

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.



PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE CRP



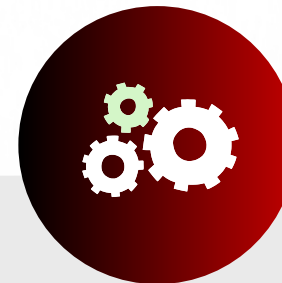
EVALUATION

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.

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OCS RECRUITMENT PRACTICES



FINDINGS

- OCS is collecting HR data and updating processes
- Policies may not accommodate diverse structure



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Flexible hiring practices
- More attractive hiring process

ANNUAL REPORT FY24

PREVENTION EFFORTS:
SCREENED-OUT REPORTS
REFERRAL TO SUPPORT SERVICES



FINDINGS

- Collaborate with community organizations
- Eliminate barriers to direct support



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Look for examples in other States
- Place OCS workers at partnering organizations
- Work with administration to develop solutions
- Create report of annual screened-out cases

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



PHASE TWO – Action & Implementation





CRP CURRENT 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 One

- Data Collection
- Expert Consultation
- Community Feedback

Phase Two

- 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

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

Phase Two

Action and implementation will begin development in Quarter 3

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY25

In spring 2025, the Panel will develop a set of recommendations based on findings from its focus areas to be included in an annual report. This will include actionable steps for the Office of Children's Services (OCS) to consider, such as:

- ❑ Enhancing the mandatory reporting process to ensure timely, accurate reporting and effective use of resources.
- ❑ Advocating for ongoing training and education for mandatory reporters and caregivers.

The Panel will hear from subject matter experts during 24-25, leading up to recommendations in its annual report.



QUESTIONS

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