



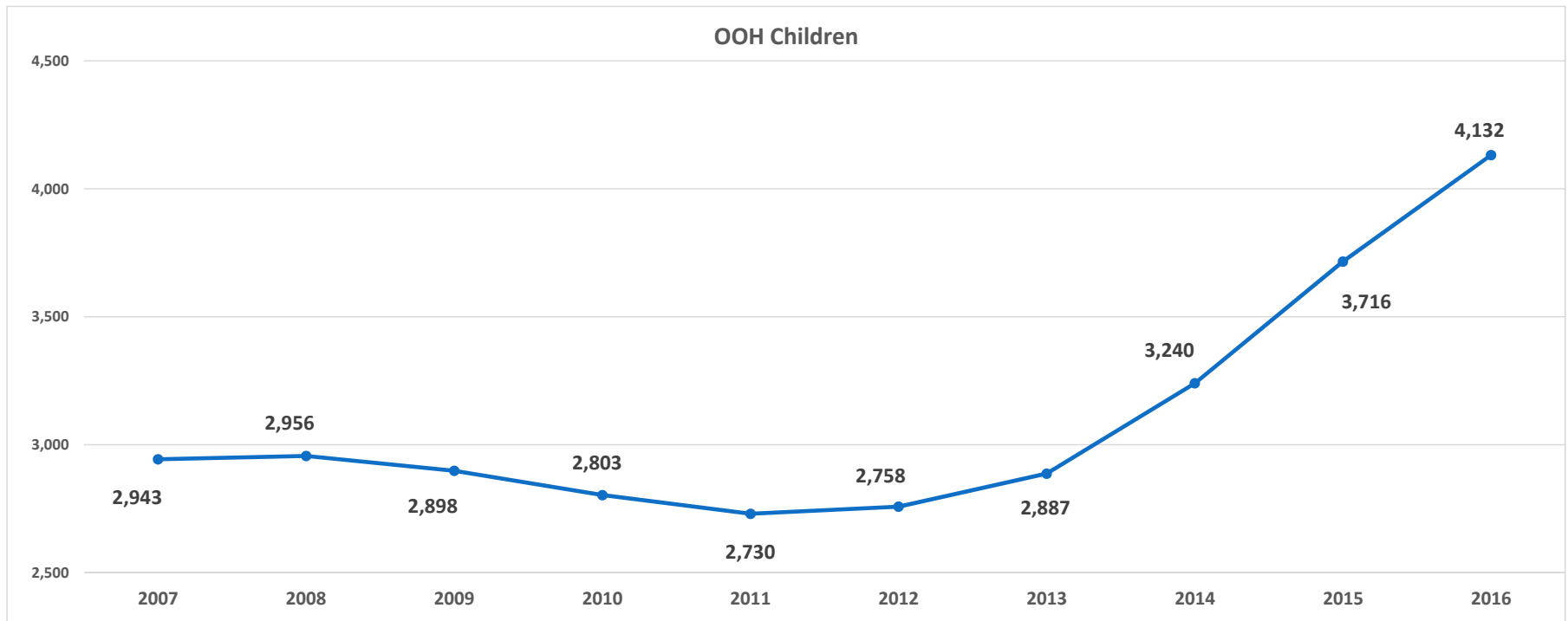
VISION
ALASKA INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE AND HEALTHY
MISSION
TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ALASKANS

Senate Health & Social Services Committee Presentation

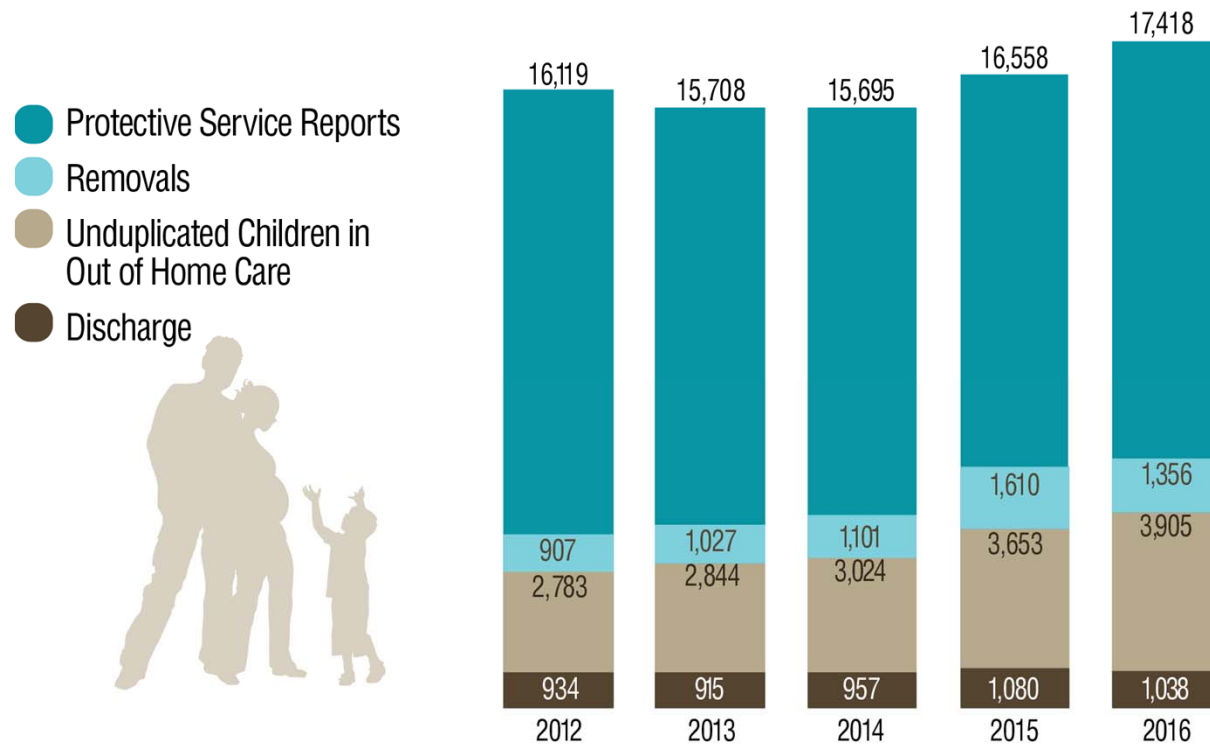
Christy Lawton | Director
Office of Children's Services

March 22, 2017

The last 10 years at a glance



The last 5 years at a glance



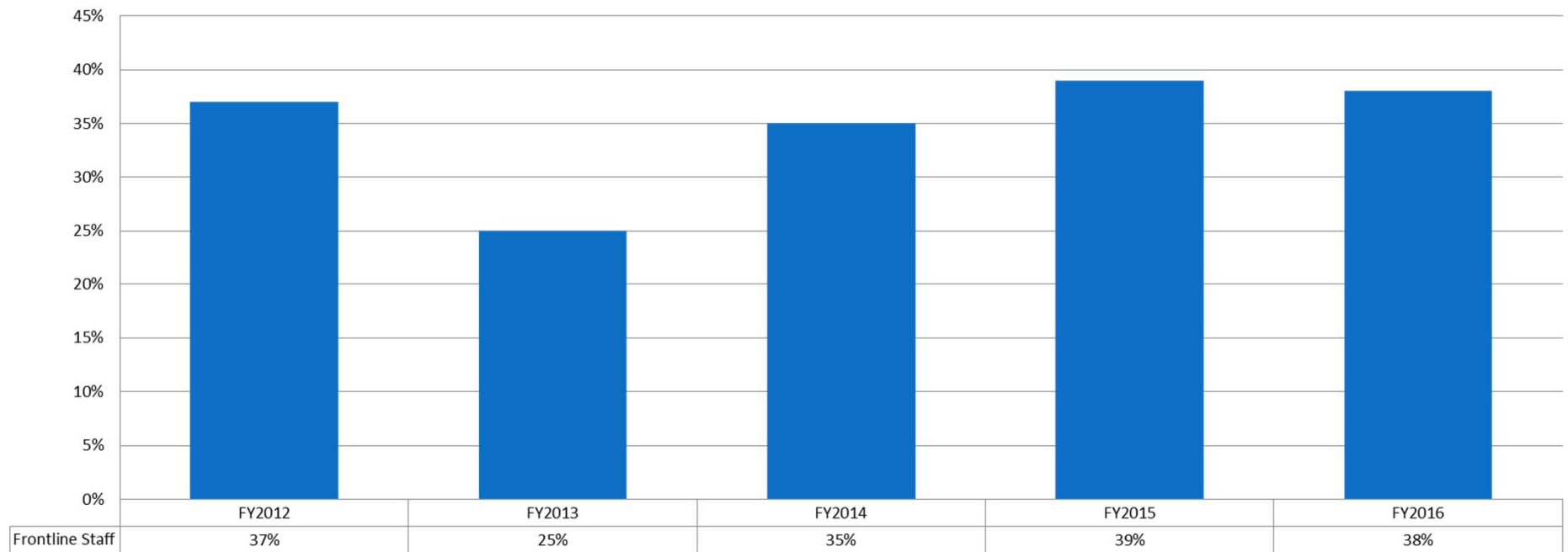
Reality of the Workforce

- Young
- Inexperienced
- Lacking diversity
- May or may not have social work education
- Average length of training- 2 weeks
- Starts in investigations
- Average length of stay 18 months



Reality of the Workforce

OCS Frontline Staff Turnover Rate



Successes & Opportunities

- ✓ DHSS 5-Year Strategic Plan to Transform Child Welfare in Alaska
- ✓ Reduced rate of repeat maltreatment
- ✓ Streamlined practices (National Electronic Interstate Child Exchange /Centralized Intake)
- Medicaid Reform/1115 Waiver
- Safe Baby Courts (Ketchikan & Palmer)
- Federal Child & Family Services Review in May 2017



Alaska Statewide Needs Assessment~

The first phase of the CFSR is Alaska's Statewide Assessment

- **What is it?** The Statewide Assessment provides the state an opportunity to gather and analyze qualitative and quantitative data and information in order to assess and evaluate the current child welfare programs and practice.
- **What will it tell you?** The Statewide Assessment provides data and analysis specific to the safety, permanency, and well being, as well as the seven systemic factors, and outlines the strengths and weaknesses of the OCS child welfare system as identified by the state.
- **What is used for?** The state assessment is utilized to inform the Children's Bureau of key areas that the state has identified strengths and areas needing improvement. The assessment also helps inform phase two of the review process, which is the on-site evaluation.



Next Steps~

Child and Family Services Review: The onsite review process is the second phase of the CFSR.

- Alaska is scheduled for the onsite review May 22 – 26.
- Three sites have been identified: Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Ketchikan.
- A random sample of 25 in-home cases and 40 out-of-home cases will be reviewed in Alaska.
- During the onsite review, teams of state and federal reviewers will examine case records and conduct case related interviews to collect information on the outcomes and systemic factors.
- A key component of the CFS is the statewide stakeholder interviews
- The combination of information from the Statewide Assessment, the onsite CFSR and the stakeholder interviews will be used to determine if the state is in substantial conformity with the federal requirements, or if a performance improvement plan is needed.



Citizen Review Panel

CRP 2016 Recommendations for OCS:

1. Assign CRP a significant role in implementation priority areas of the "Transforming Child Welfare Outcomes for Alaska Native Children: Strategic Plan 2016-2020.



Citizen Review Panel

CRP 2016 Recommendations for OCS:

2. Tribal-State Collaboration Group should consider a dialogue with leaders of AN for-profit corporations to garner their support and any resources they may be able to leverage to enhance child protection services.



Citizen Review Panel

CRP 2016 Recommendations for OCS:

3. The CRP should be evaluated by an external entity to assess it's effectiveness with attention to: internal structure and the CRP/OCS statutory relationship to ensure roles and responsibilities are clear.



Citizen Review Panel

CRP 2016 Recommendations for OCS:

4. OCS should consider building on CRP's survey effort by: viewing training in more detail, including special sections or topics of interest, identifying other survey efforts OCS conducts and consider leverage resources from external entities.



Citizen Review Panel

CRP 2016 Recommendations for OCS:

5. OCS should work with the CRP to strengthen the CRP's ability for public participation, relay on it to improve public awareness of the nature and content of OCS work.



Questions?

Thank You~

