Review of individual cases



CRP RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel produces an *annual report* every June, with specific recommendations:

- That address policy-practice gaps, inadequate policy, or systemic issues
- That deal with issues within OCS control
- That are based on meaningful and real information
- That are based on the Panel's work through the year



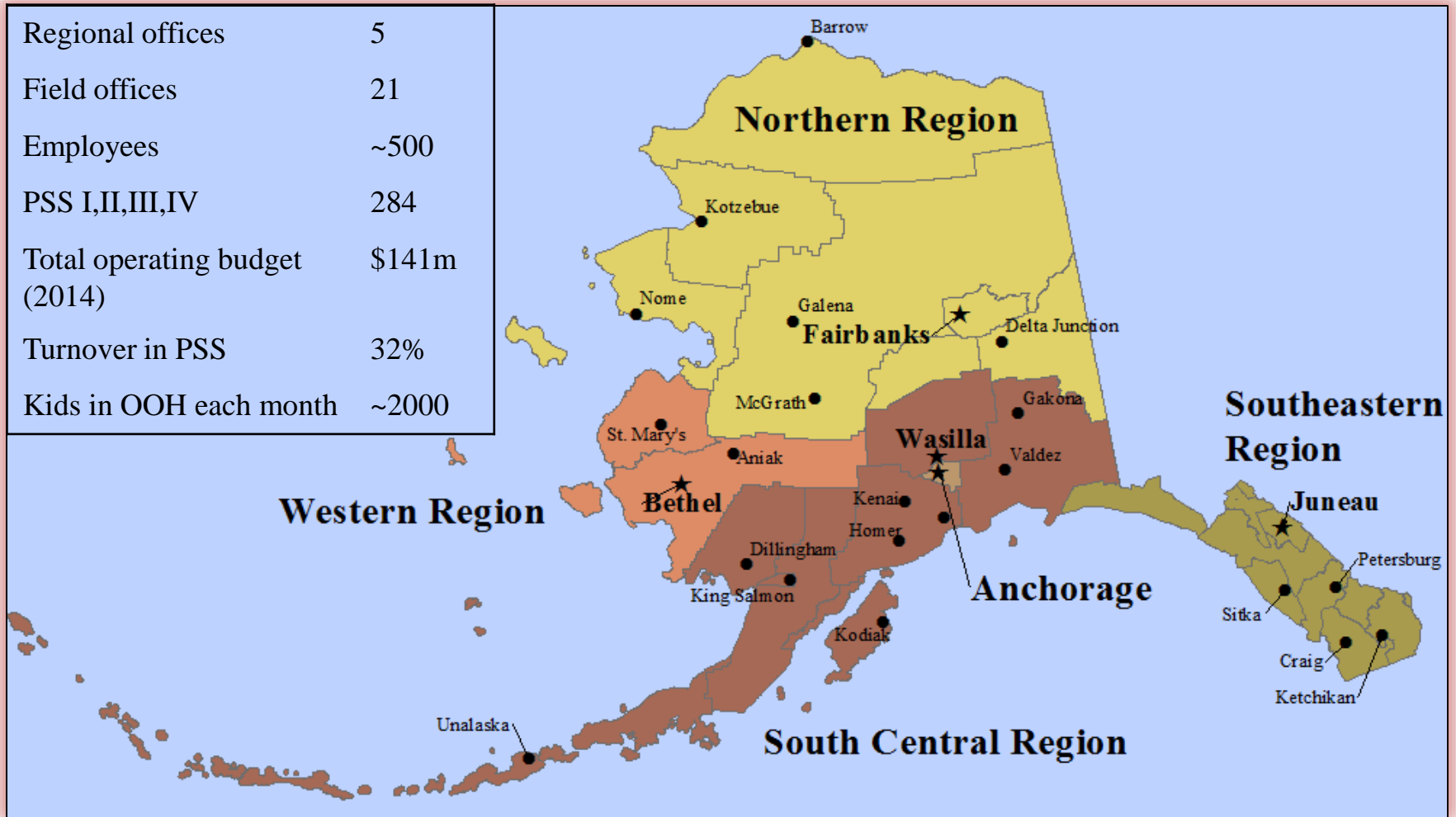
PANEL MEMBERSHIP

- Volunteers
 - Broadly representative of the state
 - Diverse personal and professional background
 - All parts of the state
 - Some experience and familiarity with child protection
- The Panel's members are chosen through a formal interview process



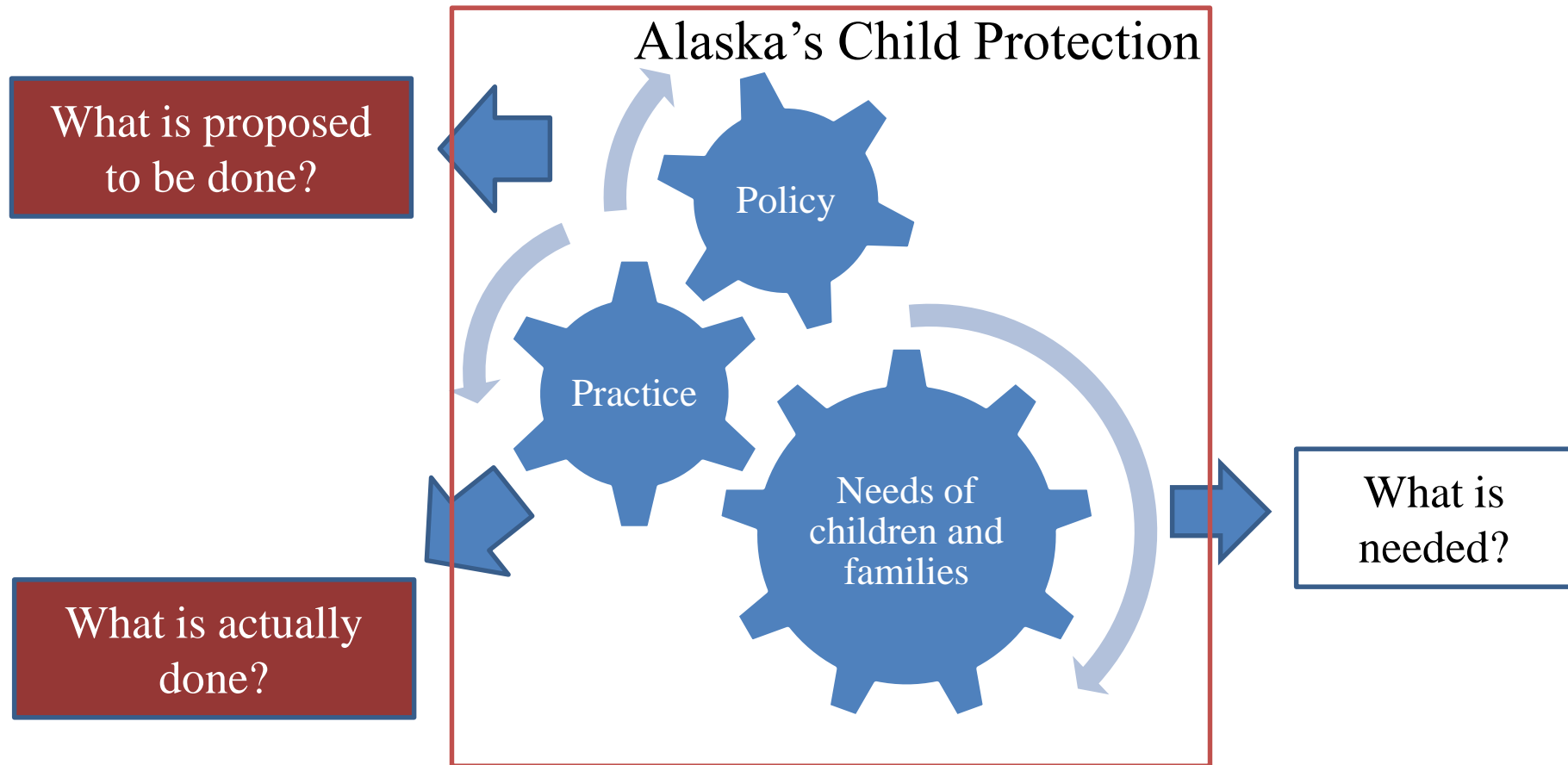
OCS OFFICES

Regional offices	5
Field offices	21
Employees	~500
PSS I,II,III,IV	284
Total operating budget (2014)	\$141m
Turnover in PSS	32%
Kids in OOH each month	~2000





THIS IS HOW IT WORKS...



CRP tries to know the answers to these *questions*.



THIS IS HOW IT WORKS...

- Annual work plan with goals
- CRP pursues these goals through:
 - Monthly meetings
 - Site visits
 - Data collection through surveys
 - Data collection and compilation from various agencies
 - Research
- Release an annual report



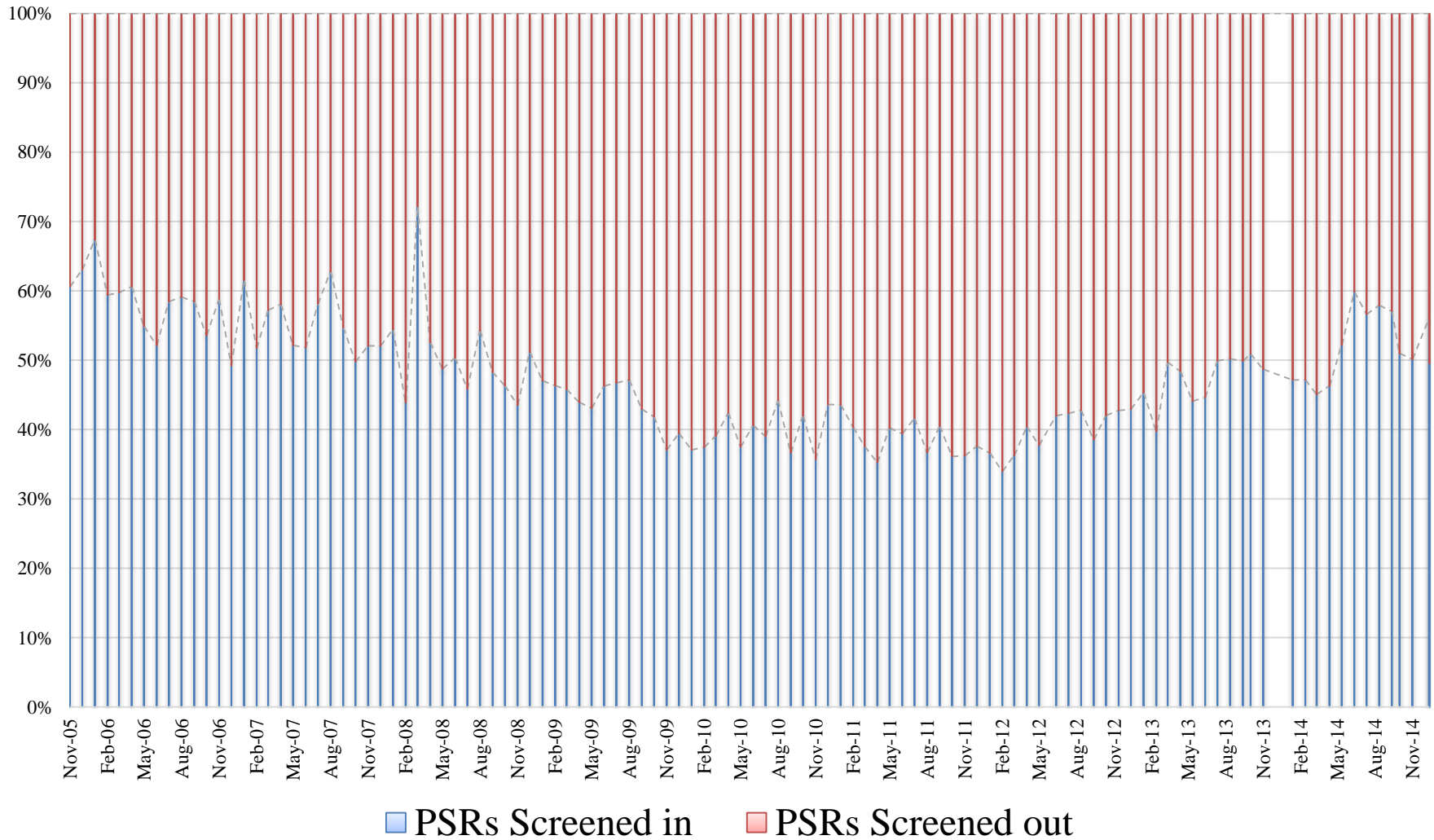
DURING THE 2013-2014 YEAR

- Four Goals
 - What are the policy guidelines for screening PSRs?
 - What is the practice model for in-home service delivery (urban and rural)
 - IA Back log – without an increase in the workforce, what is the current plan for avoiding another backlog?
 - Assess the need for an OCS services in Unalaska
- Three site visits – Barrow (NR), Bethel (WR), and Kodiak (SCR).



GOAL 1: SCREENING PSRs

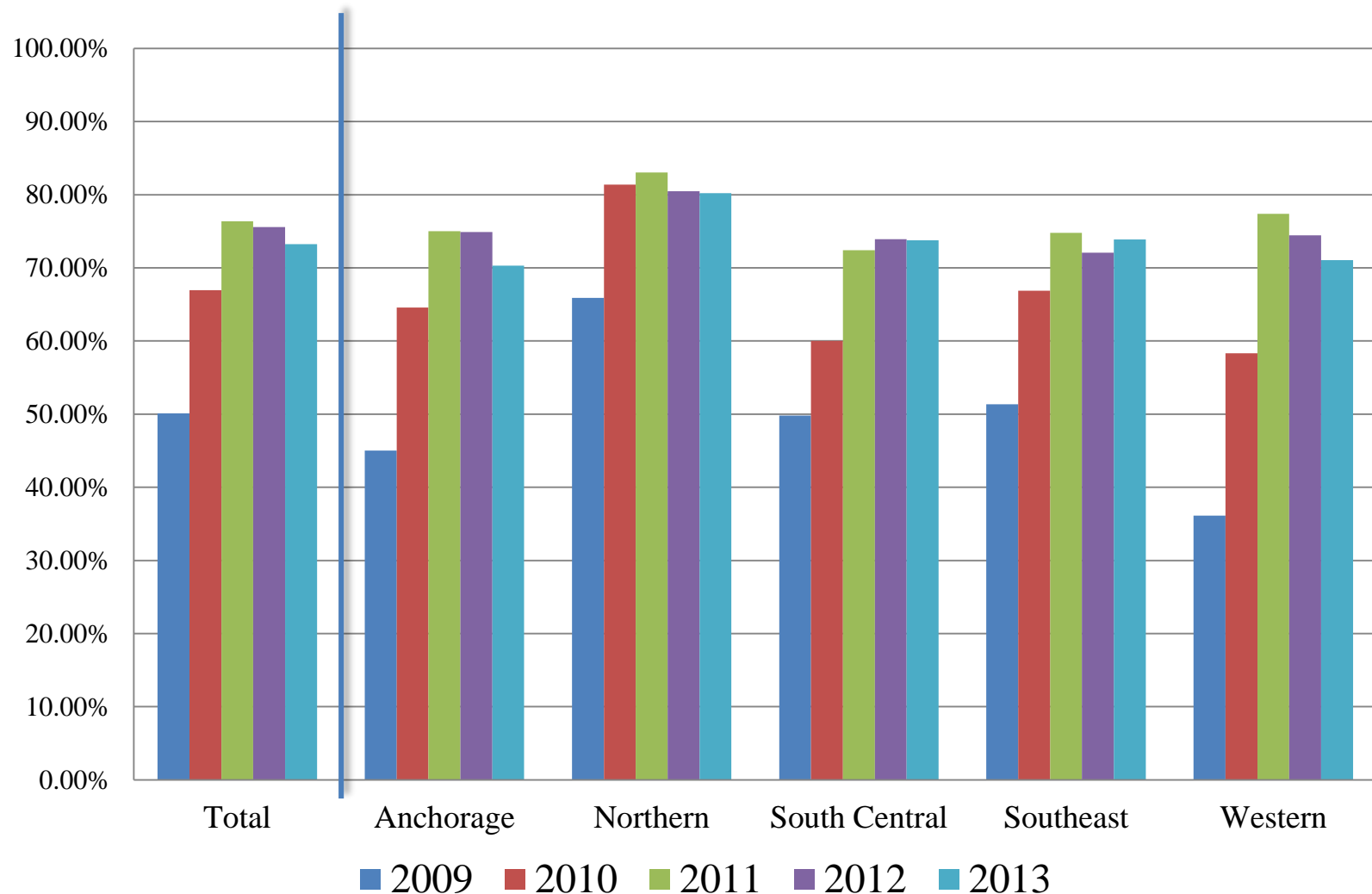
PERCENTAGE SCREENED-IN AND SCREENED-OUT - ALASKA





GOAL 1: SCREENED-OUT CASES

PSRs THAT "DID NOT MEET THE IA CRITERIA" AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE
TOTAL NUMBER OF SCREENED-OUT CASES





RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 2013-2014

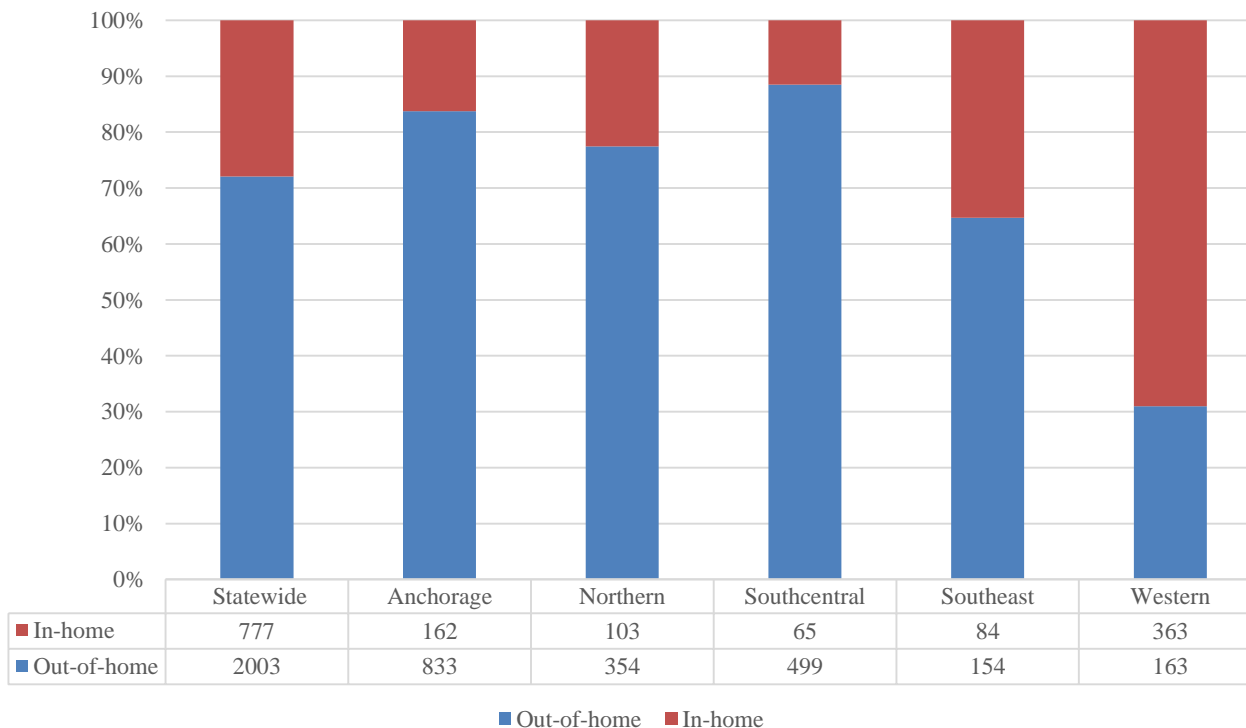
- OCS make several changes to its intake policy
 - Create and support several methods for people to make a report
 - Change the intake procedures so reporters have to opt-out of receiving follow up on the case
 - Uniformly implement the current pilot project of having a supervisor reviewing cases after 10 screened-out PSRs
 - Periodically send a list of screened out PSRs to the local field office



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 2013-2014

- OCS develop a model for serving in-home cases in rural Alaska and improve its data collection on in-home cases

OCS Caseload as of January 28, 2014





INFORMATION AND DATA

Section 106(c)(5)(A) of CAPTA requires States to provide each citizen review panel with access to information on cases that the panel chooses to review if the information is necessary for the panel to carry out its functions under CAPTA. Report language clarifies that Congressional intent was to direct States to provide the review panels with information that the panel determines is necessary to carry out these functions

(Congressional Record _House, September 25, 1996, p. H11149).



PAST RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2008 & 2009 - That OCS continue to work toward having a fifth service region headquartered in Bethel
- Every year since 2009 – a recommendation on local relationships



PAST RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2011 - Work to improve the culture within the agency (Wasilla site visit)
- 2012 - Establish deadlines that require non-emergency petitions to be filed allowing for supervision of the family by the continuum of legal parties without necessitating the removal of the child.



GOALS FOR 2014-2015

Retained all four goals from last year

And added:

- Learn more about ORCA and its capabilities
- Understand and assess OCS' foster care recruitment efforts



WE JUST NEED TO FIND COMMON LANGUAGE

OCS says...

- Not enough money
- Not enough people
- Higher ups will not let us do that...
- We have to do things one at a time...
- We are following a set process

Citizens say...

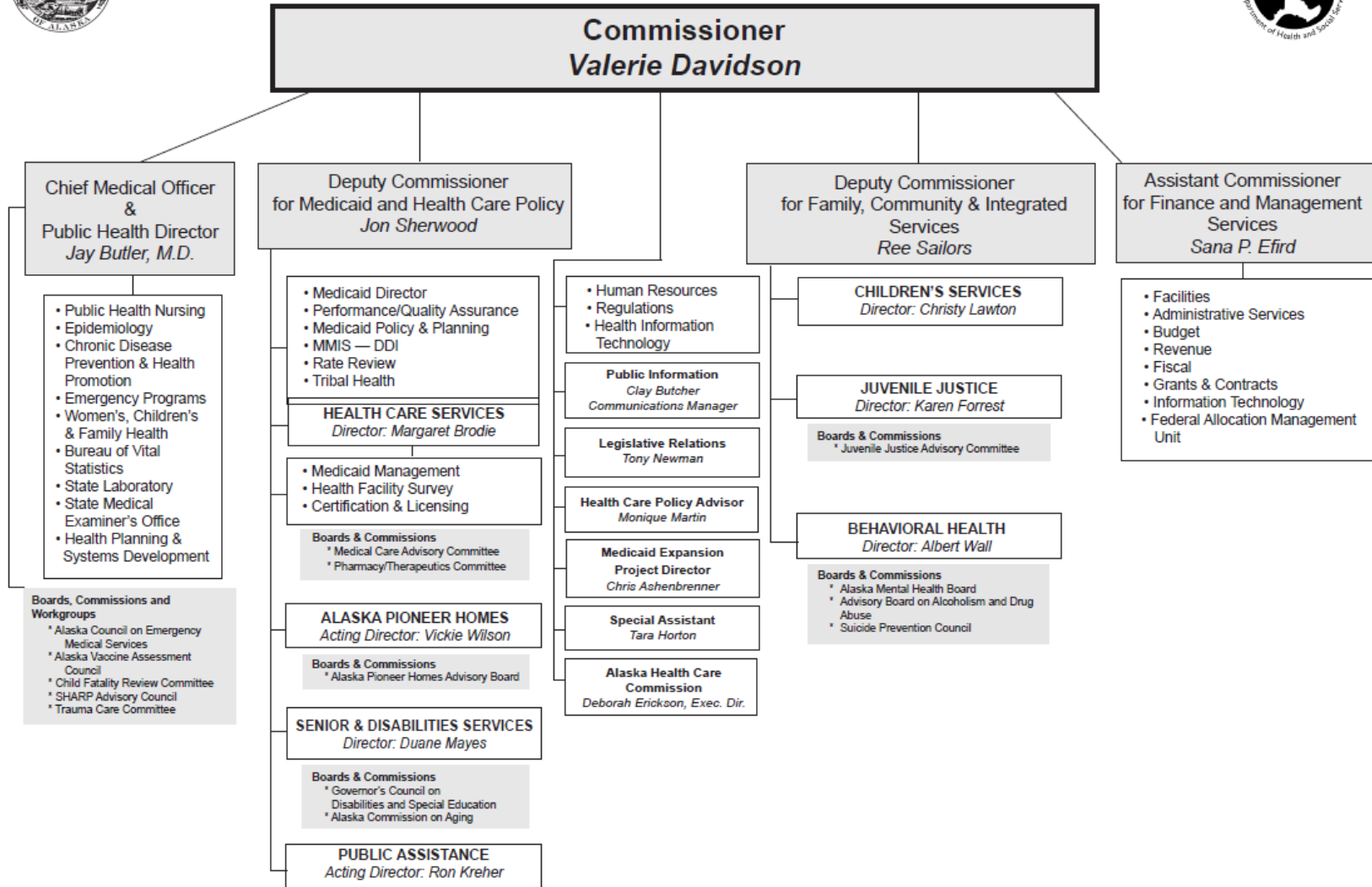
- Needs are important
- I know things are not right...
- Why don't you do something now...
- You don't understand my community...
- We have no idea what you do...everything is a secret!



WHO ADVISES/REVIEWS OCS?



Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Organization Chart





CHANGES IN CRP OPERATION

- 2014-2015
 - Adopted operational guidelines
 - Panel meetings are now public
 - Most CRP documents are public
 - Panel website accepts public comments
- Planned in the future
 - Public Outreach Plan
 - Data sharing agreement with OCS

THANK YOU!

For more information

www.crpalaska.org