



ALASKA CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL

Dr. Retchenda George-Bettisworth, Chair

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.

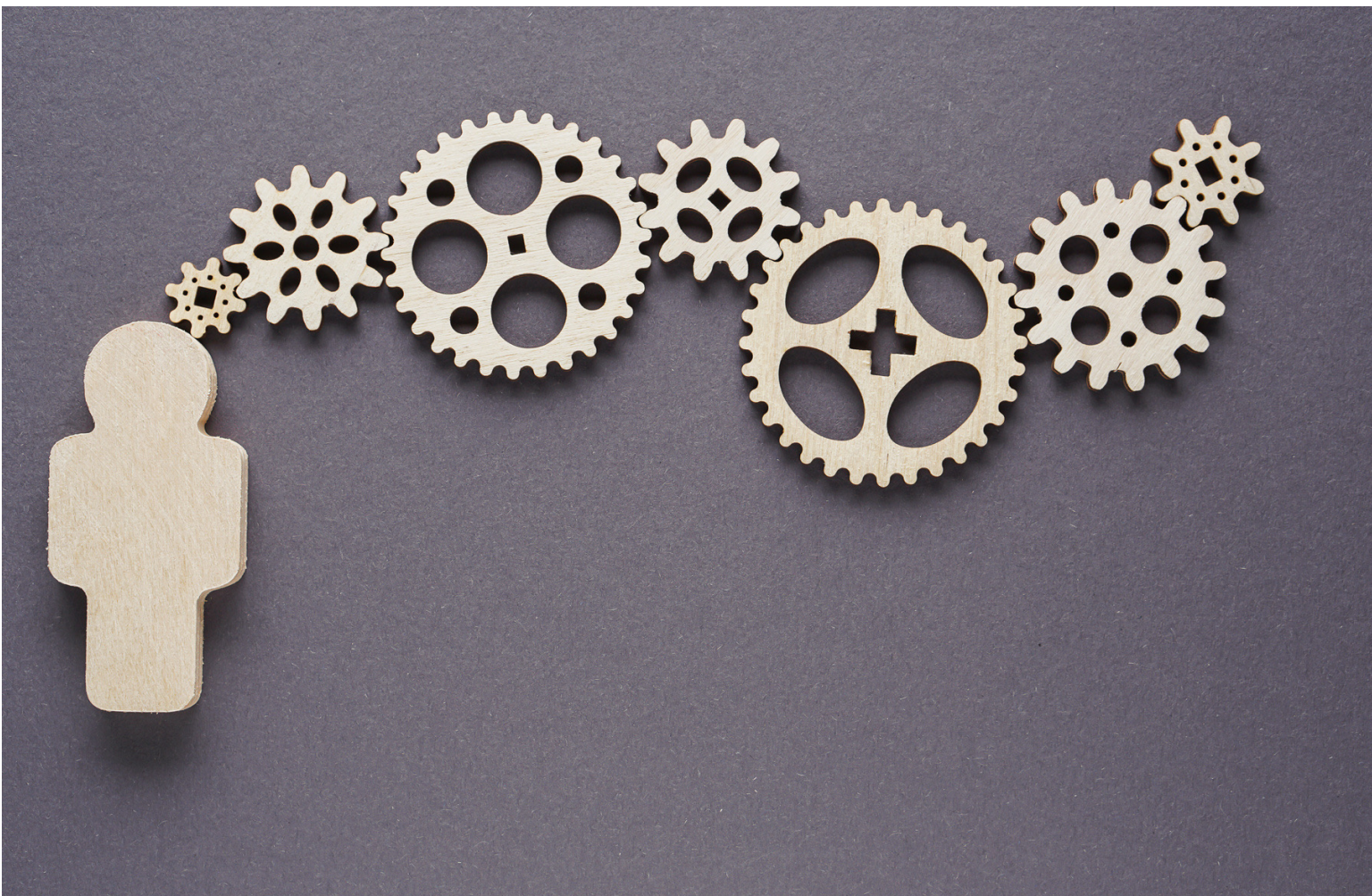


Structure



- Alaska CRP was formed in 2002
- Per Alaska State Regulation (7 AAC 58), the CRP seats between 5 and 9 members
- Membership on the Panel is voluntary and is expected to reflect the diversity of the state
- Aim to have all 5 regions of Alaska represented
- Coordinator contract created in 2006 to assist the Panel with coordination and administrative functions

Primary 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 in delivering child protection services in Alaska.





Advocacy

The Panel will conduct appropriate actions that will help improve the child protection services system in Alaska.

CRP 2020-2025 Long Range Plan

Enduring Priorities



				
Reciprocal Engagement	Public Outreach	Collaborative Relationship with OCS	CRP Education and Development	Healthy CPS System

Work Plan Development

Meetings with OCS

Work Plan Activities

Alaska Legislature

National Conference

Annual Meeting & Report

CRP Activities





2022-2023 CRP Round Table Findings

Frontline Workers

- Workers continued to report not feeling valued
- Wellness time was not given or was worker-driven
- Workers had to work outside of their scope
- Need for increased access to mental health services for workers
- Perceived lack of follow-through on promised changes

Supervisors & Managers

- Lack of staff is their biggest challenge
- HR delays prevented them from hiring qualified applicants
- They need to be considered when thinking about worker wellness and retention
- Unreliable technology and a lack of resources add to the workload



2022-2023

Annual Report Recommendations

Healthy CPS System

- **Dedicated Agency Improvement Team & Workplace Culture Assessment**
- **Improve Communication**
- **Increase Transparency**
- **Integration of Culturally Relevant Practices**
- **Employee Advocacy Groups**
- **Assess Benefits & Bonuses Structure**
- **Technology Improvements**
- **Management Training**

FY 2024

Utilize OCS All-Staff Surveys to identify advocacy opportunities around retention, recruitment, and staff well-being

Assess OCS intake policies and procedures and the practices around how families are referred to support services

Assess OCS hiring practices





Questions?

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