

THE ALASKA TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE COMPACT

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Tribal Affairs Committee
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WHY THE WORK BEGAN

- **Significant *General* Disparities by Race**
 - 3,121 Alaska children are in State custody
 - 2,043 of which are Alaska Native/American Indian
 - Disproportionality rate of 65.46%
- **Significant *Specific* Disparity by Race (Repeat Maltreatment)**
 - 17% of Alaska Native/American Indian children experienced repeated maltreatment in 2018
 - Compared to 9% for non-Native children
 - The state has a difficult time recruiting and retaining a proficient workforce, and typically operates at a 30% positional vacancy rate—requiring its frontline workers to carry caseloads more than three times the national average.

HOW THE WORK BEGAN

- **Tribal State Collaboration Group**

- 26-year partnership between state and tribal representatives and invited private stakeholders.
- Goals are to: (1) strengthen Indian Child Welfare Act compliance; (2) reduce Alaska Native/American Indian disproportionality; and (3) build and strengthen working relationships.

- **Tribal Title IV-E Agreements**

- Provides federal funds for states and tribes to provide foster care, transitional independent living programs, guardianship assistance, and adoption assistance.
- Tribes can access the funds through (1) state-tribal 'pass through' agreements or (2) direct federal agreements.
 - 11 Tribes/Tribal Organizations currently have Administrative and Short-Term Training Agreements with the State.
 - Two of the 11 also have Maintenance Agreements with the State.
- Tribes receive a **higher** reimbursement rate than the State for covered services, resulting in General Fund savings.

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What is the Compact?

- An intergovernmental agreement between the State of Alaska and certain Alaska tribes and tribal organizations to improve the well-being of Alaskan children and families.
 - Signed October 19, 2017 at the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention
 - Recognizes the inherent authority of Alaska tribes to serve their members and/or individuals eligible for membership.
- Modeled after the compacts the federal government routinely negotiates with tribes and tribal organizations under the Tribal Self Governance Program (TSGP) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), 25 U.S.C. § 450 *et seq.*
- Recognizes the inherent authority of Alaska tribes to serve their members and/or individuals eligible for membership.

ALASKA TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE COMPACT (Cont'd)

- Specifically, by defining the services and supports to be carried out by the tribal cosigners in their respective service delivery areas for their respective populations through 'Scopes of Work.'
- The Compact is the first ever government-to-government agreement negotiated and executed at the state level.

How does the Compact Accomplish its Purpose?

- ‘... by encouraging and providing for collaboration and cooperation in the administration of child welfare and the protection of Alaska’s children.’
- Specifically, by defining the services and supports to be carried out by the tribal cosigners in their respective service delivery areas for their respective populations through ‘Scopes of Work.’

18 TRIBAL COSIGNERS, REPRESENTING 161 INDIVIDUAL TRIBES

- Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
- Arctic Slope Native Association*
- Association of Village Council Presidents
- Bristol Bay Native Association
- Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- Cheesh'na Tribal Council*
- Chugachmiut
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Copper River Native Association
- Native Village of Eyak
- Kawerak, Inc.
- Kenaitze Indian Tribe
- Maniilaq Association
- Mentasta Traditional Council*
- Nome Eskimo Community
- Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
- Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
- Tanana Chiefs Conference

TIMELINE OF IMPLEMENTATION

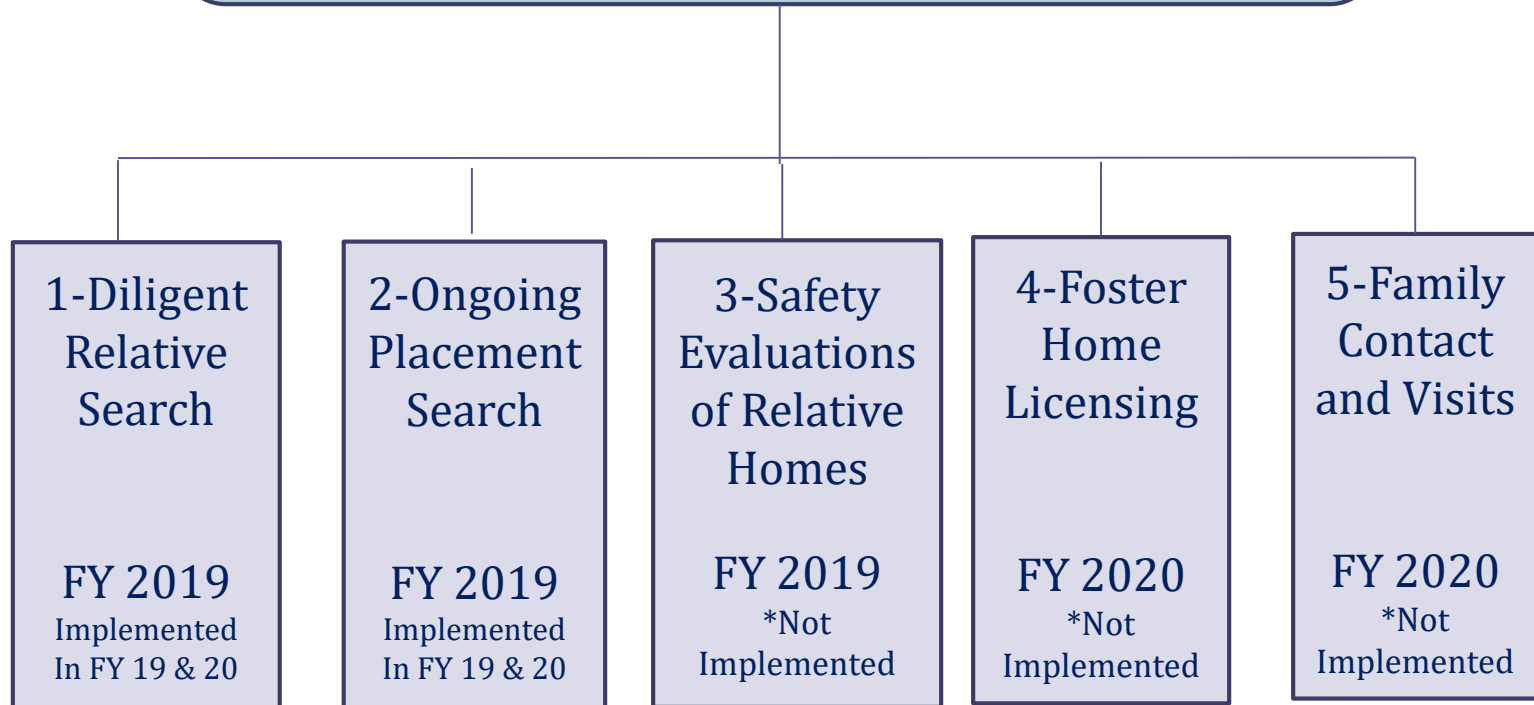
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2018
 - Program development or restructuring; capacity and infrastructure building; training and technical support.
- FY 2019
 - Sharing Protective Services Reports (screen ins/screen outs); performing Initial Diligent Relative Searches Scope of Work; and negotiating new scopes of work.
- FY 2020

The goal was to:

 - Implement new scopes of work for: (1) Initial Diligent Relatives Searches; (2) Ongoing Relatives Searches; (3) Family Contact; (4) Licensing Assist; and (5) Safety Evaluations; and Preventative Services.

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(Effective Date December 15, 2017)



* (3)-(5) are ready to go, but have not been signed as a result of the State requirement of Higher Insurance Coverage for Tribal Co-signers

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Casey Family Programs (CFP)

- National organization focused on child welfare and foster care
- Consistent state presence since 2000
- Applying this 'federal' model to state child welfare work caught the attention of Casey Family Programs (CFP), the country's largest foster care and related services foundation.
- CFP was an eager partner with the state and the tribal co-signers on the endeavor, and through a modest donation created the first ever public-private partnership to transform Alaska's child welfare system.

LONG TERM VISION

- Alaska children and families will be served locally, as close to 'home' as possible.
- Services provided will be more cost effective and efficient.
- Children and families will be more receptive to changing abusive or neglectful behavior(s), which will mean the number of children in state custody will decrease—as will the rate of maltreatment.
- Outcomes for Alaska children and families will be improved, particularly Alaska Native children and families.

IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD:

- Advocate for Governor Dunleavy to uphold the 2017 Tribal Child Welfare Compact
- Encourage the State to come up with a workable solution for the increased insurance coverage they are requiring of Tribal Co-signers
- Office of Children's Services needs additional financial resources to support Tribal Co-signers in doing this work

Gunalchéesh/Háw'aa
QUYANA
(THANK YOU)