

CRP

**ALASKA CITIZEN
REVIEW PANEL**

Presented by

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PURPOSE

Congress created Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) as part of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to help child protection systems be more responsive to community needs.

A CRP is a mechanism for public participation in child protection. It should facilitate robust and meaningful participation by citizens to promote a healthy and collaborative child protection system.



MANDATES

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 carrying out their child protection responsibilities. Conduct public outreach both to assess the impact of current policies and procedures, and to solicit public comment on the panel's recommendations.

State Mandate AS 47.14.205

The state Panel shall evaluate the extent to which the department is effectively carrying out its child protection responsibilities under (1) the state plan submitted to the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. 5106a(b); (2) child protection standards under federal and state laws; and (3) any other criteria that the Panel considers important to ensuring the protection of children.



STRUCTURE OF THE CRP

Formed in 2002 Per Alaska State Regulation (7 AAC 58),
the CRP seats between 5 and 9 members.



Membership is Voluntary

The Panel is voluntary and
is expected to reflect the
diversity of the state.



Coordinator Contract

Created in 2006 to assist
the Panel with coordination
and administrative
functions

PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE CRP



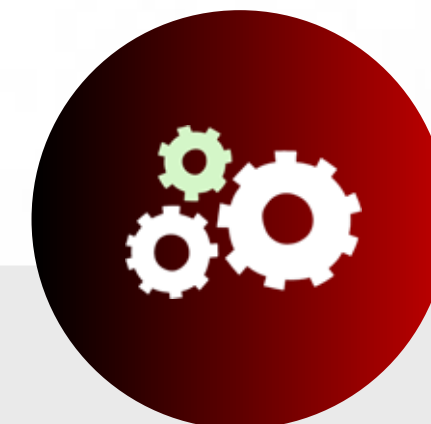
EVALUATION

The Panel will evaluate OCS compliance with federal and state laws, examining policies and procedures for consistent statewide implementation while still being responsive to the diversity of needs across the state.



PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Panel will identify and implement means to gather feedback on procedures and practices for delivering child protection services in Alaska. As specified above, the information thus collected will be utilized in its evaluation function.



ADVOCACY

The Panel will conduct appropriate actions to help improve Alaska's child protection services system.

ACTIVITIES

- Work Plan Development**
- Monthly & Quarterly Meetings**
- Work Plan Activities**
- Briefing to Legislature**
- National Conference**
- Annual Meeting & Report**





ANNUAL REPORT FY25

Focus Area:

MANDATORY REPORTING

Participate in efforts to redesign the mandated reporting curriculum to better meet the needs as identified by mandatory reporters and best practices utilized by other states.



FINDINGS

- Mandatory Reporter training is not standardized, leading to inconsistent information and varying requirements across professions and organizations
- Lack of consistency creates confusion and reduces training effectiveness
- No clear ownership for reviewing and updating training limits improvements
- Training explains abuse and neglect but is too broad to meet specific user group needs



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Standardized Training for Alaska
- Updates Informed by Users
- Long-Term Ownership of Training by independently funded process.

ANNUAL REPORT FY25

Focus Area:

MANDATORY REPORTING

Participate in efforts to redesign the mandated reporting curriculum to better meet the needs as identified by mandatory reporters and best practices utilized by other states.



PHASE 1: EDUCATION & KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

Data collection:

- What practices are currently in place to support family reunification?
- How many kinship placements occurred in the past five years?
- Residential services placements
- Temporary foster placements

ANNUAL REPORT FY25

Focus Area:

Out of Home Placement

Out-of-home placements refers to the temporary care arrangements made when a child cannot safely remain at home, and the child welfare system is responsible.

TWO PHASE WORK PLAN CYCLE

Each year, the Panel will prioritize focus areas critical to improving child welfare services in Alaska. Each priority will be organized into two phases:

**Phase One:
Education &
Knowledge
Building**

**Phase Two:
Action &
Implementation**

PHASE ONE – Education & Knowledge Building



The cycle begins with the Panel selecting key focus areas that will guide its efforts over the next two years.

The Panel identifies subject matter experts in the focus areas and requests data and presentations.

The Panel dedicates time to in-depth discussions and expert consultations specific to each focus area.

As each focus area progresses through Phase 1, the Panel reviews the information to inform planning for Phase 2.

PHASE TWO – Action & Implementation



This phase focuses on translating knowledge into actionable strategies and initiatives to address identified issues within the focus areas.





CRP CURRENT WORK PLAN FOCUS AREAS

MANDATORY REPORTING

Mandatory reporting, established under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, has been a central method for addressing child abuse and neglect in the U.S. for fifty years.

Phase Two: Action & Implementation

Advocacy
Training Enhancements
Community Engagement

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT

Out-of-home placements refer to the temporary care arrangements made for children who cannot safely remain in their homes due to abuse, neglect, or other safety concerns.

Phase One: Education & Knowledge Building

Assessment Of Current Systems
Collaboration With OCS And Providers
Cultural & Community Considerations

Phase Two: Action & Implementation

Action and implementation will begin development in Quarter 4



CRP CURRENT WORK PLAN FOCUS AREAS

DIVERSION

Building knowledge, identifying barriers, and developing strategies to advance diversion to connect families to support without unnecessary child welfare system involvement.

Phase One: Education & Knowledge Building

- Continue collaboration with OCS to gather data to better understand diversion opportunities and potential partnerships to carry these out.
- Determine legal barriers and confidentiality issues related to direct support

RECOMMENDATIONS: JUNE 2026

- ANNUAL REPORT DUE BY JUNE 30, 2026
- Disseminated to all Legislators and Public Officials

The Panel will continue to hear from subject matter experts leading up to recommendations in its annual report.



QUESTIONS

Alaska CRP Coordinator

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