



ALASKA CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

Dr. Diwakar Vadapalli
Chair

BIA Providers Conference
Anchorage, AK
November 29, 2017

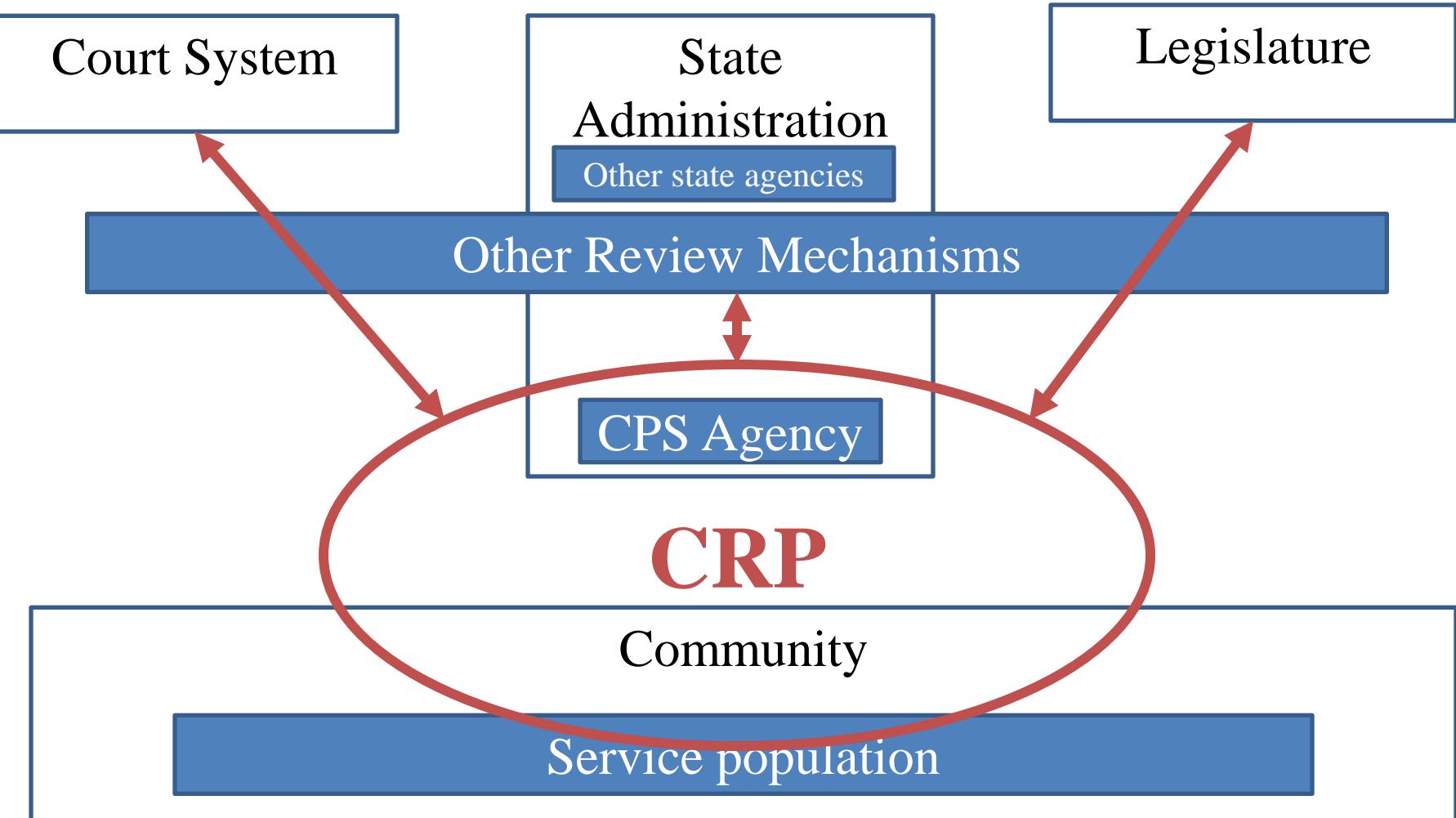


PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Quick overview
- Goals and recommendations from 2016-2017
- Goals for 2017-2018
- Recent developments in Panel's work



ECOSYSTEM





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

CRPs are created to...

“to ensure citizen participation and public accountability of State and local child protection agencies”

A CRP should...

“evaluate the extent to which child protection agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities.”

-Sen. Coats (R-IN) (1996)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

CRPs are created to...

“provide new opportunities for citizens--not just child protection bureaucrats--to play an integral role in ensuring that States are meeting their goals of protecting children from abuse and neglect.”

-Congressman Gooding (R-PA) (1996)



WHY IS CRP IMPORTANT?

- CPS agencies are among the most misunderstood
 - They are relatively new
 - Their mandates are powerful, burdensome, and emotionally charged
 - Workloads are high and pay is minimal
 - Their frontline workforce ends up representing the problem instead of the solution
 - Popular perception is punitive vs. service



WHY IS CRP IMPORTANT?

- Public perception influences everything
- Such perception depends on public's understanding of
 - Needs
 - Challenges and opportunities
 - Available services
 - Accessibility of these services
 - Efficiency and effectiveness of these services
 - Ways and means of matching services with needs



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

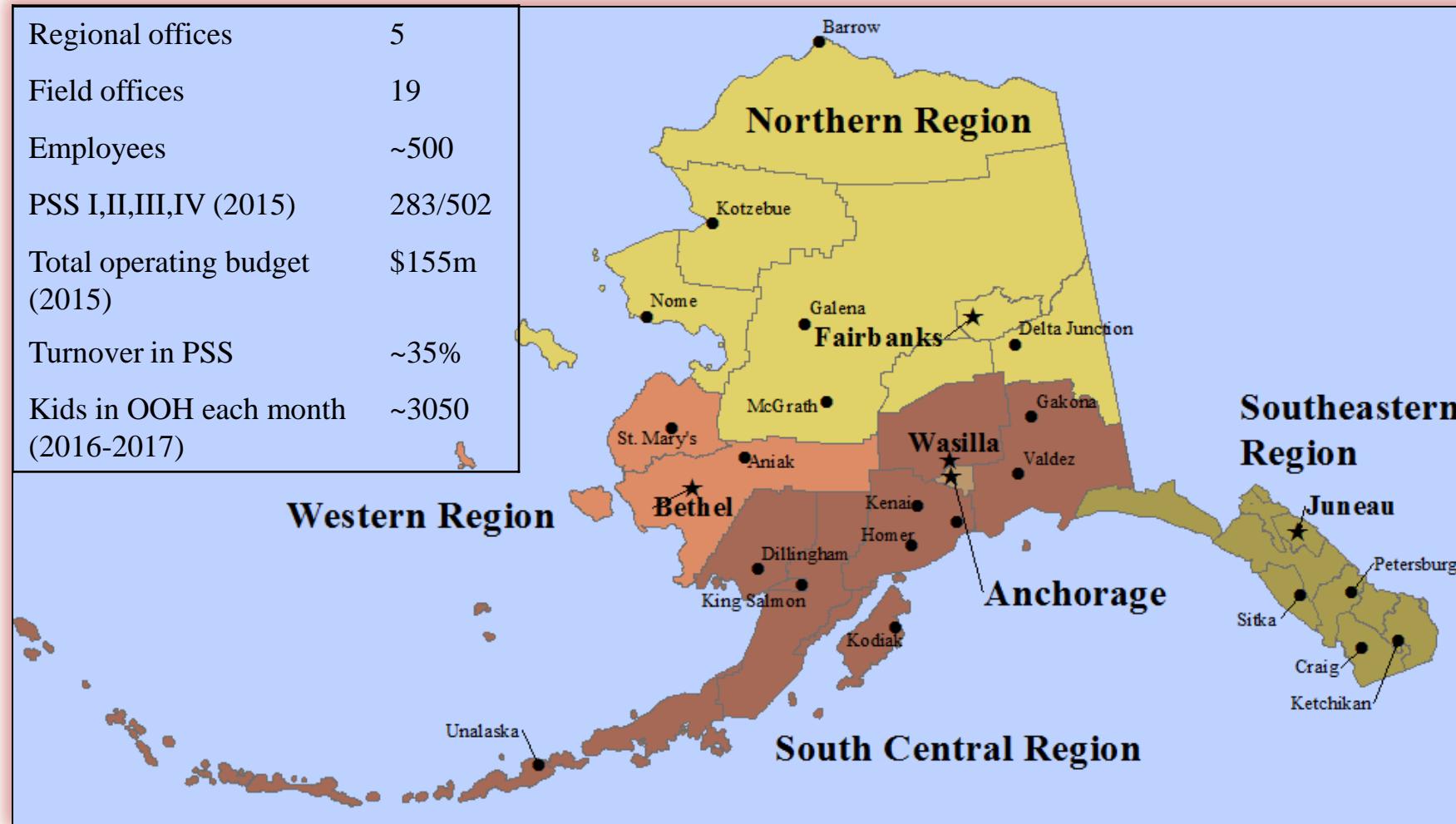
State Mandate (AS 47.14.205):

“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.”



OCS OFFICES

Regional offices	5
Field offices	19
Employees	~500
PSS I,II,III,IV (2015)	283/502
Total operating budget (2015)	\$155m
Turnover in PSS	~35%
Kids in OOH each month (2016-2017)	~3050





PRIMARY FUNCTIONS

Evaluate against (from statute):

- Child and Family Services Plan
- Child protection standards
- And any other criteria that the Panel considers important

Conduct public outreach to (from statute):

- Gather public input in conducting its duties (review)
- Inform public about various policies and procedures of CPS system to improve awareness

Advocate for (from congressional record):

- Relevant things that the panel finds through its review and outreach



WHAT CRP DOES NOT DO

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

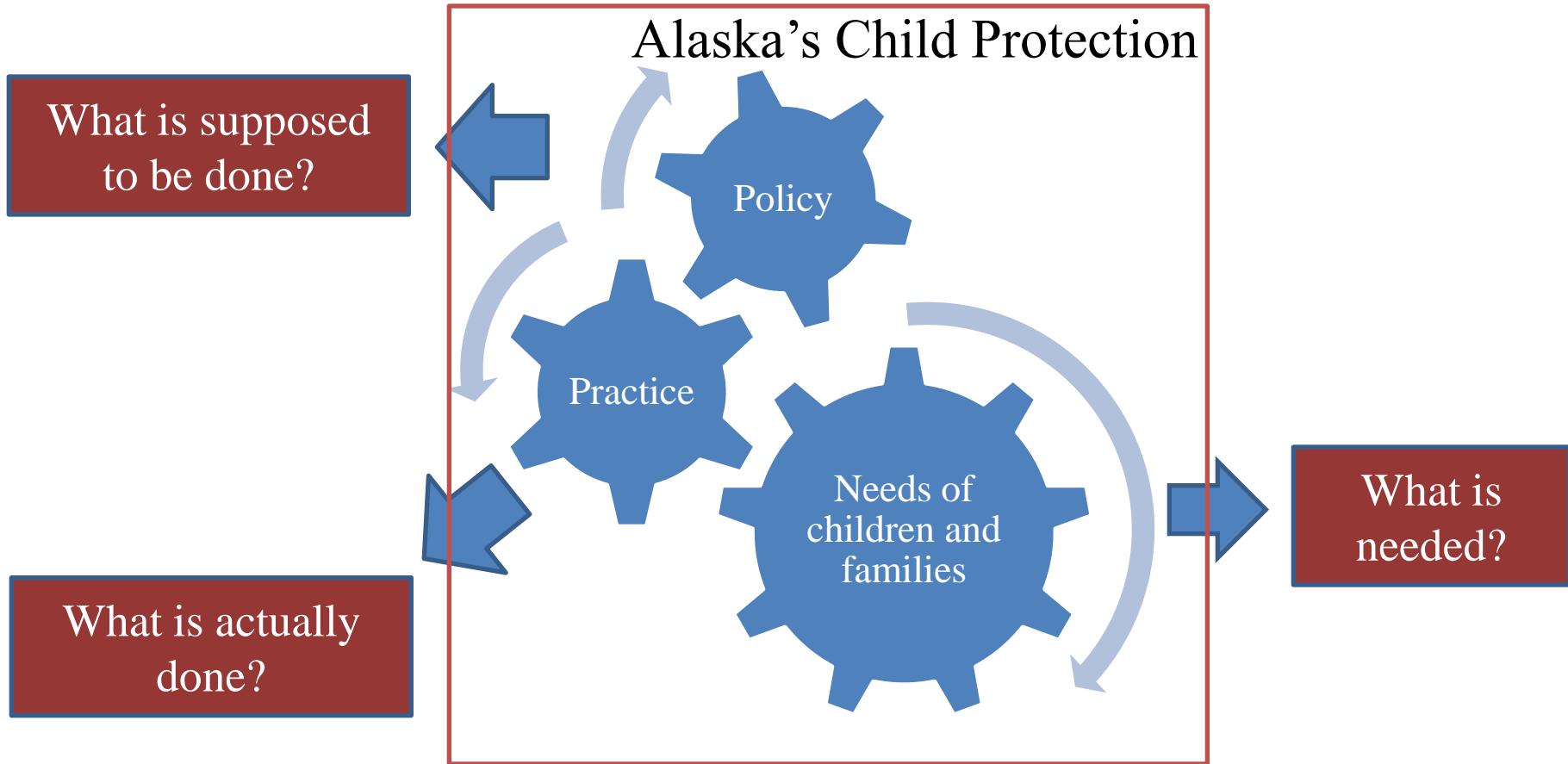
THIS IS HOW IT WORKS...



CRP's job is to check if these wheels are turning as we expect them to – smooth.



THIS IS HOW IT WORKS...



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



CRP'S ANNUAL CALENDAR

2016-2017 CALENDAR

Panel Quarterly Meetings	Meetings with OCS	Site visits	Other
	Aug 27-28, 2016		
		Oct 4, 2016	
		Oct 19, 2016	
		Nov 14, 2016	
Dec 6, 2016	Dec 13, 2015	Dec 5-6, 2016 NRO	
		Jan 18-20, 2017 ARO	
	Feb 14, 2017		
Mar 7, 2017	Mar 15, 2017		Mar 20-21, 2017 Presentation to the legislature
			May 10-12, 2017 CRP National Conference
Jun 24, 2017			

2015-2016 PRESENTATIONS TO THE PANEL

Month	Person	Title
Dec 2016	Scott Heaton	Community Relations Manager, OCS
Mar 2017	Linda Lord Jenkins	Ombudsman, State of Alaska



WORK DURING 2016-2017

- 4 Goals
- 2 site visits – numerous interviews
- 4 Monthly CRP quarterly public meetings
- 6 Meetings with OCS leadership



OTHER WORK 2016-2017

- Backlog of IAs
- CRP reorientation and reorganization
 - Is CRP a stakeholder?
 - Is the current location most appropriate?
 - Is the contract mechanism most meaningful?
- Organized and hosted the 2017 National CRP Conference
- Grand Jury Investigation



WORK DURING 2016-2017: OUTREACH

- Attended the two-day Casey Family Permanency Work organized by OCS
- Presentation to:
 - Resource Family Advisory Board
 - Children's Justice Act Task Force
 - OCS senior leadership on reorienting Alaska CRP
 - BIA Providers Conference
 - Alaska Health Summit
 - Day-long workshop on CRP for ICWA workers
 - Alaska Court Improvement Project



GOALS 2015-2016

- **GOAL 1:** Explore the evolving relationships between Tribal organizations and OCS.
- **GOAL 2:** Review the implementation of the OCS grievance policy
- **GOAL 3:** Develop and disseminate public awareness materials on OCS' intake and IA processes
- **GOAL 4:** Evaluate the efficacy and effectiveness of the new administrative review process



GOALS FOR 2017-2018

- **GOAL 1:** Examine the effectiveness of the current administrative review process (retained)
- **GOAL 2:** Examine if ‘family reunification’ is prioritized as a goal for children in out-of-home placement, and OCS’ efforts in pursuit of ‘family reunification’.
- **GOAL 3:** Examine OCS’ efforts in finding relatives for placement of children in foster care.
- **GOAL 4:** Expand Public Outreach in collaboration with efforts under the Tribal-State strategic plan.
- **GOAL 5:** Strengthen the panel through aggressive recruitment of new members, enhanced website, and tools to reach diverse groups of stakeholders.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, CRP recommendations fall into five categories:

- Quality Assurance
- Management
- Practice
- Public participation
- CRP's role and functions



HOW CAN CRP BE OF USE TO YOU?

- You have a unique and informed perspective
 - You know your communities and families
 - You are often the first responder
 - You are a very good judge of the situations
- You see patterns before, during, and after OCS intervention
- You have the court-side seats when policy becomes practice

CRP is your vehicle to convey your observations to make the necessary changes



HOW CAN CRP BE OF USE TO YOU?

- Participatory mechanism
 - Almost no limits to who can participate
 - You can participate in many ways
 - More participation makes it more effective
- Statutory mechanism
 - It is dictated by state and federal mandates
- Discussion and dialogue
 - This is a long-term dialogue. Common vision and goals drive the work.



HOW CAN CRP OF USE TO YOU?

- With the new OCS-Tribal compact agreements, Tribes will play increasingly instrumental roles

Think of CRP as an idea...

You want your citizens to be served well, and according to their needs and wishes. CRP allows you to do that. You can use the one we now have, or form your own!

THANK YOU!

For more information
www.crpalaska.org