

SCR

2

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FURTHER:

FINANCE

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE _____

Mr. President:

JUDICIARY Committee considered SCR 2

Establishing a Children's Law Task Force.

and recommended:

replace with _____ CS FOR _____) same title
 or adopt _____ CS FOR _____) new title

attached amendment(s) and

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

letter of intent adopted _____

Committee attached or adopted fiscal note(s) *No action fiscal note*
 new updated or previous
 zero fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Walter Rodney
Richard H. Ford

Walter Rodney No Recommendation
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup Attached

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

Date of waived 2/27/87 5-DAY NOTICE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNIFORM RULE 23

FURTHER: JUDICIARY
FINANCE

**FISCAL NOTE(S) ATTACHED 4 **
IN ACCORDANCE WITH AS 24.08.035
(see below)

1/22/87

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 2/4/85

Mr. President:

HESS

Committee considered

SCR 2

Establishing a Children's Law Task Force.

and recommended:

[] replace with CS _____ [] same title

[] attached amendment(s) and [] new title

[X] do pass

[] do not pass

[] no recommendation

[] individual recommendations

[] further referral to _____

[] letter of intent adopted and attached

** Committee [X] attached or [] adopted fiscal note(s)
3 [X] zero / [X] fiscal impact and 3 yrs

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Richard Hales
Joe Josephson

Carla Frick De Pau
Chairman signature and recommendation

[] Committee Backup Attached

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

REQUEST: _____
 Revision Date: _____
 Title: Establishing a Children's Law
Task Force
 Sponsor: Senator Hebling
 Requestor: Senate HESS

Bill Version: SCR 2
 Publish Date: 3-5-87

Agency Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
 BRU: Legislative Council
Leadership
 Components: Session Expenses
Legislative Leadership

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL	-0-	23.7	11.9	-0-	-0-	-0-
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	23.7	11.9	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	23.7	11.9	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS :

No additional funding is requested for a staff person being hired by the task force. Funding will be provided by existing funding under Session Expense and Legislative Leadership. However, travel funds for public

Prepared by: Pamela A. Stoops, Manager Phone: 465-3850
 Division: Administrative Services Date: 3/2/87
 Approved by: Warren W. Endicott Date: 3/2/87
 Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary

CONTINUATION of FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

For Bill/Resolution No. SCR 2

members and other legislative task force members is requested - \$23.7.

4 trips @ 352 x 10 members	=	14,080
3 days per diem (\$80) x		
4 trips x 10 members	=	<u>9,600</u>
		23,680

The expiration date of the task force is in the middle of FY 89 on January 10, 1989. One half of the travel funding is requested for FY 89.

It is assumed that contractual services, supplies and equipment funding for the task force will also be provided by existing funding within Session Expenses and Legislative Leadership components.

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version: SCR 2
Publish Date: 3-5-87

Revision Date: _____
Title: "An Act establishing a children's law task force..."
Sponsor: Jehling, Faiks, et.al.
Requestor: Senate Judiciary

Agency Affected: Administration
BRU: Office of Public Advocacy
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES		0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS :

Boyer

Prepared by: Brant McGee, Public Advocate
Division: Office of Public Advocacy

Approved by Commissioner: Garrey Peska
Agency: Department of Administration

Phone: 274-1684
Date: 2/22/87
Date: 2/27/87

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: SCR 2

Publish Date: 3-5-87

REQUEST

Revision Date: _____

Title: "Establishing a Children's Law Task Force."

Sponsor: Rep. Uehling

Requestor: Senate HESS

Agency Affected: Public Safety

BRU: Alaska State Troopers

Components: Detachments & CIB

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
OPERATING						
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS:

No fiscal impact is anticipated.

JAR
3/17/87

Prepared by: Francis C. Allan
Division: Alaska State Troopers

Phone: 269-5691
Date: 2/17/87

Approved by Commissioner: William R. Nix
Agency: Public Safety

Date: 3/2/87

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)
Senate Secretary

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: _____
 Revision Date: _____
 Title: A Resolution Establishing a
Children's Law Task Force.
 Sponsor: Uehling, et al.
 Requestor: _____

Bill Version: SCR No. 2
 Publish Date: 3-5-87

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
 BRU: Social Services
Youth Services
 Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS :

Legislative staff have indicated that travel funds will be provided by the Legislature for task force participants as necessary.

Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director ^{YMC} Phone: 465-3170
 Division: Division of Family and Youth Services Date: 2/27/87
 Approved by Commissioner: Mara M. Munson, Commissioner ^{PPB} Date: 3/2/87
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Distribution (by preparer):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)
 Senate Secretary



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

SENATOR RICK UEHLING

P.O. BOX V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Senate Finance
Committee

TO: Senator Paul Fischer, Chair
Senate Committee on Health, Education and Social Services

From: Senator Rick Uehling

Subject: SCR 2 "Establishing a Children's Law Task Force"

Date: February 27, 1987

I have asked staff to provide the following background and analysis of SCR 2, "Establishing a Children's Law Task Force."

The Background

SCR 2 would establish a Children's Law Task Force to review current Alaska laws and regulations relating to children. Like the 1975 Children's Code Task Force, the Children's Law Task Force will report back to the Legislature necessary changes to the State's current laws and regulations and the way they are implemented.

During the past several years new attention has been focused on the many problems of children in all age groups in today's society. Issues such as child abuse and child sexual assault have been in the forefront of the media and received Legislative attention. Meanwhile, new issues seem to arise continually: How should runaways be treated? How should our foster parent's program be run? How should we respond to rising teenage pregnancies? Are our State agencies taking too much or too little action in child abuse cases? Are we providing adequate health and medical benefits for the children of low income parents?

The Legislature is continually being asked to help address the answers to these questions. With representation from those with backgrounds of involvement with children and children's issues, the Task Force will be able to take a comprehensive holistic approach to the many problems and issues surrounding the State's current Children's laws.

One note, there is presently a large amount of material and research specific to Alaska available on the subject and this presents the Legislature with an invaluable opportunity to take advantage of this material and research while it is still current.

The Analysis

The resolution enumerates what issues Children's law addresses, mentions how parents and other concerned parties have expressed concern about those laws and how they are administered, and then states that a comprehensive review of those laws is needed to determine how the State may best address those issues and create an environment that fosters the development of children into responsible, healthy and productive citizens.

The resolve section establishes a Children's Law Task Force consisting of the Chairs of the Senate and House Judiciary and Health, Education and Social Services Committees and other persons involved with the children's issues who are appointed by the the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

The term of the Task Force would begin on July 1, 1987 and end on on January 10, 1989, at which time it would submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations. The Legislative Affairs Agency shall provide administrative and legal support and the Task Force would be allowed to hire one staff person.

*1 - WASHINGTON TASK
OF PEOPLE'S
FORCE UP TO
PRESIDENT & SPEAKER*

MAR 2 1987

POSITION PAPER

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

For a Resolution establishing a Children's Law Task Force.

This Resolution would establish a task force to study Alaska statutes and regulations relating to children and the problems of implementing those statutes and regulations. The task force is charged with making recommendations to the Legislature on any changes to the statutes appropriate and necessary to improving the condition of children in the State.

The Department supports the concept of establishing a task force to study the circumstances of Alaska's children. Periodic review and evaluation of statutes, regulations and programs implementing the laws are useful in assessing the effectiveness of policy directions and administrative efforts. A similar task force was an effective mechanism in accomplishing the major revision of Alaska's Children's Code which occurred in 1977.

However, comprehensive and practical evaluations of statutory and administrative effectiveness must include a review of the needs or issues being addressed and of the adequacy of resources devoted to implementing the policies embodied in the laws. For this reason, the Department recommends that the task force also be explicitly charged with assessing the needs of children in the State, the adequacy of current resources available to carry out existing law, and the level of resources necessary to effectively implement any recommended statutory or regulatory changes. With the inclusion of such language, the Department would fully support the resolution.

RECOMMENDED:

Ivonne Chase
Ivonne M. Chase, Director
Division of Family
and Youth Services

DATE:

February 27, 1987

APPROVED:

Blanche Beane
Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services

DATE:

March 2, 1987

BILL NO: SCR 2

DATE: Feb 17, 1987

TITLE: "Establishing a Children's Law Task Force."

CONTACT: Maj. Walter J. Gilmour
Acting Director

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY

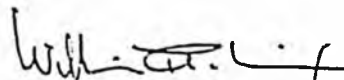
ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

This legislation would form a task force that would be charged with reviewing the numerous existing statutes and regulations pertaining to children within the state and issues concerning these children. From this task force, there would result effective and more cohesive state programs, thus better assisting the children in reaching the goals of being safe, healthy and positive members of our society.

The task force created by this piece of legislation would, after review, provide a written report of its findings along with recommendations and proposals such as program and legislation changes that would assist in reaching the above state goals.

There is no specific mention of members of law enforcement being part of the task force. Based on the role of law enforcement in dealing with children in multiple state programs, it is recommended that a proposed amendment include positions on the task force for the Alaska State Troopers and other law enforcement members in the state.

The Division of Alaska State Troopers is neutral on this legislation.



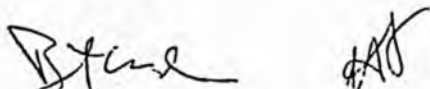
WILLIAM R. NIX
Acting Commissioner

POSITION PAPER
Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2
"An Act Establishing a
Children's Law Task Force"

This concurrent resolution would mandate the creation of a Children's Law Task Force composed of agency representatives as well as public members to study current Alaska Statutes and agency operations in order to make reform recommendations.

The resolution would have no immediate impact on Office of Public Advocacy or its programs.

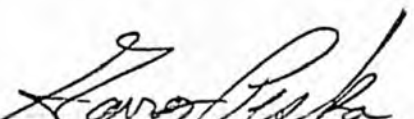
The Office of Public Advocacy supports House Concurrent Resolution No. 4 because it would create a needed forum in which a comprehensive study of laws affecting children and agencies' implementation of such laws could be conducted.



Brant McGee, Public Advocate
Office of Public Advocacy

2/22/87

Date



Commissioner Garrey Peska
Department of Administration

2/27/87

Date



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, ANCHORAGE

3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

February 25, 1987

Senator Rick Uehling
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MAR 2 1987

RE: SCR - 2 - Childrens Law Task Force

Dear Senator Rick Uehling:

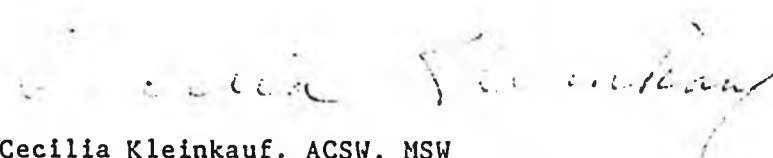
This letter is to convey my very strongest support for SCR 2 - The Childrens Law Task Force Resolution. It has been nearly ten years since Alaska last conducted an overall review of childrens statutes, and we must once again approach the many problems and issues in the law and in services related to children in as comprehensive a manner as possible.

The approach to children's law and services embodied in SCR 2 is similar to that employed in 1975 and 1976 when I had the privilege of being appointed to the original Children's Code Task Force in Alaska. As the attached article indicates, professionals and lay citizens from around the State, supported by legal and research staff, were appointed jointly by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to undertake law review and subsequently make recommendations to the Alaska Legislature. This approach enabled many points of view to be heard, many other state's approaches to be considered and Federal laws and/or funding requirements to be reviewed as part of making recommendations.

Your willingness to introduce the resolution to re-establish a law review effort is to be commended. Be assured that I am available to provide information on the previous effort or to assist in any other way I can. Please feel free to share this letter and/or the attached article with other legislators or committees as the resolution is being debated.

Again, my thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,


Cecilia Kleinkauf, ACSW, MSW
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Social Work, UAA

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: The Honorable Steve Cowper
Governor
State of Alaska

DATE: March 2, 1981

FILE NO: 465-4700 (DC&RA)
465-2800 (DOE)
465-3030 (DH&SS)

TELEPHONE NO:

THRU:

SUBJECT: Creation of the
Governor's Task
Force on Children
and Youth

FROM:

David G. Hoffman
David G. Hoffman, Commissioner
Department of Community and Regional Affairs

Marshall L. Lind
Marshall L. Lind, Commissioner
Department of Education

Myra M. Munson
Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health and Social Services

We are writing to propose the establishment of a task force whose purpose would be to recommend a first class child care system and undertake a comprehensive analysis of the state of children and youth in Alaska.

We are struck by the considerable interest in children that we currently see reflected in both the public and private sectors of our State. We urge the creation of this statewide task force now, in order to capture this broad based interest. The appointment of this task force is timely because:

- ° the economics of child care is a key component to building a strong Alaska, because, as you have pointed out, "there are social and economic problems which can be directly attributed to a lack of adequate, quality child care in the State."
- ° a number of bills before the Legislature right now are specifically related to children and youth, including two resolutions pending in both houses regarding the formation of a "Children's Law Task Force" that would review the myriad statutes and regulations pertaining to issues involving children;
- ° members of the House Committee on Health, Education and Social Services (HESS), together with Representative Peter Goll, recently held a well-attended meeting regarding "gaps and overlaps" in the State's human services delivery system;

- ° beginning this week, the House HESS Committee will spend an entire week focused on Services for Children and Youth in Alaska, taking testimony from the staff of four departments and many private, non-profit human services provider agencies;
- ° an increasing number of parents, educators, health care and social service providers, and policy makers have become demonstrably concerned about early childhood health and education issues, because of the crucial importance of these early years and the favorable long-term outcomes of investing in high quality early childhood programs;
- ° other groups of parents, educators, human services providers, and policy makers are focused on issues surrounding the large number of children and youth on the run in Alaska;
- ° many parents, private agencies, and others involved with children have expressed concern that Alaska's statutes and regulations regarding children, and the State agencies that administer those laws and regulations, have failed to deal adequately with many of the problems that face children and parents in today's complex society; and
- ° finally, of course, there are many very real, abiding budget issues being raised almost hour by hour, issues which serve only to further arouse justifiable concerns over the ability of the State to meet even basic nurturing and protective services for its most vulnerable citizens.

Although these diverse issues and interest groups certainly speak to some of the more critical children's concerns, they do little to help us channel our talents and energies towards a comprehensive analysis of the array of problems related to the care and education of our children and youth. Additionally, the splintering that too often results from this undirected concern can ultimately be detrimental to the best interests of children. We do not find this to be the best environment in which to forge good, objective public policy regarding the true needs of our children and youth.

The formation of a statewide task force, however, would serve as a vehicle to focus on the current status of children and youth (ages 0-18) in Alaska. This group will

- °develop a plan for a first class child care system;
- °provide a forum to address much needed statutory and regulatory reforms;
- °pay special attention to the health and appropriate educational needs of our young children;
- °address the problems of our delinquents and runaways;
- °conduct a children's "census;" and
- °address the gaps and overlaps in programs serving our children.

More importantly, however, this group will keep all these issues in context, because it will look at all these issues together, not separately: a holistic view, if you will, of the state of our children and youth, and the systems and programs by and through which we serve -- or do not serve -- them.

Attached to this memorandum is the formal proposal for you to consider. We believe the charge to this working group (tentatively called the "Governor's Task Force on Children and Youth") should be specific; it's lifetime should be relatively short: portions of its work must be accomplished between now and January of next year, the rest by January of 1989. We believe that the task force must be representative of interest groups from early childhood through adolescence, but it should not be too large a group; we believe it must be "blue ribbon," in order to garner the support and credibility necessary to make its processes consensual and its work product practical.

Because children are powerless, children need powerful friends. The question must be asked: has Alaska kept its best and brightest resource -- its children and youth -- at the top of its priorities? We ask you, as the Chief Executive of this State, to affirm your commitment to children by announcing the formation of the task force.

Attachment

A PROPOSAL FOR
A GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

GOAL

The goal of the Governor's Task Force on Children and Youth is to place children and youth higher on the public policy agenda of the State of Alaska and to ensure a high-quality, responsive, accessible system for all children, youth, and families in Alaska.

A LIST OF POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES
OF THE TASK FORCE

- 1) To produce a comprehensive plan for child care and a coherent State policy for children and youth.
- 2) To determine what the State of Alaska believes are the basic needs of children and youth.
- 3) To produce an accurate, detailed inventory of all services and programs provided to children and youth in this State. The inventory should identify all existing State, municipal, non-profit, corporate, religious, and private programs and services for our children and youth.
- 4) To collect all available statistics from the various public and private providers of children's services, in order to assess the physical and emotional health of our children and their financial well-being. In addition, to report on trends in such areas as the growth in the number of "latchkey" children, the costs of raising a child, the cost of poverty, etc.
- 5) To conduct, after an analysis of the data gathered, a detailed and information-specific census of Alaskan children (ages 0 - 18) for use in evaluating the adequacy of public and private services.
- 6) To analyze and make recommendations concerning the status of both public and private interagency cooperation and coordination in Alaska; further, to focus on the role these agencies should play in the unified delivery of services to our children.
- 7) To review those State and municipal laws and regulations relating to children and recommend appropriate changes where the conflicts between existing laws force inequitable treatment or lack of accountability.
- 8) To consider the State as a model employer for working families.

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

The task force should be broadly composed to represent legislators, child care professionals, educators, health professionals, parents, business and labor leaders, clergy, and the Departments of Community and Regional Affairs, Education, Health and Social Services, and Public Safety. The Task Force should have no more than 15 members.

BUDGET

We believe that support for this effort must come from both the public and private sectors. Clearly, the State departments are willing to bear their expenses in support of the task force. We suggest that one of the group's first tasks must be to seek funding of its efforts. We believe funding is necessary for 1) travel expenses, including hearings in urban and rural Alaska; 2) contractual services for data collection, audio conferencing, assistance in conducting the census, and facilitating the workings of the task force itself; and 3) publication of the findings and recommendations of the task force.

To assist the task force in its work, the Alaska Department of Education has received a two-year, \$125,000 technical (i.e., non-cash) assistance grant from the National Association of State Boards of Education.

TIMELINE

The objectives of this task force are critical. We need much of the information to be collected and analyzed before being ready to go forward in developing coherent policy. The charge of this task force has both short and long term goals. A portion of the task force's work should be accomplished by January 1, 1988, particularly the data collection and analysis, the census, a review of pertinent laws and regulations, and a plan for a child care system. Recognizing that other portions of the task, however, will require more time, research, and deliberation, we recommend that it fully complete its tasks no later than January 1, 1989.

Alaska's Children's Code

CECILIA KLEINKAUF
BETSEY McGUIRE

Enactment of Alaska's new Children's Code was achieved only after years of struggle involving many professional and public forces. The code is considered a breakthrough in legislation for children.

Termed "a major breakthrough in juvenile legislation" (5:1), Alaska's recently enacted Children's Code is the culmination of years of work in behalf of children, with the evolution from concern to actual statute revision a complicated and exhausting process.

Undertaking extensive juvenile law review rather than settling for a piecemeal approach had obvious advantages, but the practical realities were formidable. In the interests of having others benefit for Alaska's experiences, this paper presents an account of the process and mechanics of the work, as well as the innovative child welfare concepts embodied in the new laws.

Background

Awareness among professionals of the need to revise Alaska's children's laws also entailed awareness of the need to enter the

Cecilia Kleinkauf, M.S.W., ACSW, is Assistant Professor of Social Work, University of Alaska, Anchorage. She represented the Alaska Chapter, NASW, on the Children's Code Task Force, and is legislative lobbyist for the Alaska NASW. Betsey McGuire, M.A., NASW, National Association for the Education of Young Children, is former Executive Director, Alaska Office of Child Advocacy, Office of the Governor. Portions of this paper were presented at the CWLA Northwest Regional Conference at Calgary, Alberta, Canada, in 1977.

legislative area, where such change would take place. In 1969 and 1970 several legislators began to consider with professionals, lay people and Region X staff (HEW) various methods of achieving law reform, and ultimately proposed creation of an Office of Child Advocacy, to carry out such a massive task as one of its many areas of concern. In 1972 this office was created by legislation in the Office of the Governor and charged with responsibilities that included providing "leadership in recommending legislative change which affects the provision of children's and child development services [12]." At the same time, the Alaska Legislative Affairs agency was directed to compile all existing laws pertaining to children to facilitate the review.

Although the Office of Child Advocacy was not funded until October 1973 and did not go into operation until January 1974, other efforts gathered support for the development of the Children's Code. Most notable was the designation in 1973, by both the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Alaska and the Alaska Chapter, National Association of Social Workers (NASW), of the Children's Code as a priority need in Alaska. From 1973 until enactment in 1977, these two groups maintained lobbying efforts for passage of the code.

In 1974 the Office of child Advocacy was functioning well and sponsored conferences on "The Child and the Law" designed to identify areas of concern about existing laws, for professionals and public. The conferences also alerted legislative and governmental leaders to the increasing need and support for both law reform and service improvement. Because of the close interrelationship between legal requirements and service delivery, the Alaska Chapter, NASW, requested of the Legislature that year a comprehensive study of Alaska's child welfare services, for recommendations that would influence future law revision. In response, the Legislative Council contracted with the Child Welfare League of America for a survey of services, the findings of which were presented to the Alaska Legislature early in 1975.

Law Revision Begins

The Legislative Council, by now accepting the need for reform, joined with the Governor's Office of Child Advocacy and interested groups to consider the best approach to law revision. A plan was devised for creation of a Task Force of professionals and citizens

representing broad social, legal and judicial interests who would work together with the legal staff of the Legislative Affairs Agency toward creation of the Children's Code. As the coordinating body, the Office of Child Advocacy provided legal staff, and its executive director served as Task Force chairperson. The Governor's Office also made travel funds available for Task Force members. By June 1975 the work began, with the Task Force stating its intention to "...determine the areas of Alaska law dealing with children which are most in need of review, look critically at Alaska's approach to the treatment of children in these areas, comparing Alaska's approach to that of other states, and to submit legislation to the Legislative Council revising the statutes which the Task Force determines to be in need of revision [6]." A report on these efforts was made to the Legislative Council in December 1975.

Although somewhat limited by time constraints (August-December 1975), the Task Force efforts did result in two major recommendations that were introduced in legislation in January 1976. The first was for the clarification and expansion of the "guardian ad litem" concept to provide for the representation of children's best interests as well as their preferences. The requirement that the court specify the duties and authority of the guardian was also included. The second recommendation was for the repeal of Alaska's statutes for both Dependency and Child in Need of Supervision actions, in favor of a new designation, "Child in Need of Aid"—a totally new approach to issues of children before the court.

The legislation was considered throughout the 1976 legislative session, but did not pass. It did, however, give tangible proof that the Task Force approach (when provided with sufficient legal expertise) was a feasible way to accomplish law revision. It also extended efforts to educate legislators about the need for change, and facilitated discussion and consideration of a major public policy shift away from status offenses and away from statutes that tended to place blame as part of the adjudicatory processes.

Supportive Legislation

Two other measures introduced and passed in the 1976 legislative session contributed significantly to the ultimate enactment of Alaska's Children's Code. First and foremost was a Concurrent Resolution (SCR75) directing the Legislative Council to "review the existing laws relating to children specifically and the family in

general and to accomplish any necessary revision to harmonize contents, supply omissions, and generally clarify and make complete in the body of law Alaska's family law [5].'' This clear directive that statute revision continue was supported by funding in the council's budget for continued legal research for the Task Force.

The second piece of legislation, resulting from a recommendation of the earlier Child Welfare League of America study, established a far-reaching statement of public social policy for children in Alaska that provided a philosophical basis from which later code positions were to emanate.

The purpose of this title as it relates to children is to secure for each child the care and guidance, preferably in his own home, that will serve the moral, emotional, mental and physical welfare of the child and the best interests of the community, to preserve and strengthen the child's family ties whenever possible, removing him from the custody of his parents only as a last resort when his welfare or safety or the protection of the public cannot be adequately safeguarded without removal; and when the child is removed from his family to secure for him adequate custody and care [12].

The Code Is Drafted

Supported clearly by the Legislature and with sufficient funding from Legislative Affairs for full-time legal counsel, the Task Force, with continued support from the Governor's office, resumed work in the spring of 1976, with vastly increased capability for research and statute drafting. The procedure adopted for arriving at recommendations was for the Task Force to identify, consider and establish priorities for issues of concern together with the staff attorney, then research possible approaches and to suggest statutory language or various options. The possible revisions were then discussed and agreement reached on how to proceed. Specific language was then drafted and finally voted on by the Task Force. The wide variety of urban and rural, professional and lay opinions represented on the Task Force made this approach the most feasible, as the group was once again working against a year-end deadline if legislation was to be introduced in January. The proposed Children's Code was presented to the Legislative Council in November 1976, and in-

roduced into both the Alaska House of Representatives and the Senate early in 1977.

Lobbying Efforts

The development of recommendations for statute changes was only half the battle; the other half was to have the recommendations become law.

As 1976 was an election year, a good deal of education of legislators had taken place during the fall campaign months by the Alaska League of Women Voters and the Alaska NASW, both of which had focused their candidate review on issues that included the Children's Code.

Once a set of recommendations had been proposed to the council, lobbying efforts intensified. The long years of commitment to children's law revision by such a wide variety of groups and individuals had created broad lobbying support and helped to minimize much of the anticipated opposition.

The interim between the November elections and the January opening of the Legislature was used for informing legislators of the substance of the Task Force recommendations, and for programs of public education.

Lobbying during Alaska's legislative session is both expensive and logistically complicated because Juneau, the capital, is far removed from other population centers and accessible only by air. A variety of efforts was employed, therefore to continue to gather support for the code preceding committee and floor votes. The efforts included committee testimony, letters of support, individual contacts with legislators by LWV and NASW lobbyists, Office of Child Advocacy board members, consultation of the Task Force's attorney with legislative committees and staff, constituent contacts with key legislators and often the arguments of supportive legislators themselves. The children's Code Bill passed the Alaska Legislature in May and was signed into law by the Governor on May 28, 1977. The code became effective on August 26, 1977.

Child Welfare Concepts

Many of the concepts in the new law, while important for clarifying Alaska's statutes, are not significantly new approaches to

children's law. Several, however, are precedent setting and bring the law into current theoretical approaches concerning intervention into family life. Underlying the entire code is the belief that intervention should be limited to instances where the child is in actual or imminent harm—and that such harm should be assessed against specific criteria.

The code's intent was fivefold: "to clarify which children would be under juvenile court jurisdiction; to eliminate overbroad and vague jurisdictional grounds; to specify the Department of Health and Social Services' responsibilities in treating the child and the family; to set out certain guidelines for the court; and to clear up a number of inconsistencies in the present laws [1]."

is in the approach to court jurisdiction over children and in clarifying the Department of Health and Social Services' responsibilities that the significant concepts are found. The most important are the creation of the designation Child in Need of Aid to give jurisdictional grounds, and the requirement for treatment and limitation of state custody to delineate the state's responsibility to children before the court.

Child in Need of Aid

Under the new law, Alaska's children were brought under the state's jurisdiction as delinquents (lawbreakers), dependents (neglected, abandoned, etc.) or children in need of supervision (ways, truants, incorrigibles). Based upon Task Force members' desire to redirect the statute's emphasis away from the necessity of placing blame on the parent and/or child and toward assuring care for the family and child, the new law eliminates the provisions of the new concept Child in Need of Supervision in favor of the new jurisdictional section reasserts the primacy of the parent and child relationship and obligates the state to find specific instances of actual or imminent harm before the courts and state agencies can intervene in family life [1:4]. The new law defines Child in Need of Aid as:

(A) the child being habitually absent from his home or refusing to accept available care, or having no parent, guardian, custodian or relative caring or willing to care for him, including physical abandonment by (i) both parents, (ii) the surviving parent or (iii) one parent if the

other parent's rights and responsibilities have been terminated under Sec. 80 of this chapter or voluntarily relinquished;

(B) the child being in need of medical treatment to cure, alleviate, or prevent his suffering substantial physical harm, or mental harm as evidenced by failure to thrive, severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or untoward aggressive behavior or hostility toward others, and his parents are unwilling to provide the medical treatment;

(C) the child having suffered substantial physical harm or if there is an imminent and substantial risk that the child will suffer such harm as a result of the actions done by or conditions created by his parent, guardian or custodian, or by the failure of his parent, guardian or custodian adequately to supervise him;

(D) the child having been sexually abused either by his parent, guardian or custodian, or as a result of conditions created by his parent, guardian, or custodian, or by the failure of his parent, guardian or custodian adequately to supervise him;

(E) the child committing delinquent acts as a result of pressure, guidance or approval from his parents, guardian or custodian. [8].

Such behaviorally descriptive standards for the state's intervention on behalf of children resulted from research into the laws of other states, as well as into current literature on children's law [2:3;4]. The philosophy and recommendations of Michael Wald, professor of law at Stanford University, coincided with the Task Force's belief that establishment of objective criteria for measuring specific harms to the child worked to prevent the subjective discretion of social workers and judges from determining custody issues. The elimination of the concept of fault finding and the redirection toward consideration of harm to the child that requires state intervention focuses the court's attention on what is to be done for the child, rather than who is to blame. The new language also eliminates "possible unconstitutionally broad and vague terms and laws" in the old statutes such as "incorrigible" and "wayward" on the part of the child and "false habits" on the part of the parents [7].

Required Treatment Planning

Probably the single most significant issue to virtually all

requent inability of the state to provide services to children and families that improve the situation so that children can be returned home, with the result that many children were "lost in the system" after placement.

Having addressed the jurisdictional statutes to require more specificity for adjudicating a child either delinquent or in need of aid, the Task Force turned its attention to possible statutory methods for assuring that services were delivered. Again with Wald's guidance [4], the Task Force decided to pursue service availability through: 1) the statutes governing the dispositions that could be made of children's cases; 2) the addition of a requirement for the preparation of a treatment plan; 3) the requirement for specific information to be provided in mandatory review hearings concerning the provision of services; and 4) the strengthened guardian ad litem provisions mentioned earlier.

Under Alaska law the courts hear the evidence in support of either petition in Delinquency or Child in Need of Aid and subsequently dismiss the petition or adjudicate the child. If a child is adjudicated, various dispositions are possible. Under the new code possible dispositions for Delinquency now include: 1) commitment to the Department of Health and Social Services for institutional placement; 2) commitment to the department with probation, either living at home or in a placement facility; 3) department probation supervision with no commitment, or 4) restitution ordered in lieu of commitment to numbers 1, 2, 3.

Dispositional alternatives for Children in Need of Aid care: 1) commitment to the department for placement (not including a correctional institution); 2) release to parent or guardian under court order to provide care or treatment supervised by the department; or 3) termination of parental rights.

Prior to any dispositional order for either Delinquents or Children in Need of Aid, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services is now required by law to submit a "predisposition report with recommended plan of treatment [9] ... which in the case of Child in Need of Aid" ... shall include, but is not limited to the following: 1) a statement of changes in the child's or parent's behavior, which will be used by the court in determining that supervision of the family or placement is no longer necessary; 2) if removal from the home is recommended, a description of the reasons the child cannot be protected and rehabilitated adequately in the home, including a description of

any previous efforts to work with the parents and the child in the home and the parent's attitude toward placement of the child; 3) a description of the potential harm to the child that may result from removal from the home and any efforts that can be made to minimize such harm; and 4) any further information that the court may request [10].

It is evident that the reports are intended to be objective and to document the need for removal from the home in order to provide services, but even more importantly, they are required to specify behaviors that the family members must change before the return of the child or the cessation of the state's supervision. These reports are required to be made available to all parties involved 10 days before the dispositional hearing, in order that expectations are clear and that removal of the child is justified. It is hoped that, as far as possible, professionals and parents together will arrive at specifics in the treatment plan.

Additionally, the state is forced to confront the harm to the child resulting from placement and to plan for minimizing it.

Although the old law required at least yearly review hearings concerning children under the jurisdiction of the court, the code substantially strengthened this section in an effort to return children home unless specific and measurable evidence can be provided to support the need for continued placement. The law now requires that the child be returned home at the review hearing unless a preponderance of the evidence shows that the conditions under which the child was adjudicated still exist. "If the child is not returned home, the court shall establish on the record: 1) why the child was removed from the home; 2) what services have been provided to or offered to the parents to facilitate reunion; 3) what services were utilized by the parents to facilitate reunion; 4) the visitation history between the parents and the child; 5) whether additional services are needed to facilitate the return of the child to his parents; 6) when return of the child can be expected." [11]

The reporting of actual services being provided to the child and the family will increase the accountability of the state for children in its care, as well as providing a vehicle for comparing planned services at the time of adjudication with actual ones a year later. The requirement for projecting a date for return of the child to his home also is considered a worthwhile addition.

Limited Custody

The review hearing requires the projection of a date for return of the child to the home, and the state's custody of the child (except where parental rights are severed) is now statutorily limited to 2 years. The elimination of indeterminate commitment represents a significant shift in the state's approach both to delinquent children and to Children in Need of Aid. Nationwide concern over institutionalizing children for periods far exceeding adult commitment for a similar offense was felt strongly in Alaska, and is eased by the new 2-year limitation. The possibility that nondelinquent children removed from their homes will drift indefinitely in a series of foster homes should also be significantly reduced. Extensions of commitment are possible, but they must be petitioned for by the state or the child is released. Even if petitioned for, however, extensions are not automatic. A hearing must be held in which the state demonstrates that the extension is in the child's and the public's best interests, and in no case can the extension last beyond the child's 19th birthday, unless the child himself consents.

Conclusion

Alaska's Children's Code took effect August 26, 1977, and efforts toward its implementation are in an early stage. Work continues toward the passage of revised adoption statutes that were removed from the code and are still pending in the Alaska Legislature. The eventuation of law revision in improved child welfare services, however, is yet to be determined. ✧

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The State of the Alaskan Child

A DATA BOOK PREPARED BY THE CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCACY PROJECT
A PROGRAM OF ALASKA CHILDREN'S SERVICES,
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CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCACY PROJECT DATABOOK

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Children in Poverty
Single Parent Families
Mothers Alone
Working Mothers
Child Care
Head Start
Day Care Assistance Programs
Children and Divorce
Children in Out-of-Home Care

CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK

Runaways
Abused and Neglected Children
Emotionally Disturbed Children and Youth
Juveniles - Arrests/ Detention/ Treatment
Adolescent Pregnancies



1986

*The State of the
Alaskan Child*



SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

SINGLE PARENTS HAVE AN INCOME FAR BELOW TWO-PARENT FAMILIES

- 11% of ALASKA's families are headed by one parent.
- Persons in families headed by women accounted for 20% of Alaska's poverty population in 1980 compared to 17% in 1970.
- Less than 30% of the single parents receive any child support payments.
- 23% of its single fathers have responsibility for their children who are 6 years old or younger.
- In FY83, 8,585 children received AFDC.
- In FY85, 10,899 children received AFDC.

Too many children live in single-parent households. If that parent is a mother under the age of 25, it is almost a guarantee of a lifetime in poverty.

Source: 1, 3, 4 and 12

MOTHERS ALONE

ALASKA WOMEN EARN 58 CENTS FOR EVERY DOLLAR A MAN EARNS

- 60% OF ALASKA'S SINGLE MOTHERS WHO HAVE CHILDREN UNDER SIX YEARS OF AGE, ARE IN THE LABOR FORCE.
- In 1980, over 25% of Alaska families headed by women were in poverty. In rural Alaska, more than one of every three families headed by women fell below the poverty level.

The proportion of women who head households in Alaska has doubled since 1960. Mothers alone in our State frequently suffer more stress than their counterparts in the lower 48 because they lack an adequate support system. Often these mothers have no immediate family living close enough to call on for help and they have not developed a system of friends to fill this need.

Source 1 and 3



HEADSTART

"FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED IN HEAD START, \$7 ARE RETURNED IN REDUCED PUBLIC EXPENDITURES AND INCREASED PUBLIC RECEIPTS"

- 1,700 economically disadvantaged young children will be served in FY86 at 66 sites in Alaska.
- Only 20% of the number of children and families who are income eligible will be served.
- 1,981 children and their income eligible families have been identified as requesting Head Start programs or where children were on waiting lists for existing programs.

Head Start, a program for early intervention in the life of the low income child has had significant, positive long term effects. Head Start children are less likely to end up pregnant as teens or on welfare, and more likely to enter vocational school, college, or the workforce.

Source: 1 and 12

DAY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MOST PEOPLE DON'T WANT A HANDOUT; THEY JUST WANT AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT ON THEIR OWN. AS THESE PERSONS ENTER THE WORK FORCE, ADEQUATE DAY CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN IS A PARAMOUNT CONCERN.

- Nearly 2,200 parents in 33 communities were assisted in October, 1985. Over 3,100 children had licensed, supervised care under this Program.
- During FY85, 84.6% of the families participating were single-parent families. During the first quarter of FY86, this increased to 88.6%.
- From July, 1980 til July, 1984 there was a 283% growth in the number of families being aided by this program.

The Day Care Assistance Program assists low and moderate income families who are working, training, working and training, in off-setting the high cost of child care (average cost \$340 per month).

Source: 1



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1986

*The State of the
Alaskan Child*

WHAT IS A CHILD? "A CHILD IS A PERSON WHO IS GOING TO CARRY ON WHAT YOU HAVE STARTED... THE FATE OF HUMANITY IS IN HIS HANDS."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CHILDREN: (Alaska's estimated total population 521,000)

- 30% of our population.
- 100% of our future.

There were 102,014 students enrolled in Alaska's Public schools during the 1984-85 School Year.

Approximately 73,000 children 6 yrs and under.

Source: Land 13

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

CHILDREN ARE THE POOREST AGE GROUP IN AMERICA

- 25% of all children under 6 years of age are victims of poverty in this nation.
- 20% of all children are victims of poverty.

Each year more parents of young children fall victims of poverty despite more mothers entering the labor force. A recent national study found families with children are receiving less of the economic pie than was true a decade ago.

Health problems are an inevitable outcome of poverty, often resulting in physically fragile, vulnerable children. Lack of access to prenatal care, a high infant mortality and difficulties getting out-patient medical care are only a few of the health care problems experienced by low income families.

The monthly level of assistance for one adult with one child is \$657.00. For one adult with four children \$906.00.

Source: 3 11 12 14 and 16





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Source 1 and 3

WORKING MOTHERS

ALASKA HAS A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF WORKING MOTHERS THAN ANY OTHER STATE

- 46% of married women in Alaska who have children under six years of age are in the labor force.
- 43% of the jobs in Alaska are held by women.

The financial contribution of working wives is significant; two earner married couple families had median incomes 30 percent higher than those in which the husband alone worked.

Source 1 and 3



DAY CARE

THERE ARE SHORTAGES OF CHILD CARE SPACES IN ALASKA

- The actual number of children in care is not known.
- The actual number of children needing care is not known.
- In January 1980, the total number of child care facilities licensed in 16 communities was 358 with a total of 4,525 spaces.
- In June, 1985, the total number of child care facilities licensed in 33 communities was 949 with a total of 12,908 spaces.
- In Alaska, family child care homes having four or fewer unrelated children in care are not required to be licensed. Private arrangements for in home care is not regulated.
- Religious preschools and private preschools associated with an elementary program are exempt from licensing.
- Nationally, only 10% of facilities caring for children are licensed.

As Alaska's young population has grown, and the profile of its families and work force have changed, where mothers are employed as wage earners, so has the demand for child care expanded. Acutely needed are infant care, before/after care of the school age child, for the mildly sick child, night time and weekend care.

Source 1



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Source 1

CHILDREN AND DIVORCE

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT HALF OF ALL CHILDREN BORN TODAY WILL SPEND PART OF THEIR CHILDHOOD IN A SINGLE-PARENT FAMILY

- In Alaska, seven marriages out of every ten end in divorce. This compares to the national average of five out of ten marriages.

Source: 4 and 5

"Most divorces are harmful to children. 50% of the time the kids school grades go down - 20% of the time kids school grades go up".

M. Scott Peck, M.D.

CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE WHEN FAMILIES FAIL. SOCIETY BECOMES THE PARENT.

- The records of 1,033 children in out-of-home care were reviewed in December, 1985 by the Division of Family and Youth Services.
 - 769 or 85% were Protective Services cases.
 - 134 or 15% were Youth Protective Services cases (Probation/ Corrections).
 - Additional field research was needed on 130.
- There were 1,197 children in foster care in FY85.
- There were 387 children in residential care in FY85.

Well trained personnel are crucial to effective intervention, professional investigation and well thoughtout case management plans. In January, 1985 it was estimated that 39 additional social workers were needed to handle the client case load. This is based on 50 clients per social worker. Recommended standards: Child Welfare League of America child protection: 20 families/ worker.

Training funds were reduced significantly two years ago and are extremely limited. Training is currently being targeted to orient new staff and to support supervisors.

Funding for youngsters in residential care had not increased in three years. On September 1, 1986, grant funds to private providers were cut 12.5% thus reducing the number of available placements for youngsters needing this type of care.

Source: 6





CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK

At least 15% of all American teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19 are unlikely to become productive adults because they are already "disconnected" from society as a result of drug abuse, delinquency, pregnancy, unemployment and dropping out of school.

Source: 17

RUNAWAYS

"ONE MAJOR INDICATOR OF THE PROBLEM DEVELOPING IN ALASKA IS THE NUMBERS OF THE RUNAWAY REPORTED IN ANCHORAGE (NEARLY FOUR TIMES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE)."

- In Anchorage alone, there are approximately 1,200 known runaways, castaways and homeless youth who annually come in contact with at least one community agency.
- There are an estimated three to five times as many actual runaways and castaways who do not receive any services.
- Statewide statistics are not available on runaways.

A study of adolescent runaways has provided new evidence that physical and sexual abuse are important contributors not only to chronic runaway behavior, but also to delinquency and emotional difficulties.

The 1985-86 Legislature appropriated \$30,000 to the Department of Health and Social Services to further study the Runaway problem in the State. The funds were awarded to the Inter-Departmental team, comprised of senior staff from the Department of Education, the Division of Family and Youth Services, and the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. This group will examine, among other things, ways to train staff in residential facilities how to handle runaways.

Source: 7, 8 and 19

ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

"WHILE ABUSIVE PARENTS MAY SIMULTANEOUSLY LOVE AND HATE THEIR CHILDREN, NEGLECTFUL PARENTS HAVE LITTLE OR NO FEELING FOR THEM...THESE PARENTS ARE EMOTIONALLY ABSENT."

Avis Brenner

Total number of children served in FY85 was 7,702 as compared with 6,439 in FY83 - An increase of 10% per year average:

	<u>FY 1983</u>	<u>FY 1985</u>
Physical abuse	1,447	1,750
Sexual abuse	613	1,192
Neglect	3,511	3,701
Other Problems	868	1,059

It is estimated that only one in seven cases is reported. Neglect was by far the most frequently reported type of maltreatment.

Source 9



EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN AND YOUTH

"MENTAL ILLNESS IS THE NUMBER ONE HEALTH PROBLEM AFFLICTING CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS TODAY."

- It is estimated that there are 700-750 youngsters in Alaska who are moderately to severely disturbed with very few services available to them.
- Alaska has placed at least 100 children and adolescents a year away from their home communities.
- 35 youth are currently out of State because of lack of appropriate facilities in State.

The Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Education have begun THE ALASKA YOUTH INITIATIVE to create the necessary new programs in Alaska to ensure that severely mentally ill, abused, delinquent and behavior disordered youth will receive the necessary social services and treatment in their own communities.

Source 8 and 18

**JUVENILES
ARRESTS/DETENTION/TREATMENT
IN A 6 YEAR PERIOD (1980 THRU 85),
ALASKA EXPERIENCED A 99%
INCREASE IN YOUTH ADMITTED
TO YOUTH SERVICES TREATMENT
FACILITIES.**

Indices of juvenile crime indicate continued decreases for the year 1980-84.

	ARRESTS	INTAKE
In 1980	5,569	5,857
In 1984	5,250	6,318

Intakes exceed arrests because in small communities cases are referred to Youth Services that are not always arrest cases.

- Jan. thru Dec. 1980, 847 youth were under probation supervision.
- Jan. thru Dec. 1985, 1,448 youth were under probation supervision.
- This is a 71% change.

**YOUTH SERVICES DETENTION
CENTERS**

- Jan. thru Dec. 1980, 1,198 youth admitted to detention facilities.
- Jan. thru Dec. 1985, 1,995 youth admitted to detention facilities.
- This is a 67% increase - State facilities in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.

**YOUTH SERVICES TREATMENT
FACILITIES**

- Jan. thru Dec. 1980, 86 youth were admitted to treatment facilities.
- Jan. thru Dec. 1985, 171 youth were admitted to treatment facilities.

State treatment facilities located in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Nome.

Source: 10

**ADOLESCENT PREGNANCIES
ONE OF THE COMPLICATED
TRAGEDIES OF OUR TIME, IS
CHILDREN HAVING CHILDREN.**

- 1,747 babies were born to teenage mothers in Alaska in 1984.

"Helping to prevent pregnancies among young teens, and reducing the social and economic risks for teenage parents and their children, remains a very serious challenge to this nation, our State and our communities."

"Regardless of one's political philosophy, the prospect of one million teenage pregnancies, 400,000 abortions, and one-half million births each year, nearly fifty-five percent of which will be births to unmarried teens, is chilling. The human and fiscal costs to all are unacceptable."

Source 14 and 15



EDUCATION

"MEN EXIST FOR THE SAKE OF ONE ANOTHER. TEACH THEM OR BEAR WITH THEM."

Marcus Aurelius

- 755 school-age wards of the State provided instructional programs.
- 400 severely handicapped students provided instructional programs.
- 1,200 students in Alaskan Correctional and Detention Institutions received vocational education, post secondary education, special education or high school completion programs.
- 9,500 students received bilingual/bicultural programs in more than 100 different languages in 32 school districts.
- 4,000 academically talented and intellectually gifted students received "special" programs.
- 11,344 handicapped children and young people were provided with "special" programs.
- 3,885 migrant students received "special" programs with emphasis on improving basic skills in 23 school districts.
- 35,867 meals were served daily in Alaska Public Schools.
- 43% of meals served were served free or at reduced rates.

Source 20



ADOLESCENT SUICIDES

MOST EXPERTS BELIEVE THE ACTUAL SUICIDE RATE IS FAR HIGHER THAN REPORTED AND THAT MANY OF ALASKA'S ACCIDENTAL DEATHS ARE SUICIDES.

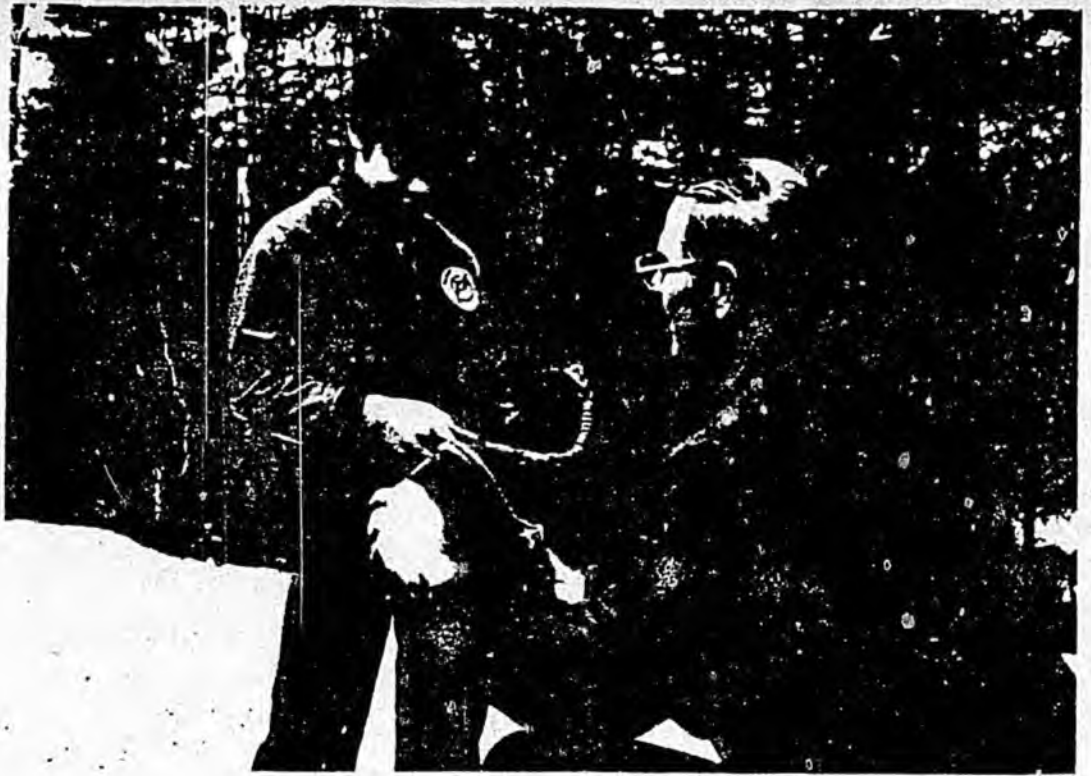
- Over the past two decades, the suicide rate in the U.S. as a whole has averaged 10 to 12 per 100,000.

Estimated rates for suicide in Alaska 1984

	Age Group	Suicide deaths	Rates per 100,000 pop.
Entire Population	15-19 yrs.	10	24.0
White males	15-19 yrs.	5	31.4
White females	15-19 yrs.	1	7.4
Native males	15-19 yrs.	2	47.0
Native females	15-19 yrs.	2	49.4

- The number of suicide attempts in rural Alaska is twice as high as in urban areas.

Source 21



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The problems cited in this report may seem overpowering. It may seem that there is little that one person can do. But there is MUCH that can be done individually as well as in cooperation with others.

As an individual, you can help by:

- volunteering in a day care center, school, or local advocacy group.
- becoming a foster or adoptive parent.
- serving as a friend to youth in trouble with the law.
- keeping children's needs before the assemblymen and local administration, the school board and school administration, and your state legislators and state administration as well as our congressional representatives.
- be willing to be a part of a "telephone tree" to communicate with the decision makers at all levels of government.
- giving financial or volunteer support to agencies in the community that work with children, youth and families.
- becoming a "block parent" for children home alone after school; or volunteer as a "Safe Home" if this program is available in your community.
- becoming a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister" to a child from a single parent family.

As part of an organization, you can have even greater effect on issues involving groups of children. There are several state organizations that advocate for special groups of children. The Child and Family Advocacy Project advocates for the needs of poor and troubled families and children who are neglected, physically and sexually abused, runaways and mentally/emotionally disturbed children - youngsters who are often "wards of the State."

On the local level you can also join child advocacy groups. There are a number of local groups that serve as advocates for particular groups of children.

Whatever issue or group you select for your personal priority, your involvement will be invaluable. With many voices speaking for children, we will be heard. With many hands helping, we will make a difference.

Why not begin right now by calling 907 - 248-0834?

THELMA P. LANGDON,
Project Coordinator

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WHAT IS THE CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCACY PROJECT?

The Child and Family Advocacy Project is a special program of Alaska Children's Services (ACS), designed to build a broad-based Statewide network of concerned individuals, community organizations and congregations to speak out on behalf of the needs of dependent children and their families.

The activities of the Project will be devoted to improving the systems and institutions that serve troubled children and families of Alaska while working to prevent more children from entering these same systems.

- Increase interest for children's issues
- Disseminate written educational information
- Monitor child welfare agencies, legislation, judicial and administrative policy-making activities
- Sponsor workshops, seminars and conferences

A Citizens' Advisory Committee of eight persons from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines work with the CFA Project Coordinator to determine policy and monitor the project. Members of this committee include:

Barbara Block	Alan Gaddie
Thelma Buchholdt	Carolyn Lyons
Darlene Chapman	Gail H. Rowland
Thomas H. Dahl	Stanley Summers

The Child and Family Advocacy Project is underwritten by private funding including support from Alaska Children's Services, (a United Way Agency,) and grants from the Alaska Christian Conference, national and regional program units of the American Lutheran Church, American Baptist Churches, the United Methodist Church, American Lutheran Church Women, and the Christian Women's Fellowship (Disciples of Christ).

The Child and Family Advocacy Project hopes to become a non-profit organization before the end of 1987, with dues paying membership of individuals concerned and willing to speak out on behalf of children. Currently contributions are being accepted to finance the activities of the Project. They can be sent to: Alaska Children's Services - 4600 Abbott Rd., Anchorage, Alaska 99507

CHILD ADVOCATES ARE IMPERATIVE TO KEEP WHAT LITTLE POLITICAL MOMENTUM IS NOW STARTED. CHILDREN ARE VOICELESS AND POWERLESS. YOUR VOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. A UNIFIED VOICE IS CRITICAL.

Consultation
Municipality of Anchorage
Department of Health and Human Services Staff

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Family and Youth Services Staff
Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Staff

Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs
Division of Community Development Staff

Department of Education
Division of Educational Program Support Staff

Alaska Children's Services
Director of Public Affairs and Development

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