

HB

B

1

1

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: March 3, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 3/17/89

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 11

HOUSE BILL NO. 11 [VETERANS' MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES]
"An Act relating to motor vehicle license plates for veterans."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- be replaced with CS HB 11 (S.A.) [] the same title
- [] have attached amendment(s) [] a new title
- do pass
- [] do not pass
- [] no recommendation
- [] individual recommendations
- [] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

- [] fiscal impact Pub Safety (Dept)
- [] zero fiscal note _____
- [] zero with analysis _____

- [] fiscal note(s) Pub Safety 4/25/89 (Date/Dept)
- [] zero fiscal note(s) _____
- [] zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING:

(Check approp. column)

[Signature] Koponeh
Ronald J. Larson Larson
Tony Brown Brown
Alvin Rieger Rieger
De. Joe Phillips Phillips
H. Ulmer Ulmer

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
<u>[Signature]</u> Hoffman		X	

Co- [Signature]
 Co- Ronald J. Larson
 Chairman's signature

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 03/09/89
Title: An Act relating to motor vehicle license plates
Sponsor: Martin
Requestor: House Finance

Agency Affected: Public Safety
BRU: Division of Motor Vehicles
Component: Field Services

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (Inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	32.6	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL SUPPLIES	-0-	55.3	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
EQUIPMENT	-0-	3.0	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	90.9	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	306.0	61.5	61.5	61.5	61.5
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	90.9	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	90.9	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	1	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Please see attached page.

RECEIVED
MAR 10 1989

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE

Prepared by: Charles R. Hosack
Division: Motor Vehicles

Phone: 269-5551
Date: 03/09/89

Approved by Commissioner: Arthur English
Agency: Department of Public Safety

Date: 3/9/89

Adopted

Jm
3/9/89

CRH/kfb

Analysis:

There are 70,000 veterans living in Alaska according to the Veterans Administration. It is difficult to estimate with any degree of accuracy how many would want this type of license plate. For purposes of this fiscal note the Division will estimate that 10,000 veterans will request the plate during the first year and in subsequent years the requests will be 2,000 annually.

These plates will be available at most offices in the State and the workload will be spread among the offices. The overall increase in workload would be the equivalent of one full-time position to change 10,000 vehicle record and perform other administrative tasks associated with the new program. This position will be in Anchorage where the majority of the registrations will be done. This position will only be needed for the first year of the program.

It is estimated 200 of the Purple Heart Recipient plates will be requested in FY90 and 50 each FY thereafter. Due to the small order, the cost would be \$7.00 per set of license plates. The cost for FY90 is \$7.00 per set of plates x 200 = \$1,400, plus postage at \$1.76 x 200 to mail the plates to applicants = \$352.

The breakdown of costs for the first year is as follows:

Personnel

1 PFT Motor Vehicle Representative I/II, Range 9	\$32.6
---	--------

Contractual

10,000 veteran plates @ \$5.00	50.0
200 Purple Heart @ \$7.00	1.4
Shipping veteran plates to 30 offices	1.0
Postage @ \$1.76 per set to mail Purple Heart plates to applicants	.4
APSIN network charges	2.5

Equipment

APSIN terminal and printer	3.0
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TOTAL	\$90.9
-------	--------

After the first year the on-going costs will be \$10,000 for 2,000 veteran plates at \$5.00 each, and \$500.00 for purchase and mailing of 50 Purple Heart plates.

Revenue

A fee of \$30.00 over and above the cost of regular vehicle registration will be charged when the veteran and Purple Heart recipient license plates are originally issued. Using the estimate of 10,000 veteran and 200 Purple Heart recipient plates the first year the revenues would be 10,200 x \$30 for a total of \$306,000. After the first year revenue would be for 2,050 plates per year x \$30 for a total of \$61,500.

Position Title Motor Vehicle Representative I/II			No. of Positions 7	Range/Step 9/8	Barg. Unit G
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12		Location Anchorage		Election District 7-15
Type of Expenditure			Amount		
1			2		
Salary*			21.4		
Benefits*			11.2		
Premium Pay (Included in Above)			////////////////////////////////////		
Other			////////////////////////////////////		
Total Personal Services			////////////////////////////////////		
Travel					
Contractual			2.5		
Commodities					
Equipment			3.0		
Other					
Total Cost			38.1		
Funding Source for Total Cost					
Federal Receipts 1002					
G.F. Match 1003					
General Fund 1004			38.1		
Program Receipts/GF 1005					
I-A Receipts 1007					
CIF Receipts 1061					
Other					
* Personal Services Salary and Benefits Costs are from PACS Scenario #2.					
Justification This position is assigned the administrative tasks associated with the start up and first year's operation of the program. These tasks include design and ordering of the plates, forms design, and coordination with veterans organizations to publicize the program. During the first year of operation, 10,000 vehicle records will be updated with the new plates. Although the plates will be available at offices throughout the state, the majority will be done in Anchorage and that is where the position will be located. After the first year the position will no longer be needed and the workload will be absorbed by the offices.					

REQUEST FOR
NEW POSITION

AGENCY Department of Public Safety
 DRU Division of Motor Vehicles
 COMPONENT Field Services

Page 3 of 3
Revised Date

FY 90

Original sponsors: Martin, Boucher,
Gruenberg, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 11 (State Affairs)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to motor vehicle license plates for
7 veterans and recipients of the Purple Heart."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

10 (o) Vehicles owned by veterans. The department, upon receipt of
11 written proof, shall issue special registration plates for one noncom-
12 mercial motor vehicle to a person who is a veteran or retired veteran
13 of the armed forces of the United States. The commissioner, after
14 consulting with the director of the division of veterans affairs,
15 shall determine the design and color of the veteran or retired veteran
16 plates.

17 (p) Vehicles owned by recipients of the Purple Heart. The
18 department, upon receipt of written proof, shall issue special regis-
19 tration plates for one noncommercial motor vehicle to a person who has
20 received the Purple Heart medal awarded for wounds suffered in action
21 against an armed enemy or as a result of the hostile action of an
22 armed enemy. The commissioner, after consulting with the director of
23 the division of veterans affairs, shall determine the design and color
24 of the Purple Heart medal recipient plates.

25 * Sec. 2. AS 28.10.421(d)(2) is repealed and reenacted to read:

26 (2) special request plates for
27 (A) Alaska National Guard personnel \$ 30;
28 (B) veterans or retired veterans \$ 30;
29 (C) recipients of the Purple Heart \$ 30;

1 (D) other special request plates \$ 30;
2 plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b) of this section; the
3 fee required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first
4 issuance and on the replacement of special request plates;



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

AN ORGANIZATION OF VETERANS

WHO HAVE FOUGHT

AMERICA'S FOREIGN WARS

ON LAND AND SEA

AND IN THE AIR

FROM

V.F.W. Post 10041

Willow Station

P.O. Box 101

Willow, AK 99589

21 January 1980

Rep. Terry Martin
Alaska State House Legislative Office
6111 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Rep. Martin,

You recently received a "Work Draft" of a House Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act relating to motor vehicle license plates for Veterans." This draft was submitted by Mr. Jeremiah C. Harrington, President, Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 342.

Our members, at our last reg. meeting on 7 January 1980, reviewed Mr. Harrington's proposal to enact a law in the State of Alaska, comparable to Revised Statute 47:463.19 of the State of Louisiana.

The members in attendance at that meeting, unanimously approved a motion that our Post officially support Mr. Harrington's proposal. We collectively urge your favorable consideration of his proposed legislation.

Yours in Comradeship,

Edwin N. Skraback
Edwin N. Skraback
Commander

CF:
Pres. Flt Res Assn, Br 342



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

January 12, 1989

Rep. Terry Martin
Ak State House Legislative Office
3111 C Street
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Martin:

The members of the executive board of The Last Frontier Chapter of the Association of the U S Army support Jeremiah Harrington's initiative to convince the State of Alaska to issue vehicle license plates similar to those issued by the State of Louisiana. His letter to you of October 14, 1988 explains the plates in detail. Thankyou for your help in achieving this worthwhile goal.

Sincerely,

Carl Bradford Jr
President,
Last Frontier Chapter



Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections



OFFICE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

October 5, 1988

Jeremiah C. Harrington, President
Fleet Reserve Association
Branch 342
P.O. Box 763
Elmendorf Air Force Base AK 99506

Dear Mr. Harrington,

The following information concerning the U.S. Veteran and Retired Veteran license plate is being provided as requested in your correspondence of September 22, 1988.

Revised Statute 47:463.18 (See attached copy) which allows the issuance of the above referenced license plates was passed in the 1987 Legislative Session. However, we did not begin issuing these plates until April, 1988. At the present time, we have issued approximately 4,000 of these plates.

In order to obtain the plate, the applicant has to submit a copy of the discharge papers (DD 214) showing an honorable discharge for a veteran license plate and a copy of the retirement orders for the retired veteran license plate. The plates are issued for private passenger automobiles, pickup trucks and vans. The fee for the special license plate is the same as regular plates (\$12.00 - Automobiles, \$40.00 - Pickup trucks & Vans). This is for a 4 year registration period. The plate bears the appropriate branch of armed service for which the veteran served. See attached copy of a veteran license plate and a retired veteran license plate. The branches of service for which we issue the plates are: Navy - Navy Retired, Army - Army Retired, USMC - USMC Retired, USAF - USAF Retired and USCG - USCG Retired.

The appreciation we have received from the veterans for this special recognition has been tremendous. Good luck on your efforts to give the same recognition to the Alaska war veterans.

If further assistance or information is needed, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Faye Whiddon, Supervisor
Specialized Processing Unit
Office of Motor Vehicles
(504)925-6337

FW:dg
Enclosure



FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION BRANCH 342

P.O. BOX 763 • ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, ALASKA 99506

14 October 1988

Rep. Terry Martin
Alaska State House Legislative Office
3111 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Terry:

Recently I attended the national convention of the Fleet Reserve Association at San Jose, California.

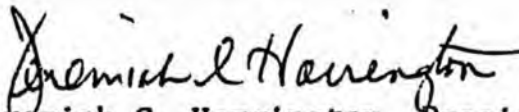
While there I observed an auto driven by a Shipmate from the state of Louisiana. My attention was drawn to the license plate which bore not only the usual identification numbers and year of registration, but the word "NAVY" and also the word "RETIRED" was prominently engraved on the plate. The word "VETERAN" may also appear, depending upon the circumstances.

I considered this an intriguing idea to identify Alaska veterans in a special way. Upon my return to Anchorage I corresponded with the Louisiana Department of Motor Vehicles at Baton Rouge. I requested information concerning the program, and a copy of the law, statute, regulations, rules, etc.

For your information I am enclosing a copy of the letter responding to my request, and a copy of the laws of Louisiana concerning this matter. Perhaps this program could be developed for veterans of the various branches of the U.S. military services here in Alaska.

If you require any assistance regarding this matter, or if more information is needed, please call me.

Sincerely, in
LOYALTY-PROTECTION-SERVICE


Jeremiah C. Harrington, President
Phone 561-NAVY

JCH:lyn
Enclosures

Representing All Enlisted Personnel of the
U.S. NAVY ☆ U.S. MARINE CORPS ☆ U.S. COAST GUARD

1303 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 785-2768

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

5700 EAST TUJOR ROAD
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507-1225
PHONE: 269-5551

October 26, 1988

The Honorable Terry Martin
Alaska State Legislature
3960 Reka Drive, B6
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Representative Martin:

Thanks for the preview of the Veterans license plates. There are many deserving organizations in the state who, I am sure, would like to have their own distinctive plates. The question is where do we draw the line. Or do we?

The cost of the license plates is fairly nominal. Although the Peari Harbor Survivor plates are nearly three times the cost of our regular passenger plates, due to low volumes, the pair of plates still cost the state only \$7.28. The significant cost is getting the plate to the applicant.


Since it is difficult, and expensive, to maintain stocks of special plates in each division field office, all special plates are handled in the Special Programs section located in the Anchorage headquarters office. Required staff reductions in that section over the last few years have severely hampered our ability to take on new programs such as the one proposed. And with the revenue derived from such programs going to the General Fund, the programs are not self-supporting.

According to the Director of Veterans Affairs, there are approximately 70,000 veterans in Alaska. My guess is that no more than 10,000 would apply for the plates. Figure a cost of \$7.00 per pair of plates plus a \$1,000.00 initial set-up fee. Additionally, clerical costs for processing must be included, along with associated costs for computer program changes, data entry, and, possibly, warehousing.

I really have no objection to these or other specialized license plates, so long as those obtaining the plates pay for them, and so long as a portion of those funds can be used to pay for the program. I must also consider whether handling such special programs causes a decline in our level of public service.

Thanks again for letting me get in on the early stages.

Sincerely,


Jay N. Dulany
Director

BILL NO: HB 11

DATE: January 12, 1989

TITLE: An Act relating to the
issuance of special
registration plates to
veterans

CONTACT: Charles R. Kosack
269-5551

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY

The Department's position on HB-11, An Act relating to the issuance of special registration plates to veterans, is neutral.

The Department does not dispute the concept that there are many special groups or organizations deserving of special recognition by the State. We currently stock and issue 29 different types of plates and there are an additional 10 types either pending or proposed in new legislation. Since each has special requirements, this adds to the complexity of the registration system.

Another concern is the cost associated with any new plate issue. The purchase cost of the plates is higher than regular plates due to the low volume and special designs. In addition significant overhead costs are incurred in ordering, stocking, data entry changes, and special requirements on initial issuance. The best comparison could be made in the retail market where major brand name products cost more than generic products. Usually the Department is required to absorb these costs since the volume when each type is considered separately is low. When all special plates are considered together, they do have an impact that decreases efficiency.

A large portion of these concerns can be alleviated if there is an initial fee charged for these plates in much the same manner as is done for personalized plates. This amount can be appropriated to pay the costs of the program. This will prevent the program from causing a decline in the level of service for all other vehicle registrants.



Arthur English
Commissioner

STATE OF ALASKA
1989 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: CSHB 11 (Trans) Draft
PUBLISH DATE: _____

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 1/23/89
Title: An Act relating to license plates for veterans
Sponsor: Martin and Boucher
Requestor: House Transportation

Agency Affected: Public Safety
BRU: Division of Motor Vehicles
Component: Field Services

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (Inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES		32.6				
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL		53.5	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT		3.0				
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	89.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	100.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	89.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	89.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	1	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Please see attached page.

received
1-24-89

Prepared by: Charles R. Hosack
Division: Motor Vehicles

Phone: 269-5551
Date: 1/23/89

Approved by Commissioner: A.H. English
Agency: Department of Public Safety

Date: _____

Analysis:

There are 70,000 veterans living in Alaska according to the Veterans Administration. It is difficult to estimate with any degree of accuracy how many would want this type of license plate. For purposes of this fiscal note the Division will estimate that 10,000 veterans will request the plate during the first year and in subsequent years the requests will be 2,000 annually.

These plates will be available at most offices in the State and the workload will be spread among the offices. The overall increase in workload would be the equivalent of one full-time position to change 10,000 vehicle record and perform other administrative tasks associated with the new program. This position will be in Anchorage where the majority of the registrations will be done. This position will only be needed for the first year of the program.

The breakdown of costs for the first year is as follows:

Personnel

1 PFT Motor Vehicle Representative I/II, Range 9	\$32.6
---	--------

Contractual

10,000 plates @ \$5.00	50.0
Shipping to 30 offices	1.0
APSIN network charges	<u>2.5</u>

Equipment

APSIN terminal and printer	3.0
----------------------------	-----

TOTAL	\$89.1
-------	--------

After the first year the on-going costs will be \$10,000 for 2,000 plates at \$5.00 each.

Revenue

A fee of \$10.00 over and above the cost of regular vehicle registration will be charged when the veteran license plates are originally issued. Using the estimate of 10,000 veteran plates the first year the revenues would be 10,000 x \$10 for a total of \$100,000. After the first year revenue would be for 2,000 plates per year x \$10 for a total of \$20,000.

Position Title Motor Vehicle Representative I/II		No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 9B	Barg. Unit GGU	
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12	Location Anchorage		Election District 7-15	
Type of Expenditure		Justification			
Amount		<p>This position is assigned the administrative tasks associated with the start up and first year's operation of the program. These tasks include design and ordering of the plates, forms design, and coordination with veterans organizations to publicize the program. During the first year of operation, 10,000 vehicle records will be updated with the new plates. Although the plates will be available at offices throughout the state, the majority will be done in Anchorage, and that is where the position will be located.</p> <p>After the first year the position will no longer be needed, and the workload will be absorbed by the offices.</p>			
1	2				3
Salary*	21.4				////////////////////
Benefits*	11.2				////////////////////
Premium Pay (Included in above)	////////////////////				////////////////////
Other	////////////////////				////////////////////
Total Personal Services	////////////////////				32.6
Travel					
Contractual					2.5
Commodities					
Equipment		3.0			
Other					
Total Cost		38.1			
Funding Source for Total Cost					
Federal Receipts	1002				
G.F. Match	1003				
General Fund	1004	38.1			
Program Receipts/GF	1005				
I-A Receipts	1007				
CIP Receipts	1051				
Other					
* Personal Services Salary and Benefits Costs are from PACS Scenario #2.					

REQUEST FOR
NEW POSITION

AGENCY Department of Public Safety
 BRU Motor Vehicles
 COMPONENT Field Services

Page 3 of 3
 Revised Date

FY 90

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: An Act relating to license plates for veterans
Sponsor: Martin and Boucher
Requestor: House Transportation

Agency Affected: Public Safety
BRU: Division of Motor Vehicles
Component: Field Services

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (Inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES		32.6				
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL		53.5	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT		3.0				
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	89.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

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

REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		89.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	89.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	1	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Please see attached page.

Prepared by: Charles R. Hosack
Division: Motor Vehicles

Phone: 269-5551
Date: 1/12/89

Approved by Commissioner: Arthur Enlish
Agency: Department of Public Safety

Date: _____

Analysis:

There are 70,000 veterans living in Alaska according to the Veterans Administration. It is difficult to estimate with any degree of accuracy how many would want this type of license plate. For purposes of this fiscal note the Division will estimate that 10,000 veterans will request the plate during the first year and in subsequent years the requests will be 2,000 annually.

These plates will be available at most offices in the State and the workload will be spread among the offices. The overall increase in workload would be the equivalent of one full-time position to change 10,000 vehicle record and perform other administrative tasks associated with the new program. This position will be in Anchorage where the majority of the registrations will be done. This position will only be needed for the first year of the program.

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Personnel

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---	--------

Contractual

10,000 plates @ \$5.00	50.0
Shipping to 30 offices	1.0
APSIN network charges	<u>2.5</u>

Equipment

APSIN terminal and printer	3.0
----------------------------	-----

TOTAL		\$89.1
-------	--	--------

After the first year the on-going costs will be \$10,000 for 2,000 plates at \$5.00 each.

Position Title Motor Vehicle Representative I/II			No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 9B	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12		Location Anchorage		Election District 7-15
			Justification		
Type of Expenditure			Amount		
1			2		3
Salary*			21.4		////////////////////
Benefits*			11.2		////////////////////
Premium Pay (Included in Above)			////////////////////		////////////////////
Other			////////////////////		////////////////////
Total Personal Services			////////////////////		32.6
Travel					
Contractual					2.5
Commodities					
Equipment					3.0
Other					
Total Cost					38.1
Funding Source for Total Cost					
Federal Receipts 1002					
G.F. Match 1003					
General Fund 1004					38.1
Program Receipts/GF 1005					
I-A Receipts 1007					
CIP Receipts 1061					
Other					
* Personal Services Salary and Benefits Costs are from PACS Scenario #2.					

This position is assigned the administrative tasks associated with the start up and first year's operation of the program. These tasks include design and ordering of the plates, forms design, and coordination with veterans organizations to publicize the program. During the first year of operation, 10,000 vehicle records will be updated with the new plates. Although the plates will be available at offices throughout the state, the majority will be done in Anchorage, and that is where the position will be located.

After the first year the position will no longer be needed, and the workload will be absorbed by the offices.

**REQUEST FOR
NEW POSITION**

AGENCY Department of Public Safety
 BRU Motor Vehicles
 COMPONENT Field Services

Page 3 of 3
 Revised Date

FY 90

HB

B

1

9

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

File

(11)

Date Referred: March 22, 1990

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/4/90

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 19

HOUSE BILL NO. 19 FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS

"An Act relating to review panels for children in foster care; and amending Rule 19 of the Child in Need of Aid Rules."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- be replaced with CS HB 19 (FIN) the same title
- have attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

(Date/Dept)

- fiscal impact A FIN CMTE.
- zero fiscal note _____
- zero with analysis _____

- fiscal note(s) _____
- zero fiscal note(s) _____
- zero fn/analysis _____

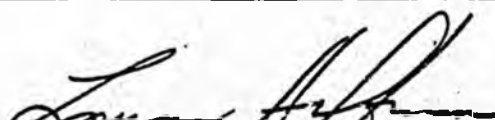
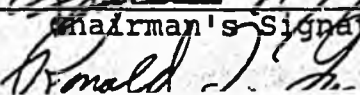
SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING:

(Check approp. column)

Do Not
PASS No Rec Amend

<u>Ronald J. Carson</u> Scale 1-10 (6)	<u>Laura Hoffman</u> Hoffman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<u>Jan Brown</u> Brown	<u>Ed Swackhammer</u> Swackhammer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<u>John Kopper</u> Kopper	<u>Wallis</u> Wallis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<u>John Uimer</u> scale of 1-10 (10) UIMER				
<u>ROD E. PHILLIPS</u> (10+) PHILLIPS				
<u>Steve Rieger</u> RIEGER				


 _____ Hoffman
 Chairman's Signature

 _____ Carson

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
 Title: "An Act relating to citizen review panels for certain children in state custody..."
 Sponsor: Representative Collins
 Requestor: House Finance Committee
 Agency Affected: Department of Administration
 BRU: Citizens Review Panel
 Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES	347.4	357.0	366.6	366.6	366.6	366.6
TRAVEL	32.5	46.4	45.8	45.8	45.8	45.8
CONTRACTUAL	146.3	142.2	142.2	142.2	142.2	142.2
SUPPLIES	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1
EQUIPMENT	112.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	649.3	558.2	567.2	567.2	567.2	567.2

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	649.3	558.2	567.2	567.2	567.2	567.2
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	649.3	558.2	567.2	567.2	567.2	567.2

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	10	10	10	10	10	10
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Any FY90 costs to be absorbed by Department of Administration and Department of Health and Social Services.

See attached.

Prepared by: House Finance Committee Phone: 465-3727
 Division: Co-Chairman Ron Larson Date: 4/4/90

Approved by Commissioner: Co-Chairman Lyman Hoffman Date: 4/4/90

Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):

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

Adopted

The following fiscal information is in reference to the third paragraph of the House Judiciary Committee's memorandum to the House Finance Co-chairs, dated March 21, 1990:

POSITION:	BU	FY91	FY92	FY 93...
Program coordinator, Range 21:	S	\$62,208	64,332	66,132
Assistant coordinator, Range 14:	G	39,912	41,112	42,396
Clerk IV, Range 9, Anchorage:	G	30,990	31,770	32,580
Clerk IV, Range 9, Anchorage:	G	30,990	31,770	32,580
Clerk IV, Range 9, Anchorage:	G	30,990	31,770	32,580
Clerk IV, Range 9, Juneau:	G	30,990	31,770	32,580
Clerk IV, Range 9, Fairbanks:	G	32,040	32,850	33,696
Clerk III, Range 8, Anchorage:	G	29,442	30,192	30,990
Clerk III, Range 8, Juneau:	G	29,442	30,192	30,990
Clerk III, Range 8, Fairbanks:	G	30,426	31,206	32,040
TOTAL Personnel Costs		\$347,430	\$356,964	\$366,564
(Amount of reduction in DOA fiscal note:)		- 47,570	- 114,936	- 118,536
With these reductions, the DOA fiscal note's "Total Operating" expenditure would be:		\$649,330	\$558,164	\$567,164

Original sponsor(s): REP. COLLINS, Gruenberg, Ulmer, Furnace, Hanley,
Ellis, Goll

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 19 (Finance)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to citizen review panels for certain
7 children in state custody; court review of cases
8 relating to children; establishing the Citizens'
9 Review Panel for Permanency Planning; and providing
10 for an effective date."

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

12 * Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. The legislature finds that there is
13 a need in the state for a citizen review process for the cases of children
14 in state custody who are in either foster care or other out-of-home place-
15 ment. The purpose of this Act is to establish a citizen review process in
16 order to ensure that children do not linger unnecessarily in out-of-home
17 placements, but rather that they receive the support and benefits of a
18 permanent home. The goal of this Act is to reunite the children with their
19 families by ensuring that services are available and appropriate for re-
20 unification, and if reunification is not in the best interests of the
21 child, to expeditiously place the child in a secure, permanent home.

22 * Sec. 2. AS 47.10 is amended by adding new sections to read:

23 ARTICLE 6. CITIZENS' REVIEW PANEL FOR PERMANENCY PLANNING.

24 Sec. 47.10.400. CITIZENS' REVIEW PANEL FOR PERMANENCY PLANNING.

25 (a) There is created in the Department of Administration the Citi-
26 zens' Review Panel for Permanency Planning. The state panel consists
27 of five voting members appointed by the governor from among present
28 members of local citizen review panels established under AS 47.10.420.
29 The governor shall appoint at least one voting state panel member from

1 each judicial district. The governor may not appoint a person who has
2 committed a felony or violated AS 11.51.130 or a law with substantial-
3 ly similar elements. The panel also includes the following five
4 nonvoting members who serve ex officio or their designees: the com-
5 missioner of health and social services, the director of the office of
6 public advocacy, the attorney general, the public defender appointed
7 under AS 18.85.030, and the chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court.

8 (b) Appointed members of the state panel serve at the pleasure
9 of the governor for staggered terms of three years or until their
10 successors are appointed.

11 (c) The voting members of the state panel shall elect from among
12 the voting members a chair who shall serve for one year. Three voting
13 members of the state panel constitute a quorum for the transaction of
14 business. The panel may not take official action without the affirma-
15 tive vote of at least three of its members.

16 (d) Members of the state panel are entitled to reimbursement for
17 actual expenses necessary to perform their duties as state panel
18 members. The reimbursement may not exceed the amount of per diem and
19 expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

20 (e) The state panel shall meet twice annually. Meetings may
21 take place telephonically.

22 (f) The state panel may employ a program coordinator who shall
23 serve at the pleasure of the state panel. The program coordinator
24 shall employ staff as necessary to carry out the program coordinator's
25 duties under state panel directives and to provide clerical assistance
26 to local panels.

27 Sec. 47.10.410. DUTIES OF THE STATE PANEL. The state panel
28 shall

29 (1) by regulation adopt policies and procedures to carry

1 out its duties and to govern the performance of the duties of the
2 local panels established under AS 47.10.420;

3 (2) ensure that local panel members receive the minimum
4 level of training necessary to effectively carry out their duties;

5 (3) coordinate and review the activities of the local
6 panels and make recommendations to the governor on appointments to the
7 local panels;

8 (4) report annually to the legislature by the 10th day of
9 each regular session, concerning the activities of the state and local
10 panels during the previous fiscal year; the report must include the
11 number of cases reviewed by each local panel, a description of the
12 characteristics of the children whose cases were reviewed by the
13 panels, the number of children reunited with their families, the
14 number of children placed in other permanent homes, and recommenda-
15 tions and justifications for program improvement, including recommen-
16 dations relating to state agencies and to the panel review system; the
17 report may contain other information on the experience of the local
18 panels.

19 Sec. 47.10.420. APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL PANELS. (a) The governor
20 shall appoint for each judicial district a local citizen out-of-home
21 care review panel composed of five members and two alternates who are
22 residents of the judicial district. Members shall serve three-year
23 terms except that when a local panel is initially appointed, two
24 members shall be appointed for three-year terms, two members for
25 two-year terms, and one member for a one-year term. Alternates shall
26 be appointed to three-year terms.

27 (b) The governor shall appoint to a local panel persons who have
28 training, experience, special knowledge, or a demonstrated interest in
29 the welfare of children. An out-of-home care provider or a person

1 employed by the court system, the department, the office of public
2 advocacy, the Public Defender Agency, or the Department of Law may not
3 serve as a member or alternate member of a local panel. The governor
4 may not appoint a person who has committed a felony or violated
5 AS 11.51.130 or a law with substantially similar elements.

6 (c) The composition of a local panel must be reasonably repre-
7 sentative of the various social, economic, racial, ethnic, and cul-
8 tural groups of the district from which the members are appointed.

9 (d) If the state panel determines that additional local panels
10 are necessary in a judicial district because of excessively large or
11 complex caseloads for review or because of the demographics of cases,
12 or determines that a local panel is not necessary because of a reduced
13 caseload, the governor may create or dissolve a local panel. The
14 governor may not reduce the number of panels in a judicial district to
15 fewer than one. Appointments to a panel established under this sub-
16 section are governed by (a) - (c) of this section.

17 (e) When a person is appointed to serve on a local panel, the
18 person shall swear or affirm to keep confidential all information that
19 comes before the local panel except for nonidentifying case informa-
20 tion included in a report to the state panel, information for reports
21 required under AS 47.17, or as required by court order for good cause
22 shown. A local panel member may also share confidential information
23 with other members of the local panel and staff who serve the local
24 panel.

25 Sec. 47.10.430. MEETINGS; EXPENSES. (a) A local panel shall
26 conduct its meetings in the judicial district in which its members
27 reside.

28 (b) The local panel shall elect one of its members to serve as
29 chair for a term of one year.

1 (c) A majority of the members of a local panel constitutes a
2 quorum. A panel may not take official action without the affirmative
3 vote of at least three of its members.

4 (d) A local panel member is not eligible for travel expenses,
5 per diem, or other expenses for service on the local panel unless the
6 state panel requires a local panel member to travel to attend a meet-
7 ing. If the state panel requires a local panel member to travel to
8 attend a meeting, the local panel member is entitled to reimbursement
9 for actual expenses incurred by the member in attending the meeting,
10 except that the reimbursement may not exceed the amount of per diem
11 and expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

12 Sec. 47.10.440. DUTIES OF LOCAL PANEL. (a) A local panel shall
13 review the case plan of each child in the custody of the department
14 who is in a placement other than the child's own home under AS 47.-
15 10.080(b)(3), (c)(1), or (c)(3), 47.10.142, or 47.10.230(c) if the
16 case is under the jurisdiction of a court in the judicial district
17 served by the panel. A local panel may request a local panel in
18 another judicial district to conduct a review and make a report if
19 that local panel is more convenient for the child and other persons
20 involved.

21 (b) The local panel shall review a case as required under 42
22 U.S.C. 671 - 675 (P.L. 96-272) within 180 days after the day the child
23 is initially removed from the child's home and every six months there-
24 after. A court review may be substituted for a review required under
25 this subsection if the court review meets the requirements of this
26 subsection.

27 (c) At least 30 days before it begins a review, the local panel
28 shall provide written notice to the following persons that a review
29 will be conducted and that each person notified may participate in the

1 review:

- 2 (1) the department;
3 (2) the child or the child's legal representative;
4 (3) the child's parents;
5 (4) the child's guardian;
6 (5) the child's guardian ad litem;
7 (6) the child's out-of-home care provider; and
8 (7) if the case is governed by 25 U.S.C. 1901 - 1963

9 (Indian Child Welfare Act),

10 (A) the child's Indian custodian; and

11 (B) the designated representative of the child's
12 Indian tribe if the tribe has intervened in the case.

13 (d) In reviewing a case, the local panel shall consider the case
14 plan and any progress report of the department or the child's guardian
15 ad litem, court records, and other relevant information about the
16 child and the child's family. The local panel shall also provide to
17 the following persons an opportunity to be interviewed by the panel in
18 person or by telephone or to provide written material to the panel:

19 (1) the child whose case is being reviewed if the child is
20 10 years of age or older;

21 (2) the parents, custodians, or other relatives of the
22 child;

23 (3) the child's out-of-home care provider;

24 (4) the child's guardian;

25 (5) the child's guardian ad litem;

26 (6) the case worker or social worker assigned to the case;

27 (7) if the case is governed by 25 U.S.C. 1901 - 1963

28 (Indian Child Welfare Act),

29 (A) the child's Indian custodian; and

1 (B) the designated representative of the child's
2 Indian tribe if the tribe has intervened in the case; and

3 (8) other persons with a close personal knowledge of the
4 case.

5 (e) At the discretion of the child's guardian ad litem, if the
6 child whose case is being reviewed is under 10 years of age, the child
7 may be present at interviews conducted under (d) of this section and
8 during review by the panel, or may be interviewed. At the child's
9 request, a child who is 10 years of age or older shall be allowed to
10 be present at interviews or a review of the local panel that concerns
11 the child's case unless the panel determines that for good cause the
12 child's presence would be contrary to the best interests of the child
13 or there is other good cause for denying the child's request.

14 (f) During a review under (a) of this section, a local panel
15 shall

16 (1) determine whether the child has a case plan designed to
17 achieve placement in the least restrictive, most family-like setting
18 available in close proximity to the home of the child's parents that
19 is consistent with the best interests of and special needs and circum-
20 stances of the child;

21 (2) evaluate the continuing necessity and appropriateness
22 of the child's placement, the extent of the compliance with the
23 child's case plan, and the extent of progress that has been made
24 toward mitigating the causes that necessitated placement away from the
25 child's parents;

26 (3) ascertain the date by which it is likely the child may
27 be returned to the home or placed for adoption or legal guardianship;

28 (4) determine whether there has been compliance with appli-
29 cable provisions of 25 U.S.C. 1901 - 1963 (Indian Child Welfare Act)

1 and other applicable state and federal laws; and

2 (5) determine whether there has been compliance with court
3 review requirements of AS 47.10.080(f) and (l) and 47.10.142(h).

4 (g) The local panel shall within 30 days after reviewing the
5 case submit a written report to the persons listed in (c) of this
6 section.

7 (h) The report required under (g) of this section must make
8 advisory recommendations based on the best interests of the child in
9 accordance with AS 47.10.082 and must include notification of the
10 right to request court review under AS 47.10.080(f). If the court has
11 scheduled the case for review, the local panel shall submit its report
12 at least 20 days before the hearing.

13 (i) The local panel shall report to the state panel information
14 needed by the state panel to prepare the report required under AS 47.-
15 10.410.

16 Sec. 47.10.450. COOPERATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL PANELS. The
17 department, Department of Law, public defender, office of public
18 advocacy, and court system shall cooperate with the state panel and
19 the local panels to facilitate timely review of plans for children
20 whose cases are under the jurisdiction of the panels.

21 Sec. 47.10.460. RECORDS; COMMUNICATIONS. (a) Notwithstanding
22 AS 47.10.090, at the request of a local panel, the department, the
23 child's guardian ad litem, and the court shall furnish to the local
24 panel relevant records concerning a child and the child's family who
25 are the subjects of a local panel review. At the conclusion of a
26 review, all copies of records provided to a local panel under this
27 section shall be returned to the staff that serves the local panel or
28 to the agency from which the original copy was obtained unless the
29 panel members need the copies to prepare the reports required under

1 AS 47.10.440(g) - (i). Copies retained for preparation of the reports
2 shall be returned to the staff that serves the local panel or to the
3 originating agency upon completion of the reports. Notwithstanding
4 AS 44.62.310, records and reports of the local panel, testimony before
5 the local panel, and deliberations of the local panel are confidential
6 under AS 47.10.090.

7 (b) A local panel member may not reveal to another person, other
8 than another member of the local panel or the staff serving the local
9 panel, a communication made to the member while performing the mem-
10 ber's duties under AS 47.10.400 - 47.10.490 except as required under
11 AS 47.17 or as required by court order for good cause shown. A local
12 panel member may share with the state panel communications made during
13 the local panel member's performance of official duties if the local
14 panel member omits identifying information.

15 (c) A local panel proceeding is not governed by AS 44.62.310.

16 Sec. 47.10.470. COURT REVIEW OF REPORT. (a) When a report is
17 admissible under court rules, the court may consider the report of the
18 local panel in its review under AS 47.10.080(f) and at other disposi-
19 tion hearings other than hearings related to delinquency proceedings.

20 (b) The court may refer to the local panel a case called for a
21 special review under AS 47.10.080(f).

22 Sec. 47.10.480. INDEMNIFICATION OF PANEL MEMBERS. A state panel
23 member and a local panel member shall be indemnified by the state for
24 civil liability for a negligent act or omission of the panel member
25 that occurs in the performance of the member's duties under AS 47.10.-
26 400 - 47.10.490 unless the civil liability results from the panel
27 member's violation of

28 (1) AS 47.10.460(b); or

29 (2) the oath or affirmation required under AS 47.10.420(e).

1 Sec. 47.10.490. DEFINITIONS. In AS 47.10.400 - 47.10.490

2 (1) "local panel" means a local citizen out-of-home care
3 review panel appointed under AS 47.10.420;

4 (2) "out-of-home care provider" means an agency or a per-
5 son, other than the child's legal parents, with whom the child is
6 currently placed and who is in the custody of the state under AS 47.-
7 10.080(b)(3), (c)(1), or (c)(3), 47.10.142, or 47.10.230(c), including
8 a foster parent, a relative other than a parent, a person who has
9 petitioned for adoption of the child, or a residential child care
10 facility;

11 (3) "state panel" means the Citizens' Review Panel for
12 Permanency Planning established under AS 47.10.400.

13 * Sec. 3. AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

14 (17) Citizens' Review Panel for Permanency Planning under
15 AS 47.10.400 -- June 30, 1994.

16 * Sec. 4. AS 47.10.080(f) is amended to read:

17 (f) A minor found to be delinquent or a child in need of aid is
18 a ward of the state while committed to the department or the depart-
19 ment has the power to supervise the minor's actions. The court shall
20 review an order made under (b) or (c)(1) or (2) of this section an-
21 nually, and may review the order more frequently to determine if
22 continued placement, probation, or supervision, as it is being pro-
23 vided, is in the best interest of the minor and the public. If annual
24 review under this subsection would arise within 90 days of the hearing
25 required under (1) of this section, the court may postpone review
26 under this subsection until the time set for the hearing. The depart-
27 ment, the minor, the minor's parents, guardian, or custodian are
28 entitled, when good cause is shown, to a review on application. If
29 the application is granted, the court shall afford these parties and

1 their counsel reasonable notice in advance of the review and hold a
2 hearing where these parties and their counsel shall be afforded an
3 opportunity to be heard. The minor shall be afforded the opportunity
4 to be present at the review.

5 * Sec. 5. AS 47.10.080 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

6 (1) Within 18 months after the date a child is initially taken
7 into custody by the department under AS 47.10.142(c) or committed to
8 the custody of the department under AS 47.10.080(b)(3), (c)(1), or
9 (c)(3), or 47.10.230(c), the court shall hold a hearing to review the
10 placement and services provided and to determine the future status of
11 the minor. The court shall make appropriate written findings, includ-
12 ing findings related to the following:

13 (1) whether the child should be returned to the parent;

14 (2) whether the child should remain in out-of-home care for
15 a specified period;

16 (3) whether the child should remain in out-of-home care on
17 a permanent or long-term basis because of special needs or circum-
18 stances;

19 (4) whether the child should be placed for adoption or
20 legal guardianship.

21 (m) Within 60 days after the date a child is removed from the
22 child's home by the department, the department shall notify the appro-
23 priate local citizen out-of-home care review panel established under
24 AS 47.10.420.

25 (n) Within 60 days after a court orders a child committed to the
26 department under (c) of this section and at a review under (f) or (l)
27 of this section, the department shall inform the parties about the
28 local citizen out-of-home care review panel established under AS 47.-
29 10.420.

1 * Sec. 6. AS 47.10.142 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

2 (g) Within 60 days after a court orders a child committed to
3 the department under this section, the department shall inform the
4 parties about the local citizen out-of-home care review panel estab-
5 lished under AS 47.10.420.

6 (h) Within 18 months after a minor is committed to the depart-
7 ment under this section, the court shall review the placement plan and
8 actual placement of the minor under AS 47.10.080(1).

9 * Sec. 7. Notwithstanding AS 47.10.400, enacted by sec. 2 of this Act,
10 the governor shall appoint the initial public members of the Citizens'
11 Review Panel for Permanency Planning so that one serves a one-year term,
12 two serve two-year terms, and two serve three-year terms. The initial
13 public members must be persons who have training, experience, special
14 knowledge, or a demonstrated interest in the welfare of children.

15 * Sec. 8. This Act takes effect July 1, 1990.
16
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30

Alaska State Legislature



House of Representatives House Judiciary Committee

P. O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4990
(907) 465-4712

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Ron Larson, Co-Chair
Representative Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee

FROM: House Judiciary Committee *Peter Jones*

DATE: March 21, 1990

RE: House Bill 19, "An Act relating to citizen review panels for certain children in state custody; court review of cases relating to children; establishing the Citizen's Review Panel for Permanency Planning; and providing for an effective date."

The House Judiciary Committee joins with Representative Virginia Collins, the sponsor of HB 19, in strongly requesting a reduction in the fiscal note accompanying the bill.

The fiscal note includes funding for professional staff at the Social Worker III level. This program does not require any social worker positions. In addition, clerical support is under-represented and the regional professional office positions are not required.

We recommend the following for personnel services:

- 1 program coordinator at a Range 21
- 1 assistant to the coordinator at a Range 14
- 5 clerk IV's at a Range 9 (one for each judicial district with an extra clerk for Anchorage)
- 2 clerk III's at a Range 8

We further believe that facilities can be provided by the Court System (see attached letter from Art Snowden offering space and recording equipment) and by other public agencies at no additional costs to their budgets. We also believe that equipment and furniture costs could be reduced or

eliminated by the use of surplus or transferred equipment and furniture.

We would appreciate your review of these options, and we urge a significant reduction in the fiscal note if it can be accomplished without damaging the integrity of this important program.



JAN 23 1990

Alaska Court System

State of Alaska

303 "K" STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
99501

ARTHUR H. SNOWDEN II
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

(907) 274-8611

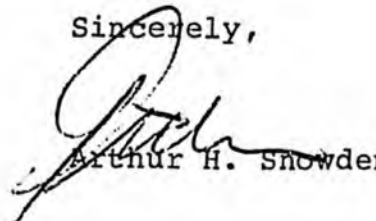
January 20, 1990

Representative Virginia M. Collins
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Collins:

As per our conversation today, the Court System iterates its offer to provide meeting space and the use of recording equipment for the foster care review panels.

Sincerely,



Arthur H. Snowden, II

c: Representative Peter Goll and
Representative Max Gruenberg,
Co-Chair, House Judiciary Committee

Alaska State Legislature

P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-2828

Anchorage * District 10



3111 C Street, Suite 412
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 561-2040

Member
Alaska Legislative
Council
Labor & Commerce
Committee
Special Committee
on Foreign Trade
Finance Sub-Committee
for Labor

Representative Virginia Collins

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSHB 19 (JUD)

This bill would create in the Department of Administration a statewide foster care review system for certain children in state custody. It would establish a ten-member state panel composed of five voting members who are appointed by the governor and five non-voting agency members. It would also establish five-member local citizen review panels for children in state custody in each of the state's four judicial districts. Administrative staff would be provided to the panels.

Within 180 days after a child is removed from the home and every six months thereafter, the local citizen review panels would review the case to determine whether the child has a case plan in place consistent with the best interests of the child, evaluate the necessity and appropriateness of the placement, and ascertain the date by which a child may be returned to the home or placed for adoption or legal guardianship. They would make advisory recommendations based on the review.

The state panel would prepare an annual report to the legislature regarding the activities of the panels and recommendations for program improvements.

Other states which have implemented similar programs have found it to show a cost-savings and, more importantly, they have found that children are not languishing as long in foster care.

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

April 2, 1990

SUBJECT: Sectional Analysis
CSHB 19 (Judiciary)

TO: Representative Virginia Collins

FROM: Terri Lauterbach *TL*
Legislative Counsel

This memo contains a sectional analysis of CSHB 19 (Judiciary), a bill relating to citizen out-of-home care review panels.

Section 1 states findings and a purpose for the bill.

Section 2 establishes criteria for an out-of-home care review system and sets out its duties.

Sec. 47.10.400 describes the composition of a state panel called the Citizens' Review Panel for Permanency Planning.

Sec. 47.10.410 describes the duties of the state panel.

Sec. 47.10.420 provides for local review panels.

Sec. 47.10.430 specifies meeting requirements and expense reimbursement limitations for local panels.

Sec. 47.10.440 describes the duties of the local panels.

Sec. 47.10.450 requires various state agencies and the court system to cooperate with panels.

Sec. 47.10.460 provides for the sharing of a child's records with a panel. Requires confidentially.

Sec. 47.10.470 sets out the circumstances under which a court may consider panel recommendations.

Representative Virginia Collins
Page 2
April 2, 1990

Sec. 47.10.480 provides for indemnification of panel members.

Sec. 47.10.490 defines terms.

Section 3 amends the sunset statute to include the state panel.

Section 4 allows postponement of certain court reviews of children's cases.

Section 5 requires an 18-month court review of certain cases where children are in state custody and requires notification of parties about the out-of-home care review system established in the bill.

Section 6 amends emergency placement procedures to require DHSS to notify parties about the review panels and to require court review of temporary custody arrangements within 18 months.

Section 7 is a transitional provision for setting up the first state panel.

Section 8 makes the bill effective July 1, 1990.

TL:pl
WKP4/006

10

CSHB 19 (Jrd)

ASSUMES OFFICE LOCATIONS OF ANCHORAGE, JUNEAU AND FAIRBANKS

Professional Services

1st Year	\$22,500 (\$20,000 for Information System Development)
2nd Year	\$2,500 Trainer/Training Material

Communication

Telephone	\$25,140
Postage (750/mo)	\$9,000
Teleconferences (6)	\$2,700
Advertising, Printing For recruitment, rept	\$3,925
Minor Repair/Maint.	\$3,600 (\$300/Mo.)
Copiers (2 @ 1,050/mo and 1 @ 550/mo)	\$31,800
Space (9 Mo. 1st Yr.)	\$47,655
Total 1st Year	\$146,320
Total 2nd Year	\$142,205

Supplies and Materials

Office & Library Supplies, \$900/Month	\$10,800
Data Processing Sup.	\$300
Total	\$11,100

3/22/90
Backup Material

One Time Special Equipment Needs

Fax Machine	3	\$5,100
File Server (Anc)	1	\$13,000
LAN Network (Anc)	1	\$1,895
Modems	3	\$2,085
Storage Cabinets	3	\$1,275
Miscl. Furniture	1	\$3,000
Recording Equip.	6	\$2,850
Teleconf. Equip. Portable	3	\$12,000
	Total	\$41,205

One Time Needs For Individual Staff \$70,765

Total One Time Equipment \$111,970

2ond and Subsequent Years \$1,500
Replacement of Small
Equipment - recorders, etc.

Five Member State Panel

To Anchorage -- State Wide Panel

5 Panel Members

1st Year	Persons		
\$400 Transportation	3	\$2,400	2 Trips
\$15 Transportation	2	\$60	2 Trips
\$80 Per Diem for	5	\$3,200	8 Days/Year
\$80 Per Diem for	3	\$960	4 Days Travel Time
		\$6,620	

2ond (& Subsequent) Years

\$400 Transportation	3	\$2,400	2 Trips
\$15 Transportation	2	\$60	2 Trips
\$80 Per Diem for	5	\$2,400	6 Days/Year
\$80 Per Diem for	3	\$960	4 Days Travel Time
		\$5,820	

Staff - 1st Year

Executive Director

Trip/Days

\$400 Transportation	1	\$385	1 Trip For Departmental Orientation
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$240	3 Days For Departmental Orientation
\$500 Transportation	1	\$500	1 Trip Ketchikan Office
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$320	4 Days/Trip Ketchikan Office
\$385 Transportation	1	\$770	2 Juneau Trip For Administrative Functions
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$320	4 Days in Juneau For Administrative Functions
\$212 Transportation	1	\$424	2 Trips to Fairbanks Office
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$320	4 For Trips to Fairbanks Office
Total		\$3,279	

2ond (& Subsequent) Years

Executive Director

\$385 Transportation	1	\$2,310	6 Juneau Trip For Administrative Functions
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$960	12 Days in Juneau For Administrative Functions
\$212 Transportation	1	\$848	4 Trips to Fairbanks Office
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$480	6 For Trips to Fairbanks Office
Total		\$4,598	

1st Year

Line Staff			Trip/Days
\$421 Transportation	1	\$2,946	7 Local Panel Training
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$1,120	14 Days For Local Pannel Training
\$421 Transportation	1	\$13,045	31 Local Panel Reviews
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$4,960	62 Days For Local Panel Reviews
\$385 Transportation	1	\$385	1 Departmental Orientation for Adm. Assistant
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$160	2 Days for Departmental Orientation for Adm. A
Total		\$22,615	

2ond Year

Line Staff			Trip/Days
\$421 Transportation	1	\$1,262	3 Local Panel Training
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$480	6 Days For Local Pannel Training
\$421 Transportation	1	\$23,986	57 Local Panel Reviews
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$9,120	114 Days For Local Panel Reviews
\$385 Transportation	1	\$770	2 Departmental Administrative Trainingfor Adm.
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$320	4 Days ForDepartmental Administrative Training
Total		\$35,938	

3rd (& Subsequent) Years

Line Staff

Trip/Days

\$421 Transportation	1	\$1,683	4 Local Panel Development/Training
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$640	8 Days For Local Pannel Training
\$421 Transportation	1	\$23,144	55 Local Panel Reviews
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$8,800	110 Days For Local Panel Reviews
\$385 Transportation	1	\$770	2 Departmental Training For Adm. Assistant
\$80 Per Diem for	1	\$320	4 Days For Departmental Training For Adm. Assi
Total		\$35,357	

Administrative Totals

1st Year	\$32,514
2ond Year	\$46,356
3rd Year	\$45,775

Monthly Panels	Panels	Hearing Days Per Month	Trips	\$/Trip	\$/Yr	Days Per Trip	Per diem Per Trip \$80.00	Per diem Per Trip Per Year
Bethel	2	2.50	12	\$450	\$5,400	4	320	\$3,840
Dillingham	1	.33	4	\$372	\$1,488	3	240	\$960
Kenai	1	1	12	\$132	\$1,584	2	160	\$1,920
Kodiak	1	.33	2	\$418	\$836	3	240	\$480
Unalaska	1	.33	1	\$876	\$876	3	240	\$240
Delta	1	.33	4	\$50	\$200	1	80	\$320
Barrow	1	.33	4	\$778	\$3,112	2	160	\$640
Galena	1	.33	4	\$170	\$680	1	80	\$320
Nome	1	.33	4	\$684	\$2,736	2	160	\$640
Ketchikan	2	2.50	12	\$278	\$3,336	2	160	\$1,920
Total	12	8.33	59	\$4,208	\$2,025		\$184	\$1,128
Locations	10					12	12	12
		Average \$/Trip		\$421	\$24,298	\$/Yr	\$2,208	\$13,536

First Year Classification	Location	BU	Range	Step	FTE	Annual Cost	Space Ft.2	One Time Equipment Costs
Executive Director	Anchorage	X	23	A	.92	\$64,770	175	\$7,320
Administrative Assistant II	Anchorage	S	14	A	.92	\$37,293	98	\$6,316
Clerk II/Receptionist	Anchorage	G	7	A	.83	\$23,926	64	\$1,316
Social Worker III	Anchorage	G	16	A	.83	\$38,369	94	\$6,146
Social Worker III	Anchorage	G	16	A	.83	\$38,369	94	\$6,146
Social Worker III	Anchorage	G	16	A	.75	\$34,996	94	\$6,146
Clerk III	Anchorage	G	9	A	.83	\$26,248	64	\$8,361
Social Worker III	Fairbanks	G	16	A	.83	\$39,450	94	\$6,146
Clerk III	Fairbanks	G	9	A	.83	\$26,941	64	\$8,361
Social Worker III	Juneau	G	16	A	.83	\$38,369	94	\$6,146
Clerk III	Juneau	G	9	A	.83	\$26,248	64	\$8,361
Ancillary Space Needs					9.25	\$394,980	999	\$70,765
Photocopier	3	255						
File Storage	6	54						
Storage Cabinets	4	60						
Reception/Meeting Area		750						
Base Space Requirements		2,118.00						
25% access		529.50						
		2647.50						
Cost Estimate /ft2	\$2.00	\$63,540						

Second Year Classification	Location	BU	Range	Step	FTE	Annual Cost
Executive Director	Anchorage	X	23	B	1	\$72,476
Administrative Assistant II	Anchorage	S	14	B	1	\$41,475
Clerk II/Receptionist	Anchorage	G	7	B	1	\$28,398
Social Worker III	Anchorage	G	16	B	1	\$46,643
Social Worker III	Anchorage	G	16	B	1	\$46,643
Social Worker III	Anchorage	G	16	B	1	\$46,643
Clerk III	Anchorage	G	9	B	1	\$31,379
Social Worker III	Fairbanks	G	16	B	1	\$47,989
Clerk III	Fairbanks	G	9	B	1	\$32,236
Social Worker III	Juneau	G	16	B	1	\$46,643
Clerk III	Juneau	G	9	B	1	\$31,379
					11	\$471,903

Third Year Classification	Location	BU	Range	Step	FTE	Annual Cost
Executive Director	Anchorage	X	23	C	1	\$74,607
Administrative Assistant II	Anchorage	S	14	C	1	\$42,763
Clerk II/Receptionist	Anchorage	G	7	C	1	\$29,072
Social Worker III	Anchorage	G	16	C	1	\$48,006
Social Worker III	Anchorage	G	16	C	1	\$48,006
Social Worker III	Anchorage	G	16	C	1	\$48,006
Clerk III	Anchorage	G	9	C	1	\$32,128
Social Worker III	Fairbanks	G	16	C	1	\$49,396
Clerk III	Fairbanks	G	9	C	1	\$33,009
Social Worker III	Juneau	G	16	C	1	\$48,006
Clerk III	Juneau	G	9	C	1	\$32,128
					11	\$485,126

SUMMARY OF COSTS

First Year

\$394,980	100	-- Personnel Services
\$32,514	200	-- Travel
\$146,320	300	-- Contractual
\$11,100	400	-- Supplies
\$111,970	500	-- Equipment

\$696,885 Total

Second Year

\$471,903	100	-- Personnel Services
\$46,356	200	-- Travel
\$142,205	300	-- Contractual
\$11,100	400	-- Supplies
\$1,500	500	-- Equipment

\$673,064 Total

Third Year

\$485,126	100	-- Personnel Services
\$45,775	200	-- Travel
\$142,205	300	-- Contractual
\$11,100	400	-- Supplies
\$1,500	500	-- Equipment

\$685,706 Total

ANCHORAGE FIELD OFFICE
3/16/90

Children In Out-Of-Home Care for > 6 Months

Field Office	Total	Hrs. Per Hearing	Hrs. Per Year (X2) for Panel Days/Year	Divided by 6	Prof. FTE's Required
Anchorage	234	234	468	78	1.36
Eagle River	11	11	22	3.67	.06
Glenallen	2	2	4	.67	.01
Palmer	26	26	52	8.67	.15
Valdez	1	1	2	.33	.01
Cordova	1	1	2	.33	.01
McGrath	2	2	4	.67	.01
Sub-Total	277	277	554	92.33	1.61
Bethel	64	64	128	21.33	.37
Kwigillingok	1	1	2	.33	.01
Mt. Village	4	4	8	1.33	.02
Aniak	15	15	30	5	.09
Sub-Total	84	84	168	28	.49
Dillingham	8	8	16	2.67	.07
Naknek	3	3	6	1	.03
Sub-Total	11	11	22	3.67	.10
Kenai	36	36	72	12	.33
Seward	1	1	2	.33	.01
Homer	4	4	8	1.33	.04
Sub-total	41	41	82	13.67	.38
Kodiak	8	8	16	2.67	.07
Sub-Total	8	8	16	2.67	.07
St. Paul	3	3	6	1	.03
Sand Point	6	6	12	2	.06
Unalaska	2	2	4	.67	.02
Sub-Total	11	11	22	3.67	.10
Regional Total	434	434	868	144.67	2.76

FAIRBANKS FIELD OFFICE

Children In Out-Of-Home Care for > 6 Months

Field Office	Total	Hrs. Per Hearing	Hrs. Per Year (X2)	Divided by 6 for Panel Days/Year	Prof. FTE's Required
Fairbanks	95	95	190	31.67	.55
Nenana	8	8	16	2.67	.05
Ft. Yukon	2	2	4	.67	.01
Sub-Total	105	105	210	35	.61
Delta	3	3	6	1	.03
Tok	6	6	12	2	.06
Sub-Total	9	9	18	3	.08
Barrow	15	15	30	5	.14
Sub-Total	15	15	30	5	.14
Galena	7	7	14	2.33	.06
Sub-Total	7	7	14	2.33	.06
Nome	4	4	8	1.33	.04
Kotzebue	2	2	4	.67	.02
Sub-Total	6	6	12	2	.06
Regional Total	142	142	284	47.33	.95

JUNEAU FIELD OFFICE

Children In Out-Of-Home Care for > 6 Months

Field Office	Total	Hrs. Per Hearing	Hrs. Per Year (X2)	Divided by 6 for Panel Days/Year	Prof. FTE's Required
Juneau	38	38	76	12.67	.35
Sitka	6	6	12	2	.06
Petersburg	2	2	4	.67	.02
Sub-Total	46	46	92	15.33	.42
Wrangell	8	8	16	2.67	.07
Craig	4	4	8	1.33	.04
Ketchikan	32	32	64	10.67	.29
Sub-Total	44	44	88	14.67	.41
Regional Total	90	90	180	30	.83
Grand Total	666	666	1332	222	4.54

FOSTER CARE REVIEW SYSTEMS

COMPARATIVE COST ANALYSIS

We looked at foster care review budgets in four other states, taking the annual budget and dividing it by the number of children in custody to arrive at the cost of the review process per child. We then took the cost per child and multiplied it by the number of children in custody in Alaska, using a 3-02-89 figure of 1183 children. The purpose was to obtain a general figure for consideration of implementation of review panels for children in custody in Alaska.

STATE	FY BUDGET	# IN CUSTODY	ANNUAL COST/CHILD	ALASKA EST. ANNUAL COST
1. Arizona	FY89=\$ 700,000	5000	\$140	\$165,620

[Arizona has 5-member local panels and a 5-member state panel, under the Supreme Court, with full reviews (includes interviews with parties involved as opposed to only reviews of paperwork) every six months. Members of both panels have only expenses reimbursed. There is a professional coordinator and a staff assistant. Training sessions of local panels are given twice a year, with an additional initial orientation session. Reviews are approximately one hour in length per case.) Legislation in 1978. Implementation in 1979.]

2. Oregon	FY89=\$540,000 (based on biennial budget of \$1,046,000)	3982	\$136	\$168,640
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[Oregon has 3-5 member panels and a state staff of 11 professionals, including 7 full-time and 4 part-time people and 6.5 clerical support staff, under the Supreme Court. Full reviews are done every six months. No per diem or expenses are paid to the panels.]

3. Maryland	FY89=\$ 900,000	4600	\$196	\$231,868
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[Maryland has 5-member panels within an independent agency under the social services department. The current desire is to remove this from the auspices of the department. Full reviews are done every six months. Panelists are reimbursed for mileage, parking, and toll charges if they submit expenses for payment. There are 25 staff including two supervisors, 2 administrators, 12.5 staff assistants, and 8 secretaries. The review panel meets once a month for 8 hours. On the average, a panel spends one half hour on a single child. Enabling legislation was passed in 1978. Implementation was begun in 1980.]

Additional notes of interest regarding Maryland system: In 1981, a one-day census taken regarding the number of children in foster care for two years or longer was 5075 or 72%. This compares to a 1988 figure of 1919 or 42%. On 9/87 there were 3200 fewer children in care than in 7/80. This resulted in a savings of \$30 million over this time period based on a \$599 room and board cost per child per month and an estimated \$6 million savings in case work services. More children are exiting the system for desirable reasons (as opposed to aging out of the system or runaways.) The percentage of desirable exits were 71% in 1985, 75% in 1987, and 77% in 1988. Time from entering care to being placed for adoption in 1986 was 69 months. The second half of 1988 was 46 months.

STATE	FY BUDGET	# IN CUSTODY	ANNUAL COST/CHILD	ALASKA EST. ANNUAL COST
4. Wash.	\$1,144,216*	4367	\$262	\$309,963
	554,055**	3027	\$183	\$216,489

* based on reviews at 90 days, 6 months, 12 months, and annually

** based on reviews at 6 months, 12 months, and annually

There is currently a pilot project on-going in Washington. Legislation has been introduced this session to create a permanent review system for the state.

According to Susan Carter of the National Association of Foster Care Reviewers, Oregon and Arizona are sufficiently funded programs.

Salem Administrative Office

Executive House
325 13th Street N.E., Suite 404
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-5430



Portland Branch Office

Crossroads Square Building
122 N.E. 3rd Ave., Suite 280
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 238-7453

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Citizen Review Board

TO: JOHN RADFORD, DIRECTOR
MANAGEMENT SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: TOM CARRANZA, COORDINATOR
CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

RE: BUDGET AND STAFF COMPARISON - CRB OTHER STATES

1.0 PURPOSE

Nancy Asbury, Administrator, Citizen Review Board, requested that I gather information regarding the budgets and staffing patterns from Citizen Review Board Programs in other states.

2.0 SCOPE

Information was gathered by interview from the following Citizen Review Board Administrators:

- + Susan Carter, Executive Director
National Association Foster Care Reviewers
State of Arizona
- + Charlie Cooper, Assistant Administrator
Citizen Review Board
State of Maryland
- + Neila Gibbons, Executive Director
Citizen Review Board
State of South Carolina
- + Sandra Sperry, Program Manager
Citizen Review Board
State of Arizona

3.0 METHOD

Phone conferences were conducted with each of the above Administrators. The following questions were asked of each Administrator:

- + What is your Program's total budget?
- + How is your Program funded? State, Federal and/or other sources.

- + What is your staffing pattern by position classification and current salary if one position or average if more than one position?
- + How many Boards does each Coordinator staff?
- + How many Reviews did your Program conduct in 1988 or for the year for which you have complete data? By children and/or by case?.
- + How many Reviews does each Board conduct each month?
- + Is there other information you believe would be useful for the reader to understand your Program?
- + Why does your state believe that the Coordinator position requires a professional level staff?
- + Information requested from Susan Carter included the names and phone numbers of Administrators who she recommended that I contact. I explained the purpose of my request for Ms. Carter's consideration.

4.0 FINDINGS

Refer to attached report.

JAN 25 1989 OFFICE STATE COURT ADMIN P. 04

MARYLAND CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

Information gathered by interview with Charlie Cooper, Assistant Administrator. The Program has been in existence for nine years.

TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 950,000.00 PER YEAR
\$1,900,000.00 PER BIENNIUM

STAFFING: TOTAL STAFF 24.5

<u>POSITION</u>		<u>SALARY PER YEAR</u>
ADMINISTRATOR	(1)	\$45-50,000.00
ASST. ADMIN.	(1)	\$36,500.00
SUPERVISORS	(2)	\$34,000.00 EACH
COORDINATORS	(12.5)	\$29,500.00 EACH
CLERICAL	(8)	\$18,850.00 (2) \$17,850.00 (6)

EACH COORDINATOR STAFFS 4-5 BOARDS.

IN 1989 THE PROGRAM WILL REVIEW 6,600 CHILDREN - 5,143 CASES.

EACH BOARD REVIEWS APPROXIMATELY 12.5 CASES EACH MONTH.

PROGRAM IS 18% FEDERALLY FUNDED.

MR. COOPER PROVIDED THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE AND CONSIDERATION.

The Coordinator position required a professional staff in order to understand and work within the complex bureaucracy of the foster care system. The Coordinator is required to have a working understanding of the CSD Policies and practices state wide and by county. The Coordinator is required to have a working understanding of the Substitute Care, Protective Services, Adoptions, Juvenile Corrections and Citizen Review Board Policy. In addition the Coordinator must have a working understanding of the Court System.

Further the Coordinator must be skilled in systems change as the Programs responsibility is to improve and assure quality service for all children and families in the foster care system. Mr. Cooper stated that in the Programs estimation by reducing the length of stay in foster care, there are approximately 3,200 less children in foster care than when the Program began. The Citizen Review process has resulted in a cost avoidance of approximately \$20 million per year. Mr. Cooper stated that in Maryland the cost of foster care per child was approximately \$650.00 per month. (3,200 children x \$650.00 = \$2,080,000.00 x 12 Months = \$24, 960,000.00)

SOUTH CAROLINA CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

Information gathered by interview with Neila Gibbons, Executive Director. The Program has been in existence for twelve years.

TOTAL BUDGET: \$700,000.00 PER YEAR
\$1,400,000.00 PER BIENNIUM
ADDITIONAL FUNDING USED

STAFFING: TOTAL STAFF 18

<u>POSITION</u>		<u>SALARY PER YEAR</u>
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	(1)	\$40,500.00
ATTORNEY	(1)	\$33,000.00
BUSINESS MANAGER	(1)	\$24,500.00
PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR	(1)	\$27,000.00
SUPERVISOR	(1)	\$27,050.00
COORDINATOR	(9)	\$25,000.00
DATA COORDINATOR	(1)	\$21,000.00
CLERICAL	(3)	\$17,000.00

EACH COORDINATOR STAFFS 4 BOARDS.

THE PROGRAM WILL HAVE 38 BOARDS IN 1989.

IN 1987 THE PROGRAM CONDUCTED 7,455 REVIEWS - 4,900 CHILDREN.

EACH BOARD REVIEWS APPROXIMATELY 18 CASES PER MONTH.

THE PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE LEGISLATURE, FEDERAL, FAMILY GRANTS AND BY PRIVATE ENDOWMENTS. THE \$1.4 MILLION IS STATE.

MS. GIBBONS PROVIDED THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE AND CONSIDERATION.

South Carolina started their program ten years ago with the Coordinators at a high clerical level. The program upgraded the position due to the requirement of the Coordinator to have a working knowledge of current state policies, due process and state and federal law. The program found that a clerical position could not be expected to have the knowledge, skills and ability necessary. The Boards rely heavily on the Coordinator as a professional with knowledge of Social Work, Children, Courts as well as the complex foster care system. The Coordinator is also required to understand the dynamics of Social Welfare. The program found that the Agency's working with the Citizen Review Board developed a positive working relationship when they knew

UNITED STATES FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION OFFICE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATION
SOUTH CAROLINA CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

PAGE 2

that the Coordinator had experience and knowledge in the field. The Boards also relied heavily on the Coordinator for On The Job Training. Coordinators are required to make decisions that can resolve cases at the review as well as conducting follow-up.

The program has their own attorney and has standing in Court. The program can make motion and bring about their own Judicial Review.

ARIZONA CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

Information gathered by interview with Sandra Sperry, Program Manager. The Program has been in existence for ten years.

TOTAL BUDGET

\$804,000.00 PER YEAR
\$1,608,000.00 PER BIENNIUM

STAFFING:

TOTAL STAFF 22

<u>POSITION</u>		<u>SALARY PER YEAR</u>
DIRECTOR	(1)	\$45,000.00
PROGRAM MANAGER	(1)	\$32,000.00
SUPERVISOR	(2)	\$32,000.00 EACH
COORDINATOR	(13)	\$20,500.00 EACH
CLERICAL	(7 - 4 FULL TIME)	\$19,500.00 (1) \$16,500.00 OTHERS

EACH COORDINATOR STAFFS 4 BOARDS.

IN 1988 THE PROGRAM CONDUCTED 4,798 REVIEWS - 7,154 CHILDREN.

EACH BOARD REVIEWS APPROXIMATELY 10.0 CASES PER MONTH.

PROGRAM IS LEGISLATIVELY FUNDED BY THE STATE.

THE PROGRAM IS ADMINISTRATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN SERVICES. THE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERS THE CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD AND THE CASA PROGRAM (COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE).

THE PROGRAM HAS A STATE BOARD WHICH MEETS FOUR TIMES PER YEAR.

THE PROGRAM HAS ONE CONFERENCE PER YEAR.

THE PROGRAM HAS ONE STAFF RETREAT PER YEAR.

MS. SPERRY PROVIDED THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE AND CONSIDERATION.

The Coordinator position requires a professional staff due to the knowledge required of the total foster care system. The Coordinator position required a staff knowledgeable of the social work field with the ability to determine the validity of the information presented at the review. The Coordinator required a staff skilled at resolving conflicts which surfaced during the course of the Review and during the course of the every day duties required of the position. The position required a staff able to gather and analyze information and identify trends in order to cause systems change. The position required a professional staff who the Boards would view as that, a professional and knowledge leader.

OREGON CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

Information gathered by review of the February 1989 Citizen Review Board Second Biennial Report and by discussion with Nancy Asbury, Administrator, Citizen Review Board. The Program has been conducting Citizen Reviews since July 1986.

TOTAL BUDGET: \$1,054,000.00 1987-89 BIENNIUM

STAFFING: TOTAL STAFF 16.1

<u>POSITION</u>		<u>SALARY PER YEAR</u>
ADMINISTRATOR	(1)	\$39,418.00
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	(1)	\$29,530.00
COORDINATORS	(7.6)	\$26,734.00
MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT	(1)	\$18,342.00
COS II	(1)	\$17,436.00
COS I	(4.5)	\$16,412.00

SALARY FIGURES FROM OCTOBER 1988 PAYROLL.

EACH FULL-TIME COORDINATOR STAFFS 7.8 BOARDS.

IN 1988 THE PROGRAM CONDUCTED REVIEWS FOR 7,418 CHILDREN.

EACH BOARD REVIEWS ON THE AVERAGE APPROXIMATELY 10 CASES PER MONTH WITH THE HIGH BEING 18.2 CASES PER MONTH.

THE PROGRAM IS STATE FUNDED.

CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD COMPARISONS

	<u>Current State Budget</u>	<u>Professional Staff Coordinating Boards</u>	<u>Profess. Staff / Review Boards Ratio</u>	<u>Profess. Staff/Children Reviewed Ratio</u>
OREGON	\$1,054,000	7.6	1/7.8	1/976
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,400,000	9	1/4	1/544
ARIZONA	1,608,000	13	1/4	1/550
MARYLAND	1,558,000	12.5	1/4.5	1/528

All of the above systems conduct similar types of reviews and are statewide programs.

HESS Comm. Workshop

11-15-88



Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS
for the
STATE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

POUCH V
JUNEAU, AK 99811
465-3759

October 1988

There are few state responsibilities greater than our obligation to care for our most vulnerable citizens: abused, neglected and abandoned children. The state has the moral and legal duty to provide the best possible care so that these children have the chance to become healthy, happy and productive citizens.

We are not doing the best job of fulfilling this mandate. Many children are inadequately served, many are not served at all. Our child protection system is understaffed, overstressed and lacks the resources necessary to provide adequate protection and care. In particular, the state's foster care system needs to do a better job of providing the nurturing environment that the child lacks in the natural home. State law may need to be changed in order to provide clearer direction for the welfare of children.

Recognizing these problems and the possibilities for positive change, the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee has been conducting a comprehensive review of the state's foster care system. The Committee has been working with the cooperation of the Division of Family and Youth Services, the Alaska Foster Parents Association, the Governor's Interim Commission on Children and Youth, plus other concerned organizations, agencies and individuals. The Committee recently completed two days of hearings on the foster care system. What follows is a preliminary list of recommendations for improvement. The Committee is open to additions and further refinement before we move forward with specific legislative action.

As an introduction, we have proposed basic mission and goal statements which will serve as a foundation for the preliminary Committee recommendations which follow. After each of the recommendations is a code which indicates the type of action(s) necessary. The codes mean: \$ = requires funding; L = requires legislation; A = requires administrative regulation, policy or procedural change; ? = action not clear.



Mission: THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

The mission of the state's child protection system should be to promote the best interests of the child. Preservation of the family or reunification with a child's natural parents is often the best alternative, but these efforts should be driven by and for the best interests of the child.

- * The state children's code should be reviewed and possibly modified to insure the promotion of the best interests of the child. L

Goal One: SAFETY, STABILITY AND PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN

Beyond initial efforts to insure a child's safety, the state's highest priority should be the ultimate stability and permanency of the child. The best efforts must be made to keep families together, if appropriate, or to reunify, if possible. If these options are not possible, the state should consider quick action to terminate parental rights, reduce the length of time a child lingers in temporary foster care, and secure a long-term nurturing home for the child or prepare the child for emancipation.

- * Expand intensive homebased family treatment programs to more quickly get help to families and determine the fate of the child. Funding could come from saved foster care stipends. Treatment should include an alcohol and drug abuse component. §
- * Clarify criteria for termination of parental rights so that the best interests of the child and the child's need for a permanent plan are highest priorities. Consider different standards for different ages. L
- * Change confidentiality statutes so that foster parents and others with a "need to know" have access to information. L
- * Continue pilot citizen review permanency planning board projects in Anchorage and Sitka. §
- * Create a permanent, state-wide citizen review board system. L, §
- * Expand the role of foster parents as part of the permanency planning team. A
- * Make greater use of subsidized adoption; beyond just hard to place kids. ?
- * Establish use of subsidized guardianships to increase stability of certain placements. L, §
- * Make long term foster care more viable. A, §
- * Establish minimum standards for emancipation. L
- * Provide more pre-emancipation services for youth. L, §
- * Examine the impediments to adoption. A



Alaska Foster Parents Association

P. O. BOX 140651 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

POSITION ON CONCEPT HB 19 FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS

"You are the eyes and ears of the court, a part of the court's conscience. You are also the eyes and ears of society, and part of its conscience. Reviewers are one of the few institutions where the problems of the family, the efforts of the state and the work of the judiciary meet. You are able to see what is working and what is wrong."

The above comments were made by the Honorable Robert N. Wilentz, Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, to members of foster care review boards.

When one considers the role and purpose of foster care review, it becomes obvious that it is primarily a system of quality assurance. It can also inject some common sense and practicality into a system that all too often, has little or none. It can also make the practitioners of the various services involved more accountable and therefore more responsive to the needs of their clients.

In considering the purpose and intent of legislation to create a system of foster care review that has the potential to do the greatest good for children, families and foster families, the following components must be included:

1. Review boards must be external of government and be composed of citizens from the community.
2. Recommendations of the boards should be adhered to by the department or the department should be able to justify their deviation in court.
3. All involved parties should have the ability, stated in law, to request reconsideration of a recommendation.
4. All parties who have direct information relating to the child in care must have the opportunity to present that information to the reviewers.
5. All parties must receive adequate notification of review so that they may arrange their schedule accordingly.
6. Reviewers must have access to all documents, records and testimony that relates to the child, placement and permanency plan.

National statistics indicate that review boards and the department agree 85% of the time. Conversely, they disagree in 15% of the cases reviewed. This could mean that the departments in those states that have citizen review boards are doing well most of the time. It could also mean that social work in those states is of higher quality because their work is being subjected to scrutiny by external sources.

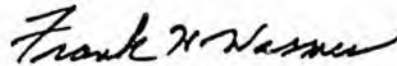
It is understandable that the department might suggest that recommendations should not be imposed upon them, or that case management should be solely their prerogative. It must be understood that review boards will in no way be case managers. Their responsibility is one of oversight to assure that cases are managed responsibly. In those cases where decisions are questionable, they should be challenged. The Department still has access to the court and in all cases, the court makes the final decision. The court will benefit from the work of the review boards and the department and therefore will be more able to make correct judgements.

One final thought; If there were no problems with the way we are dealing with children in the child protection system, we would not be talking about legislative solutions. We should not attempt band aid fixes but put those components in place which will assure long term progress for children who find themselves in state custody.

The Alaska Foster Parent Association supports, without reservation, Citizen Foster Care Review Boards with the concepts stated.



Miriam Sumner
President



Frank H. Wasmer
Vice President

STATE FOSTER CARE CITIZEN REVIEW SYSTEMS

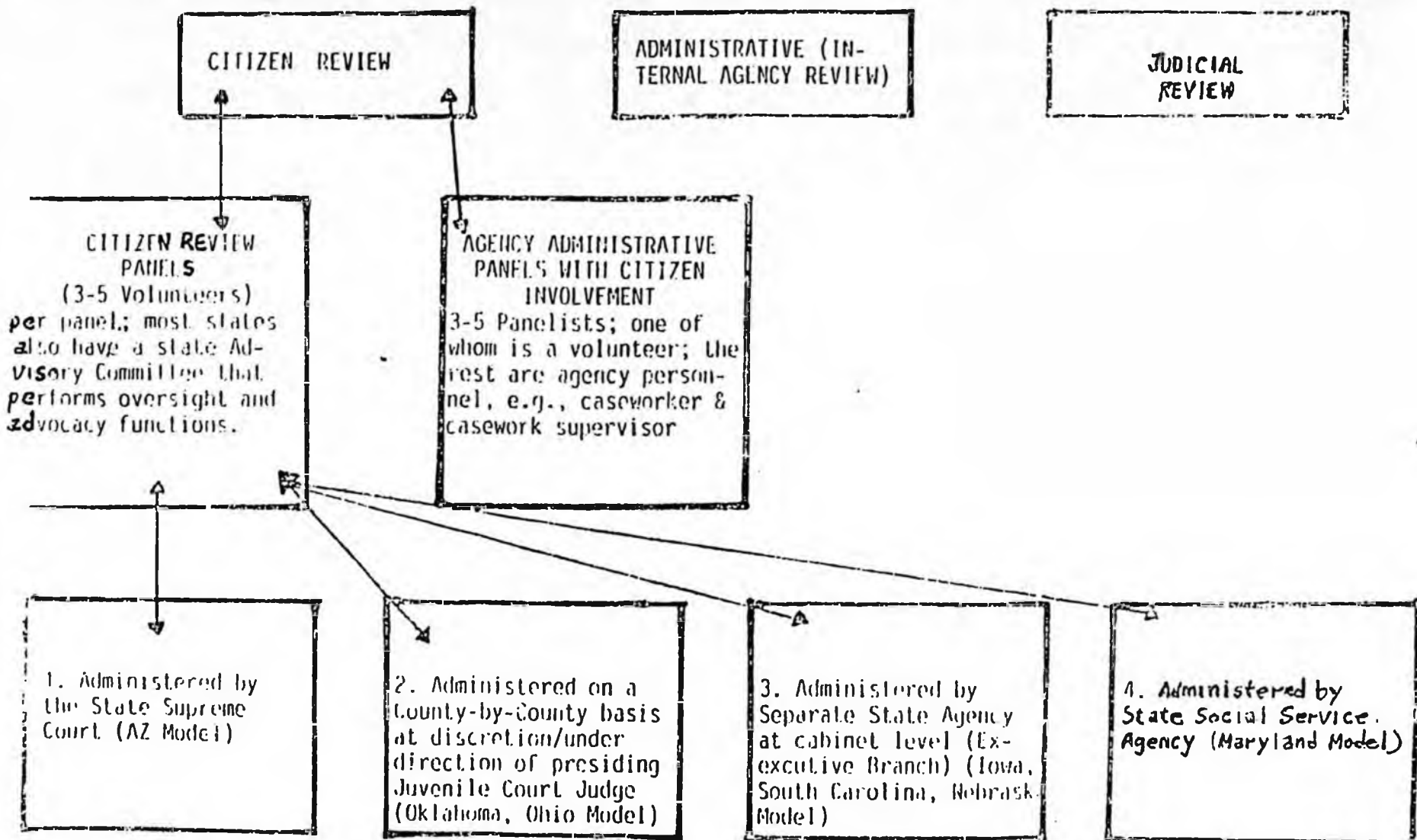
<u>STATE</u>	<u>TYPE OF ADMINISTRATION</u>
Alaska	pilot project, legislation introduced (HB 19)
Arizona	established under supreme court
Delaware	independent agency within governor's office
Florida	pilot project starts 4/1/89 in Dade County
Georgia	statewide system under court system
Hawaii	legislation pending for system
Illinois	only within Chicago under private non-profit
Iowa	independent agency at cabinet level
Kansas	in one county under county court system
Kentucky	under supreme court
Maryland	independent agency within social services department, but seeking change outside department
Michigan	under supreme court
Mississippi	under county court system
Nebraska	independent agency at cabinet level
New Jersey	within county court system with some supreme court funding
New Mexico	administered by private contractor who contracts with the department; legislation currently pending to change and place under the court system
Ohio	under county courts; not all counties
Oklahoma	under supreme court
S. Carolina	independent at cabinet level
Tennessee	under county courts
Washington	pilot project with legislation pending
Wisconsin	under county court in one county only

The majority of the states listed above conduct full party reviews (as opposed to paper reviews only).

This information was obtained from Susan Carter, Executive Director of the National Association of Foster Care Reviewers.

MODELS OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW

NOTE: These 3 basic models are not mutually exclusive. Some states use some version of all three, or two out of three.



* 2. (County-by-County Model) may also include a state advisory committee under Supreme Court that coordinates among counties.

E. ADVANTAGES OF CITIZEN REVIEW

7

Citizen review boards have several advantages not only for the children in foster care, but for the court system, social services system and taxpayers.

By engaging in interdisciplinary cooperative efforts, citizen review systems can make tremendous advances in the delivery of foster care services including the following:

1. enabling changes in the legislature regarding foster care statutes;
2. reducing the number of children in placement, thereby saving tremendous amounts of government dollars;
3. serving an investigative function to aid in appropriate case planning;
4. encouraging and aiding in the recruitment of foster homes;
5. increasing the awareness of the community to the plight of children in care;
6. serving a "check and balance" function to assure that all aspects of the child welfare system are functioning correctly and appropriately;
7. increasing cooperation and communication between various agencies serving children;
8. freeing case workers who might otherwise be conducting reviews to do casework and actually provide services to families;
9. developing new policies, procedures and resources for children in care.

FILED
SECRETARY OF STATE
NOV 19 87 0 2 8 3 4

Approved by State Board
9/8/87

RULES AND REGULATIONS

TITLE 162 - STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

CHAPTER 1-000 INTRODUCTION

1-001 Legal Basis:

The Foster Care Review Act, LB 714 enacted by Nebraska's Eighty-seventh Legislature, Second Session, 1982, established the Foster Care Review Board, Section 43-1301 through Section 43-1318, Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943.

1-002 Purpose Statement:

The Foster Care Review Board was established as an independent agency to periodically review the case plans of children in foster care. The purpose of the review is to assure that appropriate goals have been set for the child, that realistic time limits have been set for the accomplishment of these goals, that efforts are being made by all parties to achieve these goals, that appropriate services are being delivered to the child and/or his or her family, and that long-range planning has been done to move the child to a permanent home where he or she can grow and thrive.

The Foster Care Review Board is mandated to maintain a tracking system of all children in out-of-home placement in the State. The tracking system is to provide information about the number of children entering and leaving care as well as any other data regarding needs and trends in foster care.

1-003 Review of Cases:

The State Board or designated local board shall review the case of each child in foster care at least once every six months.

APPROVED
ROBERT M. SPIRE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

APPROVED:
Date 11-8-87

[Signature]
Governor

OCT 13 1987
BY *[Signature]*
Assistant Attorney General

South Carolina

I. OVERVIEW OF REVIEW SYSTEMS

A. PURPOSE OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW

The purpose of foster care review is to assure that children do not linger unnecessarily in foster care, but rather that they receive the support and benefits of a permanent home. Permanence is defined as a home which holds together during crisis and provides a lasting, trusting, and nurturing environment. The return of the child to the biological family is the ideal permanent goal; however, when this is not possible, the goal becomes to place the child in another stable, permanent home.

B. IMPORTANCE OF REVIEW SYSTEMS

1. Impact of Foster Care on Children

Children need the stability and support of a permanent home and family in order to grow and flourish; they need the sense of lifelong belonging and continuity that only a permanent home can provide. Children in foster care represent a huge potential loss in both financial and human terms.

It is estimated that almost half a million children pass through state foster care systems in this country every year. In fiscal year 1985, for example, federal government figures show that an average of 108,000 children were in foster care in any given month. The foster care system places a financial burden on U.S. taxpayers that was estimated at \$2 billion. The cost in human potential was- and remains- inestimable, since research indicates a direct correlation between child abuse and neglect and later juvenile delinquency and adult criminality.

When a child is placed in foster care, it is intended to be a short-term solution to an emergency situation. In the past, however, all too often foster care placements resulted in the child being destined to obscurity within the child welfare system. The ideal of assuring a permanent home for every child fell by the wayside while the child was set adrift among different foster families and group homes. The child's vital developmental years were lost, since he was neither free to return home to his natural parents nor eligible to be adopted by a new and permanent family.

Throughout the 1970's, judges, social workers, attorneys and child advocacy groups began to recognize that the U.S. foster care system was failing to respond to the needs of many abused and neglected children and their families. Many children were "adrift" in the system without regular or timely review of their placement. Crowded court calendars and understaffed child welfare agencies were contributing to an increase in the number of children and lengths of time spent in substitute care.

Concern for children lingering unnecessarily in foster care continued to mount throughout the decade. Among solutions proposed by child advocacy organizations were the comprehensive implementation of permanency planning case work and foster care placement monitoring through regular case reviews. A new resource was also identified to help monitor foster care children and to advocate on their behalf: citizen volunteers.

Abused foster children

Agencies tell state of increase in cases

By SHEILA TOOMEY
Daily News reporter

An alarming number of children placed in foster care by the state of Alaska over the past few years have been abused by their foster parents, enough to prompt a written complaint from the heads of two state agencies charged with protecting the legal rights of abused children.

The charge was made in a letter to Health and Social Services Commissioner Myra Munson from Public Defender John Salemi and Brant McGee, head of the Office of Public Advocacy.

"In several instances, the abuse committed on the children by the foster parent(s) was far more damaging than the abuse or neglect suffered by the children while in the care of their biological parents," the March 1 letter said.

Child protection cases are confidential and no details were provided in the letter, but Munson agreed that a problem exists.

"I guess I think that's a fair characterization," she said.

— Please see Back Page, ABUSED

A10 * Anchorage Daily News Friday, March 30, 1990 *

THE BACK PAGE

ABUSED FOSTER CHILDREN: Agencies say number of cases alarming

Continued from Page A-1

According to the department's own statistics, six children have died while in foster care in the past two years. Abuse was the suspected cause in one, said Russell Webb, regional manager for the Division of Family and Youth Services, which supervises foster homes and places children in them. That child died of a "non-accidental head injury."

At least two others were suicides, Webb said.

"We have many wonderful foster parents," Munson said, "but we have been seriously concerned about the number of instances (of abuse) that occur in foster cases."

She vigorously denied an assertion in the letter that her department is burying cases that should be criminally prosecuted by han-

dling them internally instead of reporting them to police.

"That's just flatly not true," Munson said. DFYS, which is responsible for checking all child abuse complaints, uses the same standard for reporting foster parents to the police as it uses to evaluate complete strangers, she said. "We do not handle foster parents differently."

Salemi could not be reached Thursday and McGee was in Juneau, away from the case files and staff complaints on which the letter was based.

The state has approximately 1,050 licensed foster homes statewide, 475 of them in Southcentral Alaska, Webb said. About 1,100

children are currently in foster homes, including 550 in Southcentral.

Last year, 98 complaints of

harm done to children in foster homes were filed; 26 of the complaints were found by the department to be valid and nine foster homes were decertified or closed, he said.

Webb could not say how many cases were reported to the police.

New regulations requiring a full background check of prospective foster parents, including checking fingerprints of all adults in the home against criminal files, are scheduled to go into effect April 1, Munson said. The new rules also will reduce the maximum number of foster children allowed in one home from six to four except in cases involving siblings, she said.

Children who end up in foster homes often have problems that make them difficult to handle and "We believe ... it goes beyond anyone's capacity to care for more

(than four)," Munson said. Too many children, or mismatching children and foster parents creates stress that triggers "inappropriate discipline" or outright abuse.

The Salemi/McGee letter identified other problems with DFYS, including too few social workers, inadequate training, children languishing in "temporary" foster care for months because of delays in making decisions about what should be done with them, children being moved from home to home, high staff turnover and inadequate training.

Munson took issue with some details of the complaints, but agreed in general with much of them. Her department is working on many fronts to improve the system, she said, but she held out little hope for a fast, dramatic improvement.

The failure of the state to adequately fund child protection services is at the heart of most of the problems, she said. "We're getting in this state exactly the system we are paying for."

To cut down on foster-care problems, social workers need lower caseloads and a much larger pool of licensed homes so they can better match children's needs and foster parents' abilities, she said. For the past year, the department has been aggressively seeking foster parents through television ads, speaking to civic groups and getting private business to include brochures in employee pay envelopes.

Without enough homes to choose from, emergencies drive the system, she said. "You're plugging kids in wherever there's an extra bed."

STATE OF ALASKA

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ADVOCACY

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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
PHONE: (907) 274-1884

March 1, 1990

Myra M. Munson
Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services
P.O. Box H
Juneau, AK 99811-0601

Dear Commissioner Munson:

The Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) and the Public Defender Agency (PDA) interact on a regular basis with the Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS) in Anchorage. Typically, OPA is appointed by the court as guardian ad litem for minors taken into custody by DFYS under child in need of aid (CINA) petitions. If parents are unable to afford legal counsel in these proceedings, the PDA is often appointed as their attorney.

Over the past few years, we have become increasingly concerned with the functioning of DFYS and its impact on our clients. Our staff have "brainstormed" a list of issues that illustrate problems in the Alaska child protection system. While we recognize that DFYS is charged with an extremely difficult task, we believe it is critical that your department consider these concerns with great care.

1. The Anchorage DFYS office is divided into several specialized "units": "Screening", "Intake", "Ongoing Services", "Permanency Planning", "Adoption", "High Risk" (cocaine babies), and "Compliance". While each of these units has varying functions, there is an incredible variance in the size of the individual social worker's caseload. For example, many "Ongoing" social workers serve 50 to 60 families, while a social worker in the "High Risk" unit may have only five to ten families on their caseload. It has been the observation of our staff that the most complex, time-consuming and high risk cases often seem to be assigned to the much overburdened "Ongoing" unit social workers. The Child Welfare League of America recommends caseloads much lower than this for child protection social workers. Common sense would indicate the impossibility of really providing social work services to 60 families in a 37.5 hour work week.

2. The Division of Family and Youth Services assigns a social worker in the "Intake" unit to investigate the allegations in a case and follow the case through the initial court hearing.

Myra M. Munson
March 1, 1990
Page 2

Then, the case is supposed to be transferred to a social worker in an "Ongoing" unit. The time for transferring a case from "Intake" to "Ongoing" often takes several weeks. During this time, services are generally not provided to the families, children don't visit with their parents and no one knows who is responsible for making "social work" decisions. The "case plan", which is required by federal law and DFYS policy to be completed within 60 days at the latest, is rarely completed in this time frame, in part due to the problems of transfer between the units. In the 1989 OPA Foster Care Review Board study of 86 cases, only one case had a formal written DFYS case plan within three months of the placement of the child in foster care.

3. This last year, DFYS created the "Compliance" unit to monitor social workers' compliance with various federal laws and state policies. The division also created several additional mid-management positions. While we recognize the obvious need for supervision and monitoring of job performance, we are concerned that these positions have decreased the potential number of direct service social workers to the detriment of the clients and caseload sizes.

4. Especially in the past year, the level of training and skill of new DFYS social workers seems to have deteriorated. It is our understanding that DFYS provides, at the supervisor's discretion, on-the-job training to new social workers. There also appears to be periodic training on specialized topics but no mandatory or formal preservice training. As a result, our staff have reported to us, again and again, experiences with social workers who appear very unfamiliar with the basic tenets of child protection social work, DFYS policy, and the Alaska statutes. Children have clearly been put at risk of harm by these unprepared social workers.

5. Of similar concern is the decline in the quality of foster parents. There has been an alarming number of children subjected to substantial abuse by foster parents in recent years. In several instances, the abuse committed on the children by the foster parent(s) was far more damaging than the abuse or neglect suffered by the children while in the care of their biological parents. Additionally, multiple foster home placements are the norm. In a 1989 OPA Foster Care Review Board study of cases, only 18 had one foster home placement in three months, and the upper range of placement changes in three months was 11.

We are concerned that the recruitment, screening, training and monitoring of foster parents has become ineffective. We are concerned that these incidents of abuse by foster parents are being handled internally by DFYS and are not being routinely reported to the police for criminal investigation. Our staff are, unfortunately, at the point of considering the risk of abuse

to a child while in a foster home when they are assessing removal of a child from a biological parent's home. A foster home placement may be more dangerous.

6. Every year DFYS designates certain contractual funds to pay for therapeutic services provided by local counseling agencies. We are concerned that the division does not look critically at the quality of these services or their appropriateness for specific clients. For example, in a recent deposition of a primary therapist from one of these agencies, which provides the only outpatient juvenile sex offender treatment in our community, it was learned that she had no formal education in sex offender treatment prior to joining the agency, had minimal experience working with juveniles and had extremely limited knowledge of the Alaska Native population. (Our clients were Native; the minor in question was a young teenage boy who was accused of multiple sexual assaults.) It was little wonder that after almost a year of "therapy" this youth had made no progress and was still unable to leave foster care to be reunited with his family.

7. The Division of Family and Youth Services is often ordered by the court to "discover" the contents of their case files to our offices prior to a contested trial. In recent months, numerous trials have been continued simply because DFYS clerical staff have apparently been unable to find the time to copy these records. This often means a delay of months before the trial can commence. During this time, children usually remain in "temporary" foster care.

8. The Division of Family and Youth Services is required under P.L. 96-272 to conduct periodic case reviews. This federal law requires notification of the parents of this case review so that the parents may attend the meeting. At the present time, DFYS notifies the parents without also notifying the parents' attorney(s). Currently, it is DFYS policy that parents' attorneys not be notified. We believe that, if a parent is represented by legal counsel, DFYS is obligated to notify the attorney of such an important event as these case reviews.

9. When a child is placed in a foster home, the DFYS social worker applies for Medicaid to cover the medical expenses, including psychotherapy, for the child. Presently, it is taking two to four months for the Division of Public Assistance to approve and issue Medicaid coupons. Until the Medicaid is available, the child often receives no therapy, and medical expenses are often covered "out-of-pocket" by the foster parents.

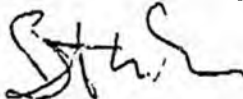
We believe that solutions exist for these concerns. Some options require increased funding, but many are possible with a change in management practices or resource allocation. We hope the

Myra M. Munson
March 1, 1990
Page 4

* department will consider these concerns and develop solutions quickly. As each day passes, hundreds of Alaskan children and parents are waiting for help.

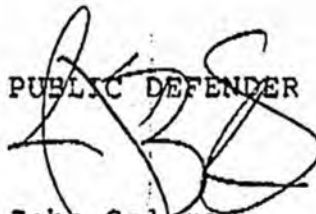
Sincerely,

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ADVOCACY



Brant McGee
Public Advocate

PUBLIC DEFENDER AGENCY



John Salemi
Public Defender

cc: Russell Webb, DFYS Division Director
Linden Staciokas, DFYS Southcentral Region Manager
The Honorable John Reese, Superior Court Judge
The Honorable William Hitchcock, Children's Court Master

State of Nebraska
Annual Foster Care Review Report
1988

SECTION 4
RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of Recommendations

The following section contains the recommendations of the State Foster Care Review Board for 1988. In summary, the State Foster Care Review Board recommends that:

TO THE COURTS

1. ... adjudication and disposition occur in a timely manner.
2. ... courts incorporate case plans and timelines in each child's Court Order .
3. ... child support be court-ordered in every Dispositional Order.
4. ... reasonable efforts determinations be made at every stage of court proceedings.

TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

1. ... continuing education be provided for county attorneys on child sexual abuse, child neglect, and other child welfare issues.
2. ... the establishment of a statewide District Attorney system to prosecute child abuse and child sexual abuse cases.
3. ... continuing education be provided for guardians ad litem and judges select trained guardians ad litem to represent children.
4. ... a guardian ad litem be appointed for every child in out-of-home care and that the guardian ad litem remain active throughout the child's stay in foster care.

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

1. ... foster and adoptive parents be given complete background information on the children in their care.
2. ... no foster care case be allowed to be unassigned or uncovered for over two weeks.
3. ... up-to-date case narrative be required in the files of all children in out-of-home care.
4. ... accurate documentation of the parent's progress be detailed to the court prior to a foster child's court review.
5. ... the Family Policy Act not be used as a reason to leave children in dangerous situations or to prematurely return children home.
6. ... caution be taken in a child's initial placement and any subsequent moves.
7. ... a standardized system of monitoring services being provided by group homes and institutions be developed and implemented.

8. ... re-examine its reunification policies when parents show little or no interest or ability in parenting their child.
9. ... review its placement policies regarding children who are seriously mentally ill, exhibit dangerous and aggressive "acting out" behaviors, and/or have severe bonding issues and consider developing programs to meet these children's needs.
10. ... foster parents be supported in order to avoid unnecessary placement changes.

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

1. ... peer pressure counseling be used only with juvenile offenders who are not learning disabled.
2. ... interim and post services be provided to juvenile offenders and their families to help successfully reunite the child with the family.
3. ...transitional foster and group homes be established to assist troubled youth in their return to the home and community.

TO PRIVATE AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES

1. ... permanency planning be developed and/or refined.

TO ALL AGENCIES

1. ... all agencies document case plans for children that reflect programs and services being provided which will help the child prepare for the transition from foster care to returning home, being adopted, or independent living.
2. ...new programs be evaluated thoroughly and continuation funding be sought when needed.

TO THE TRIBES

1. ... Tribal Courts that take jurisdiction over Indian children handle the cases in a timely manner.
2. ... alternate methods be investigated to solve underfunding of Tribal Courts.

TO THE COMMUNITIES

1. ... the media withhold the names of juvenile victims and offenders, particularly in incest cases.
2. ... communities develop and support primary prevention projects.
3. ... communities value and support foster parents by making parent training available at reduced rates, providing respite care, and developing support groups for both foster parents and foster children.

TO THE LEGISLATURE

1. ... grounds for termination of parental rights be amended to include length of time in care after diligent efforts have been made to rehabilitate the family.
2. ... legislation be drafted to clarify a father's parental rights.
3. ... training be mandatory for all foster parents and that proposed legislation funding the training be approved.
4. ... the roles of State Agencies responsible for children and youth be defined and methods of cooperation be implemented.

TO THE COURTS

1. The State Foster Care Review Board recommends that adjudication and disposition occur in a timely manner.

While the majority of foster care cases have court involvement and the adjudication and disposition of the case occur in a reasonable length of time, there are still some cases where the court is not acting in a timely manner. For this reason, the Foster Care Review Board is again making this recommendation.

The adjudication of a case is when the court accepts the charges against the parent or child and finds them to be true. The disposition is when the court makes a determination of what should happen to the child and issues a Court Order. In many cases, services cannot be delivered until the disposition occurs. For example, if a child has been placed in foster care due to allegations of sexual abuse by the father, vital services such as counseling for the father may not begin until the court finds the charges to be true and issues a Court Order requiring certain services. When there are a number of legal delays or when the dispositional hearing is never held, the child is suspended in foster care and there can be no forward progress.

Of the 1,439 children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board during 1988, 809 children (56.2%) were adjudicated within one month of entering care. On the other hand, 59 children (4.1%) were adjudicated between 6 and 12 months of entering care; 21 children (1.5%) were adjudicated 13-24 months after entering care; and 12 children (.8%) were adjudicated over 2 years after entering care. Twenty-six children (1.8%) had not been adjudicated at the time of their most recent review.

Case Example: "Derek", age 8, and his four siblings were placed in foster care when their parents left them in the care of their grandparents and failed to return. A petition was filed in December, 1987. After four continuances, adjudication was held in July, 1988, and the children were found to be dependent under State Statute 43-247(3a) due to the faults and habit of their parents. The plan for the children is reunification with their parents. A plan was drawn up by the agency for the parents to include parenting classes, employment stability, in-home therapy, visitations with the children, and a number of other services. Disposition has not occurred. Since a dispositional hearing has not been held, this reunification plan has not been approved nor adopted by the Court and the services have not been provided. Meanwhile, the cost to the State of Nebraska for the five children's care is over \$1,000 per month.

As the above case demonstrates, with no oversight no services were delivered. P.L. 96-272 mandates disposition occur within 18 months. While disposition may still occur in the above case within the required time, these children have already spent over a year in out-of-home care with no services being provided to the parents to facilitate their return home.

Of the 1,439 children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board, the date of the disposition was unknown or had not occurred for 175 (12.1%) of the reviewed children.

Reunification is more successful the sooner a child can be returned to his or her parents. Lengthy court delays present a barrier to reunification that need not occur. Timely adjudication and disposition can enhance reunification because the problems are identified and services are ordered and delivered. For this reason, the Foster Care Review Board recommends that courts prioritize children's cases and move rapidly through disposition so services can be received and the children and their parents can be reunified as soon as possible.

2. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that caseplans and timelines be incorporated in each child's Court Order.

In its reviews of children placed in out-of-home care, the Foster Care Review Board has noticed that when all parties are made aware of what must be done in order to reunify the family, reunification occurs more rapidly. This can best be accomplished by clearly spelling out the child's caseplan, the services to be utilized, and definite timelines for accomplishing each goal in the Court Order.

Usually it is the responsibility of the child's caseworker to draw up a caseplan which is then submitted to the Court for approval. Incorporating the caseplan in the Court Order is a logical step. The agency responsible for the child and the service providers can be of further assistance by drawing up contracts or agreements with the parties to re-emphasize the goals stated in the Court Order. When everyone involved is aware of the plan and working toward a common goal, progress can be achieved.

Timelines are especially important because they can be used to measure progress or lack of progress. Children cannot be made to wait indefinitely for their parents to rehabilitate themselves. Measurable compliance with the caseplan is a good indicator of success in reunification. On the other hand, when compliance is minimal or non-existent, it can be easily measured and clearly documented that termination of parental rights may be in the best interests of the child. Every child needs and deserves a loving and caring family; and adoption may be the answer.

Case Example: "Helena" was placed in foster care in 1985 when she was two months old. Her mother was Court-ordered to attend parenting classes, obtain housing, complete her GED, and visit the baby. She did not complete the parenting classes, did not get her GED, did not find employment, and only visited Helena 2 of 16 possible times. Helena's father then filed a motion to intervene. He was Court-ordered to find legal employment, pay child support, obtain housing, undergo a chemical dependency evaluation, visit Helena, and not violate the law. He was found to be alcohol dependent; he is behind on child support payments; and he was recently arrested. Helena has been in foster care 97% of her life, nearly 4 years. While the plan for Helena is still "reunification", the Review Board disagrees and feels that there are better options for Helena.

Helena's is a case where the plan and services were clearly defined in the Court Order, but no timelines were imposed. The Review Board notes that in many cases, parents are given chance after chance to rehabilitate themselves. The Board further notes that childhood, once lost, cannot be regained.

Of 1,439 children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board during 1988, 617 (42.9%) included a clear plan and complete explanation of the services. 676 (47%) of the Court Orders included timelines.

Foster care is meant to be temporary. These children cannot wait forever. Specific Court Orders with definite timelines can help parents understand they must address the problems that brought their children into care in a timely manner and, if the parents cannot or do not address the problems, documentation exists to help the children achieve a permanent, loving home.

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3. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that child support be court-ordered in every Dispositional Order.

It is the philosophy of the Foster Care Review Board that parents who cannot or will not parent their children still have an obligation to contribute toward the cost of their children's care. For this reason, the Review Board has included a recommendation on child support in every Annual Report since 1983.

A financial contribution can encourage continued bonding between the parent to the child and encourages a pattern of providing for the child. The amount of the child support should be within the parent's ability to pay and need not be great. Child support, when combined with a clear Court Order containing expected behaviors, measurable goals, needed services, and clear timelines, can be a useful tool in deciding whether a child should be returned to the parents. The failure of the parent to meet the support obligation can be a factor in making long range permanency plans for the child.

Of 1,439 children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board during 1988, child support was ordered in only 126 cases. Of these, in 38 cases the support was being paid, in 72 cases it was not, and in 16 cases there was no indication in the file if it was being paid or not. On the other hand, the parents of 3 of the reviewed children were voluntarily paying support even though it was not court-ordered.

Case Example; "Michael" and "Maribeth", ages 12 and 13, were placed in care in 1987 as a result of physical abuse to Michael by his father. Their parents were divorced and the children were living with the father. The plan for Michael is to return to his father. The plan for Maribeth is to return to her mother. The Dispositional Order required the father to obtain a psychological evaluation, attend alcohol education, obtain suitable housing, participate in therapy, visit the children, and pay child support. The mother agreed to participate in therapy and visit. Both parents have been compliant and reunification will be occurring.

Reviews of cases like Michael's and Maribeth's give the Review Boards hope because they demonstrate what can happen when everything goes as it should. There was a clear Court Order with measurable goals and reasonable timelines. The payment of child support was one of the factors that demonstrated the parents' commitment to their children and their efforts to obtain reunification. The caseworker, parents, children, and other professionals worked together toward reunification with satisfying results. The Review Board agreed with the plan and commended all involved.

4. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that reasonable efforts determinations be made at every stage of court proceedings.

During the 1970s, Congress and the nation became aware that the child welfare system was not adequately protecting children and their families. Children were removed from their families too frequently, sometimes unnecessarily, and were placed in foster care. As a result, Congress passed the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-272).

Among its major provisions, the Act requires judges to determine whether reasonable efforts have been made to enable children to remain safely at home before they are placed in foster care. Many judges are unaware of their obligation to determine if reasonable efforts to preserve the family have been made. Many attorneys and child welfare workers are also unaware of the need for this determination. When reasonable effort determinations aren't made, parents and children are denied a chance to "make it work" and taxpayers must bear the expense of unnecessary foster care placements.

The reasonable efforts requirement should not be looked upon as a burden for judges, agencies, and attorneys. It can be an opportunity for effective advocacy for children and their families, for an open examination of community resources and services, and a tool for sensible fiscal policy.

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Child Welfare League of America, the Youth Law Center, and the National Center for Youth Law have cooperated in providing guidelines for judges, attorneys and agency personnel regarding reasonable efforts. In their booklet, "Making Reasonable Efforts: Steps for Keeping Families Together," the following questions are recommended as a checklist.

1. When did the agency first have contact with the family?
2. Did the agency identify problems with the family at that time?
3. Did the agency assess the family to determine what services or other supports (services) were necessary to remedy the problem(s)?
4. Did the agency provide the services determined to be necessary?
5. Did the family request additional services?
6. Did the agency provide those services to the family?
7. Did the family accept services provided by the agency?
8. Did any of these services remedy the problem?
9. If the services did not remedy this problem, were additional services tried?
10. Were any services suggested but not provided because they were unavailable?
11. If services were unsuccessful, why?

12. What other services designed to address these problems are available in the community that the agency has not provided?
13. Why were these services not provided?
14. Was there an emergency situation in which the child could not be protected without removal from the home prior to providing services?
15. If so, what services did the agency consider providing as an alternative to removal from the home?
16. Since the removal, has the agency provided services aimed at reunification?
17. Have these services been successful?
18. Does the agency have a plan for providing services aimed at reunification?
19. Has the agency considered the family's requests in developing these services?
20. Could the child be returned if appropriate services were provided?
21. Were all parties represented by counsel?
22. Have all parties had a reasonable opportunity to review the records?
23. Have all parties been permitted to offer testimony and cross-examine witnesses?
24. Has the agency proved that it has made reasonable efforts to eliminate the need for removal on the issue of reasonable efforts?
25. Has the agency been ordered to develop a reunification plan?

The Foster Care Review Board is concerned that children in Nebraska are being placed in out-of-home care without reasonable efforts being made to keep the children in the home. The Board is also concerned that rather than a judicial review being made of the reasonable efforts, in some courts all cases are being treated as emergencies and judges are not asking the appropriate questions to determine if reasonable efforts have been made.

The Foster Care Review Board recommends that reasonable efforts be examined at every stage of legal proceedings.

TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

1. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that continuing education be provided for county attorneys on child sexual abuse, child neglect, and other child welfare issues.

The Foster Care Review Board first made this recommendation in its 1985 Annual Report. Since then, the Board has been pleased that the County Attorneys Association, in cooperation with the Nebraska Permanency Planning Task Force, has sponsored two workshops for county attorneys on child welfare issues. The first workshop was in 1986 and featured bonding and attachment, separation and loss, and the need for permanency planning in a child's life. The second workshop, in April of 1989, will provide information on the identification and treatment of sexual abuse victims and perpetrators, how to prosecute these cases, and what to expect from a child witness. The Foster Care Review Board is pleased to have participated in the planning of these workshops.

The Review Board is concerned when county attorneys fail to file on cases where sexual abuse and/or other crimes against children are occurring.

Case Example: "Monica", age 14, was placed in foster care in early 1988. She alleged that her father had been sexually abusing her for about a year. A Child Protective Service investigation substantiated the abuse. Monica's parents stated they wanted no further contact with their daughter and they would not seek counseling. No charges were filed against Monica's father. The plan for Monica is "long term foster care" until she reaches the age of majority.

The Review Board is also concerned about the lack of services that occur when plea bargaining is allowed to occur in children's cases. When critical crimes against children are plea bargained out of the case, the child caring agency is put in the position of only being able to put in place a rehabilitation plan that addresses what the court has ruled upon. If the most serious allegations are plea bargained out, the family will never have to address those issues before the child is returned home.

The Review Board recognizes that the county attorney plays the key role in the prosecution of cases involving children. Because of the constant turnover within many county attorney offices throughout the State and the many developments in field, the Board urges continued education on child welfare issues.

2. The Foster Care Review Board recommends the establishment of a statewide District Attorney system to prosecute child abuse and child sexual assault cases.

Child sexual abuse cases are not prosecuted in some areas of the State. Because of this, the Foster Care Review Board believes an alternate system needs to be considered to assure the prosecution of cases of child abuse and child sexual abuse. One possibility would be a statewide District Attorney system. Currently, County Attorneys are responsible for these cases.

Sexual abuse cases are very complicated and time consuming to prosecute. The prosecutor needs to be well versed on the dynamics of sexual abuse, what can be expected from a child witness, and the meaning of medical evidence. In smaller counties, prosecutors lack experience in prosecuting these cases and many times move on before they gain the necessary experience.

In some counties, County Attorneys work on a part-time basis with a private practice as their primary means of support. These part-time County Attorneys, in some instances, make choices about prosecution based on the time they have to complete their duties and the demands of their private practices.

They often use the office to get established then move on to better paying jobs. In a District Attorney system, prosecutors would be well paid and adequately trained to prosecute these cases.

In rural areas, the County Attorney may be influenced by community pressures. Since the District Attorney would be responsible for a larger area, this pressure would be less likely to occur. This system would also give some consistency to prosecutions. Currently, some counties actively prosecute the abuse perpetrators while others rarely prosecute. It should be noted that the Attorney General's Office, while it has the statutory authority to file on these cases, does not have the resources to handle these cases.

Some County Attorneys will file the child as a status offender, especially if it looks like the parents will deny the abuse. Other times, the sexual abuse is amended out of the petition so treatment and services aren't provided to the victim or the family.

Case Example: "Mindy", age 7, and "Mark", age 4, were placed in foster care after Mark was hospitalized with facial bruises and the parents provided inconsistent explanations for the injuries. It was subsequently alleged that the father had sexually abused Mindy. A petition was filed on behalf of the children, but the sexual abuse allegation was amended out of the petition. As a result, the father was ordered to have a chemical dependency evaluation, but no therapy or treatment for the sexual abuse was ordered. During a visit with their parents, the children were abducted out of State. Six weeks later, the parents were arrested and the children returned to Nebraska. During their absence, both children had been physically abused and Mindy made references to sexual abuse which was supported by physical evidence.

A District Attorney system would begin to address the problem of County Attorneys who fail to file on child sexual abuse cases. This system would provide a well-paid prosecutor who would gain the training and experience to handle these very difficult cases. The District Attorney would be trained in handling child witnesses and would be aware of the necessity of prosecuting the perpetrators.

3. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that continuing education be provided for guardians ad litem and that judges select trained guardians ad litem to represent children.

Most professionals who deal with children in foster care recognize the value and need for ongoing education for guardians ad litem. Attorneys who represent children must have a wealth of knowledge above and beyond what was learned in law school in order to adequately advocate for an appropriate placement and necessary services for their young clients.

The Permanency Planning Task Force, beginning in 1986, has sponsored workshops on children's issues for guardians ad litem. These workshops were held in several different parts of the State. The 1986-87 workshops featured information on bonding and attachment of children with their families and the problems and behaviors caused by separation and loss. Sexual abuse was the topic for the 1988 workshop. Both of these workshops provided very valuable information for attorneys who represent children. The Foster Care Review Board has been pleased to be a part of the Task Force.

Recognizing the need for additional training, many attorneys who represent children have made a special effort to attend the Permanency Planning Task Force's workshops. Judges across the State have tried to appoint trained attorneys as guardians ad litem.

An evaluation of the Guardian ad Litem Training, conducted by Dr. Ann Coyne of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, has shown that there is a need for more trained guardians ad litem because there are too many foster children for the existing trained guardians ad litem to handle.

Stories of attorneys walking into the courtroom reading the child's file and never even having met their client are numerous. Hopefully, as the attorneys understand how important legal representation of these children is, this practice will no longer occur.

The Foster Care Review Board would like to commend the attorneys who have taken the time to obtain continuing education on child welfare matters. The Board encourages more attorneys to take training on child welfare issues and urges judges to appoint these trained attorneys to represent children whenever possible.

4. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that a guardian ad litem be appointed for every child in out-of-home care and that the guardian ad litem remain active throughout the child's stay in foster care.

Everyone who comes in contact with the legal system needs and deserves adequate and competent legal representation. When a child is placed in out-of-home care, the attorney who represents the child and the child's best interests is the guardian ad litem. Unfortunately, not every child in foster care has a guardian ad litem; and many children who have guardians ad litem do not have active ones.

In its reviews of children in foster care, the Foster Care Review Board has identified two groups of children who are unlikely to have legal representation.

Children who have been voluntarily placed in care may not initially have court involvement and, therefore, no guardian ad litem is appointed to represent them. This applies to children placed with private agencies. The County Attorney is asked to file a petition on children placed with the Department of Social Services so the majority of their children eventually come under the Court.

Case Example: "Larry" age 8, was voluntarily placed in a private group home by his mother because he was hyperactive and she couldn't handle him. The mother has an alcohol problem and lacks parenting skills. There has been no court involvement and Larry does not have a guardian ad litem. While the plan is reunification, it appears Larry will remain in the group home until he reaches the age of majority.

While group homes can be a very valuable placement for adolescents, young children need more family-like placements. This is because children need the stability and consistency of one adult rather than changing supervision provided by shift workers. With no guardian ad litem to advocate for Larry and no court involvement to order services for his mother, reunification is unlikely. As a result, Larry faces 10 years of an inappropriate placement.

The second group of children are those whose parents' rights have been terminated, but the child has not been adopted. This seems to occur more if the termination occurred several years ago. The court, having anticipated an adoption, may also have terminated its involvement in the case and the child then does not receive periodic court reviews. The Legislature, through State Statute 43-295, now requires the court to remain involved; however, this often is not occurring.

Case Example; "Timothy", age 10, was voluntarily placed in a private children's home in 1981 while his mother entered in-patient treatment. Although the placement was supposed to be temporary, the mother continued to have problems. A dependency petition was filed and Tim was referred to the Department of Social Services. When Tim's mother voluntarily relinquished her parental rights, the Court terminated its jurisdiction and the Department's and the private agency placed Tim for adoption.

Tim was adopted in 1984 and the attorney who handled the adoption filed an abandonment petition against Tim's father at that time. Approximately a year later, the adoption failed due to Tim's behavior problems, sexual "acting out", and fire-

setting. He was relinquished back to the private agency. About this time, a worker contacted Tim's grandmother to get information for Tim's Life Book. She contacted the biological father. The father claimed he had no idea where Tim had been all these years and wanted him back.

In the meantime, the agency had relinquished Tim back to the Department of Social Services. In over 2 years of care, there still is no Juvenile Court involvement and Tim has no guardian ad litem. Tim received treatment for his behaviors and his foster mother planned to adopt him. Meanwhile, a favorable homestudy was completed on the father and the father hired an attorney to help him get his son back. The foster mother hired an attorney to handle the adoption. As of the end of 1988, this case was still pending.

During over two years under the supervision of the Department of Social Services, there has been no court involvement and, with the brief exception of a few months in 1981, Tim has never been represented by a guardian ad litem.

The complexity of Tim's case very dramatically shows the need for court involvement and an active guardian ad litem. While there have been a number of different attorneys involved in this case, no one is specifically looking out for Tim's best interests. With all the problems and disruptions this 10-year old has experienced in his young life, Tim needs and deserves stability and legal protection.

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

1. The Foster Care Review Board recommends foster and adoptive parents be given complete background information on the children in their care.

The Foster Care Review Board feels it is imperative that foster and adoptive parents be given complete background information on children placed in their care. Failure to do so can cause unnecessary and devastating results.

Children in grief because of separation from their families, children whose past experiences have taught them not to trust adults, or children who have been victims of sexual abuse can be expected to exhibit certain behaviors. These behaviors may occur immediately after placement or months or years later. Often, the children have no idea why they do what they did.

If the foster parents are aware of the child's background and have been trained to look for and cope with certain predictable behaviors, disruptions are less apt to occur.

No one profits when a child's placement disrupts. A new placement must be located for the child, often in a different community. The child must adjust to a different home, a new set of rules, and often another school. The foster parents feel betrayed by the agency and, in some cases, begin to doubt their parenting abilities. Often they withdraw from foster parenting. Many placement disruptions could have been prevented if the foster parents knew more about the child's background so they could be prepared for disturbing or bizarre behaviors.

It is even more distressing when an adoption disrupts. The child, who has already faced severe abuse, neglect and/or sexual abuse and abandonment by his or her biological parents, is abandoned again. Self-image and esteem are severely damaged. Everyone feels he or she is a failure. In most cases, the disruption could have been prevented with background knowledge and preparation.

Case Example: "Lance", age 13, was relinquished by his mother at age 3. He was subsequently adopted. Seven years later, Lance was voluntarily placed in foster care by his adoptive parents who were unable to control his behavior. They relinquished their parental rights the following year. Lance has been in foster care 2 years and has had 8 placements. The plan is adoption by the foster parents. In reviewing this case, the Foster Care Review Board recommended the foster parents attend therapy with Lance in order to understand and cope with his behaviors so he won't experience yet a third rejection.

It is particularly important that foster and adoptive parents of sexually abused children be told of the abuse, because some boys have a tendency to "act out" and some girls are very self-destructive. If there is a possibility that the "acting out" might take the form of molestation of younger children in the home, the foster parent should be aware of this before agreeing to accept the child. While it may be harder to initially place such a child, there are foster and adoptive parents that can handle and guide these children through the difficult stages and provide them with a structured, stable, loving home.

2. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that no foster care case be allowed to be unassigned or uncovered for over two weeks.

The Foster Care Review Board has been concerned about the number of children who do not appear to be under the direct and active supervision of a caseworker. This seems to occur when caseworkers take a leave of absence, quit, or are promoted. The Review Board believes that children's cases need constant and continuing supervision in order to prevent crisis situations and for the child to progress through the system. For these reasons, the Review Board has made the above recommendation every year since 1984.

The Review Board feels that transferring these cases to other workers in the office, to workers in a different office, or to the supervisor should be allowed on only an emergency and very temporary basis. In the majority of cases, the supervisor and the workers have many other duties to perform and cannot adequately handle the overload. Allowing the cases to be unassigned, uncovered, or inadequately covered is clearly an unacceptable alternative to the children.

Of 1,439 children reviewed during 1988, 49 did not have a worker assigned to the case at the time of the review. 72 children (5%) had not had any face-to-face contact with their worker in 2 months or longer.

Case Example; "Gwen", age 15, was placed in foster care by her grandmother. Her mother had died and the grandmother was unable to control Gwen's behavior. Gwen suffers from unresolved grief, depression, suicide ideations, and aggressive behavior. In addition, she was a victim of a sexual assault while in care. The plan is reunification with her grandmother.

At the time the Review Board reviewed this case, there was no caseworker assigned to Gwen. The most recent dictation in the file was 5 months old. The Board requested a caseworker be assigned to the case to assist Gwen with her complex problems and facilitate reunification with the grandmother.

The Foster Care Review Board feels it is very important that a caseworker who is familiar with the child, the child's habits, and the child's history be available to assist the child and the foster family, especially in emergency situations. Similarly, the child must be confident that a known caseworker is available should the child need him or her.

The Review Board recommends that the agency study and develop methods for reducing caseworker turnover. Adequate compensation, smaller caseloads, and an acknowledgement of the efforts of the workers are all needed.

Since the 1984 Annual Report, the Review Board has recommended that no case be allowed to be unassigned or uncovered for over two weeks. Efforts need to be made to develop a method of covering caseloads during transitional periods in order to be prepared for problematic situations before they occur. Finally, the time needed to replace a caseworker must be reduced so case continuity can be maintained.

3. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that up-to-date case narrative be required in the files of all children in out-of-home care.

As a part of its reviews of children in out-of-home care, the Foster Care Review Board observes the child's case file in the agency office. The Review Board is concerned when there is no up-to-date case narrative in the files or when the narrative is too brief or vague to tell what is going on in the case.

The Review Board is aware that many of the caseworkers and casemanagers have large caseloads; however, the Board feels it is very important that up-to-date information be available in the files. Accidents and illnesses can occur at any time. The Board feels that all vital data and current information should be easily accessible in the child's file in case a new worker has to take the case. This is especially true if an emergency situation occurs in the child's life.

Case Example: "Debbie", age 15, was placed in foster care by her mother from 1981 to 1983 and again from 1985 to the present. She has had one home visit in the past 3 years and the mother has done nothing to encourage reunification. Debbie has 4 younger siblings who were in foster care from 9/87 until 4/88. While the siblings were in care, Debbie was able to visit them for the first time in 2 years. Debbie would like further sibling contact; however the mother is opposed to this. Narrative in the file is brief and usually only a line or two. In its review of this case, the Board has encouraged further sibling contact; however, no mention is made in narrative of any efforts to provide sibling visits or reunification efforts.

4. The Foster Care Review Board recommends accurate documentation of the parent's progress be detailed to the court prior to a foster child's review.

The Foster Care Review Act of 1982 requires the courts to review a child's Dispositional Order after the child has been in care a year and every six months thereafter until the child leaves care. Prior to the court review, the agency responsible for the child is asked to submit a report to the court detailing the progress made. The court uses this report to determine if the child should be returned home or, if all efforts have failed, if parental rights should be terminated.

The Review Board has seen a number of court reports where only the date has been changed from the previous report. The Boards have also seen reports that have been hastily prepared and are very incomplete.

Case Example: Three Johnson children were placed in foster care in 1985 due to neglect by their mentally retarded and emotionally handicapped mother. Two other children were placed in care at birth. The children are ages 3 to 9. One of the children is mentally retarded and another is emotionally mentally handicapped and has learning disabilities. Numerous reunification services have been offered without producing notable changes in the mother's condition or parenting abilities. As a result, a motion to terminate parental rights was filed in February, 1988, A hearing was held in July and a guardian ad litem was appointed for the mother. A trial scheduled for October was postponed and has not been rescheduled. The agency has not submitted a report to the Court in over a year. The Review Board recommended this be updated and submitted in order to provide continuity to the case, bring each child's situation up to date, and assist in moving the case through the system.

The Foster Care Review Board urges all workers to complete their report to the court in as thorough and detailed of a manner as possible. The progress of the child and the parents should be well documented. This documentation is often the deciding factor on what happens to the child. Poor documentation is costly, can be misleading about the progress or lack of progress on the case, and can harm the child by extending the time the child must spend in foster care.

5. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that the Family Policy Act not be used to leave children in dangerous situations or to prematurely return children home.

In its reviews of children in out-of-home care, the Foster Care Review Board has observed cases where children appear to be prematurely returned to their parents. The Family Policy Act is being cited as the reason for these returns.

The Legislature passed the Family Policy Act in 1987. Briefly stated, the Family Policy Act says that children should be allowed to remain in their homes as long as possible, that children who have been placed in care should be in the most home-like placement possible, and that placements should be as close to home as possible. For the most part, the Review Board agrees with the Family Policy Act; however, there are times when exceptions must be made for the good of the child.

Case Example: "Cindi", age 15, was placed in foster care because of sexual abuse by her stepfather. The abuse resulted in a pregnancy and Cindi's baby, "Sunny", has been placed in the same foster home as Cindi. They have had 3 placements. The stepfather has received a prison 1-3 year prison sentence for the abuse. Cindi's mother blames Cindi for the sexual abuse and has not received sufficient therapy to address her denial and responsibilities. In spite of this, the plan is to return Cindi and Sunny to Cindi's mother.

The Review Board disagreed with the plan because they felt Sunny would be a constant reminder to the mother of her husband's infidelity. They also felt that Cindi would be in danger of being re-abused when the stepfather gets out of prison. In this case, the Board felt there was a misinterpretation of the Family Policy Act in that reunification clearly was not in the best interests of either child.

The Foster Care Review Board suggests the Department of Social Services rewrite its regulations re-emphasizing the best interests of the child and urging that keeping families together not outweigh the protection of the child.

CORRECTION

There is an error on page 81. The recommendation should read as follows:

6. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that caution be taken in a child's initial placement and any subsequent moves.

Any disruption in the continuity of a child's life can have a negative effect on the child. When a child is placed in foster care, he or she must face new surroundings, a new authority figure, a new set of rules, and, often, a new school. The initial disruption of moving the child away from his or her parents is very difficult for the child regardless of the quality of care the child has been receiving from the parent or parents. Subsequent moves can cause confusion, anxiety, and trauma, especially to the very young child.

The Review Board is extremely concerned that 33% of the children in Nebraska's child caring systems have had 4 or more placements.

The Foster Care Review Board is concerned that, contrary to the past few years, the number of placements a child in foster care is experiencing is increasing. Of the children reviewed during 1988, 41% have had more than 5 placements and 14.5% have had more than 10. Of all active children in all systems, the percentage of children experiencing 6 or more placements has increased from 15% to nearly 20%. Children who have experienced 4 or more placements have increased in one year by 22%.

Case Example: "Daniel", "Dennis", and "Debbie", ages 3, 2, and 8 months, were placed in foster care because their mother left them dirty and unsupervised. In the 7 months they have been in care, they have each experienced 5 moves. The children are exhibiting some behavior problems. Another move is being considered. The Review Board is especially concerned about these children because their case has not been adjudicated in court, the children have no guardian ad litem, the mother's whereabouts is unknown, and the plan is reunification.

Cases like these show the need for recruitment of quality foster homes, respite care, and support and training of foster parents.

7. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that a standardized system of monitoring services being provided by group homes and institutions be developed and implemented.

The Department of Social Services is responsible for licensing the group homes and institutions that serve children throughout the State. The licensing procedure checks the facility for cleanliness, health standards, and safety features. The inspection does not address the services that the facility provides to the children residing at the facility.

Because the majority of children in out-of-home care are under the supervision of the Department of Social Services and DSS children make up the majority of residents in the group homes and institutions, it is especially important that the Department develop a standardized system of monitoring not only the physical aspect of the facility but the services being provided. The monitoring should be on an ongoing basis, not only during contract negotiations.

Case Example: "Christopher", age 14, was placed in foster care after an evaluation of his inappropriate sexual acting out in class revealed he was a victim of sexual abuse. His brother "Mark", age 15, was also placed in foster care. An investigation showed he was both a victim and perpetrator of physical and sexual abuse with other family members. Because he was mentally retarded and a possible sexual perpetrator, Christopher was refused by 20 foster and group homes before a placement was found for him. Mark was placed in a psychiatric hospital, then transferred to a group home.

Mark reported inappropriate sexual activity between the boys at the group home. Mark had been assigned a roommate who was "known as homosexual and transexual". Although most of the boys in the group home were behaviorally impaired and/or sexually abused, there was no 24-hour staffing at the facility and the sexual activity was inappropriately handled. The Review Board recommended the group home personnel receive additional training regarding DSS policies and expectations, 24-hour awake staff be put in place, and a closer review be made of the kind of supervision being received by the youth.

Other issues that need to be considered for group homes and institutions that provide supervision and services to Nebraska's young people include (a) who has access to the children, (b) how are employees screened, (c) who do the agencies allow the youth to leave with, and (d) how are the youth supervised when they leave the campus (especially very young or disabled children).

8. The State Foster Care Review Board recommends that DSS re-examine its reunification policies when parents show little or no interest or ability in parenting their child.

When a child is placed in foster care under the supervision of the Department of Social Services, the usual policy is the plan will be reunification for at least the first year. During this time, the Department places its efforts and resources into reuniting the family. In most cases, this is a commendable policy and the Foster Care Review Board is supportive of the reunification efforts.

The Board has become alarmed at situations where children are prematurely returned to parents who minimally take advantage of services and do not appear to be ready for reunification.

Case Example: "Ken" and "Katie", ages 1 and 3, were placed in foster care in 1987 after Ken was hospitalized with several infections and possible cigarette burns to his legs. Both children had been left with inappropriate babysitters, had inadequate parental supervision, and there was suspected sexual abuse to Katie. Two months later, they were returned to their mother and home-based services were provided. In addition, vocational assistance, counseling, group therapy, transportation services, and financial aid in obtaining an apartment had been provided to the mother. Workers noted that the mother was inconsistent in parenting, disciplining, and maintaining her home and partially compliant with the reunification plan. Ken was again removed from the home a month later due to his worsening health. Several months later, Katie was severely burned by scalding water and she was again placed in foster care. Felony child abuse charges were filed and the mother was incarcerated. In spite of her legal situation and her proven lack of parenting, the plan for Ken and Katie remains reunification.

The Foster Care Review Board cannot agree with reunification when the safety and well-being of the child is at risk. When such intensive services as were provided in the above case have been offered with little or no progress, alternative permanency plans must be considered for the children. The child's rights have to be balanced with the rights of the parents.

9. The State Foster Care Review Board recommends that DSS review its placement policies regarding children who are seriously mentally ill, exhibit dangerous and aggressive "acting out" behaviors, and/or have severe bonding issues and consider developing programs to meet these children's needs.

The Department of Social Services currently has a policy of not placing children in highly-structured, out-of-state institutions. These institutions are very expensive and family visitation is difficult. For the majority of children, this is a good policy.

However, there are some children and youth who are seriously mentally ill, exhibit dangerous and/or aggressive "acting out" behaviors, and/or have severe bonding difficulties that need these kind of placements. Nebraska does not have appropriate facilities to treat children with these problems.

Case Example; "Adam", age 15, came to the attention of Child Protective Services in 1975 on a chronic neglect referral. Services were refused by the family and charges were dropped. Another neglect referral was made in 1977. In 1980, a school conference was called due to Adam's encopresis and enuresis, but teachers were told to ignore it because it was attention-seeking. Counseling was recommended for the family, but refused. In 1985, Adam was suspended from school and placed in a hospital's Behavior Modification Unit; however, the family removed him prematurely because of the expense.

Adam was sent to the Lincoln Regional Center in 1987 following an indecent exposure episode at school. School problems included threatening a teacher with a pencil, drawing sexually explicit pictures in the classroom, and self-stimulating behaviors. Adam has a violent temper, has been identified as behaviorally impaired, and may suffer from childhood schizophrenia.

The Regional Center has stated it can no longer be of assistance to Adam. He was placed at the Nebraska Center for Children & Youth; however, their program is limited to 90 days. In less than 2 years of care, Adam has experienced 9 placements. The plan is to return Adam home in spite of the fact he has physically attacked his mother and sister in the past, they fear Adam, and they don't want him back. Adam needs a long term, structured environment and Nebraska has no facility that can address his needs at this time.

The Review Board is disturbed when a child has been shuttled from placement to placement with each stating it is not appropriate for the child. When a child has had numerous evaluations at hospitals, the Regional Center, the Youth Development Center, etc., and each indicates the child needs services Nebraska is unable to provide, the child cannot be made to wait until the service is developed or he or she simply ages out of the system. Some of these children have the potential to cause serious harm to themselves or others if they do not receive the services they need.

The Foster Care Review Board has identified three areas where programs are lacking;

(1) Severe bonding problems of children and youth who have suffered multiple abuse and rejections at an early age from biological and/or adoptive parents.

(2) Adolescents and youth who have severe behavior problems, especially those with a potential of harming themselves or others.

(3) Sufficient long-term facilities, especially in rural areas, to treat adolescent sexual perpetrators.

The Review Board urges that attention be given to developing programs to address these problems and, until appropriate programs have been developed, out-of-state facilities be seriously considered.

10. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that foster parents be supported in order to avoid unnecessary placement changes.

Foster parents are the heart of the foster care system. The Review Board feels that foster parents must be well compensated, adequately trained, and highly valued in order to maintain a sufficient number of high quality caretakers to care for the increasing number of children entering the foster care system. Standards must be adopted to provide oversight and prevent abuse in the foster home.

Respite care must be readily available to give the foster parents a break from the constant supervision of children who are frequently very demanding of their time and difficult to manage. This is especially necessary for children with physical and/or emotional disabilities.

Foster parents must be included as a part of the team. They must be invited to participate in planning sessions for the child. They should also be included in all court hearings and reviews. As the person most familiar with the child and the child's behavior in care, their input is vital.

Case Example: "Harry", age 2, came into care because his mother was unable to care for him, had no permanent residence, and had no job. The mother was court-ordered to find housing, get a job, attend parenting classes, and seek counseling. Harry had only one placement while in foster care. Harry's foster mother was extremely concerned because of Harry's crying and upset behaviors after returning from visits with his mother. She had little communication with the caseworker and was not advised of court hearings. When Harry was injured during a home visit, visitation was held in the foster home; however, no one gave the foster mother instructions about whether she should give direction to the mother, observe the interaction between mother and son, or go in another room. The foster mother became very fearful about what would happen to Harry when he returned home. Although she had been a foster parent several times prior to Harry, she vowed she would never be a foster parent again.

The Review Board supports L.B. 290 which will require and fund foster parent training. Children in foster care present a number of problems and behaviors that are difficult to understand and deal with without specific training. Issues that should be included in training are working with and understanding the biological parent, recognizing and coping with the acting out behaviors of sexually abused children, substance abuse issues, preparing the older child for independent living, parenting "acting out" adolescents, and identifying and handling separation and loss behaviors.

Training will prevent placement disruptions that can be extremely harmful to the child. Each change in placement has an effect on the child because the child must adjust to a new family, new set of rules, and often a new school. Numerous placement changes can cause a child to become distrustful of adults, withdrawn or depressed, and/or a failure in school.

Foster parents need adequate compensation for caring for children. The ages of the children and the level of care required need to be studied and adjustments made to the current payment system. Feeding and clothing a teenager is much more expensive than caring for a very young child, but foster care rates in Nebraska are the same for both. The rates for caring for physically and emotionally handicapped children also need to be standardized.

The Foster Care Review Board is also concerned that Nebraska appears to be losing foster parents faster than new foster parents can be recruited. Training and support are critical if this trend is to be changed.

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

1. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that peer pressure counseling be used only with juvenile offenders who are not learning disabled.

Peer pressure counseling is a technique used in both of the Youth Development Centers that uses group dynamics to influence the behavior of the individual. Misbehavior by the individual is discussed by a group of the offender's peers and an appropriate punishment determined.

While peer pressure counseling can be very effective, it is not as effective when a child is learning disabled, particularly if the youth cannot understand the relationship between "cause" and "effect". In its reviews of young men and women placed at the Youth Development Centers in Kearney and Geneva, the Foster Care Review Board has determined that many of these youth are learning disabled and that peer pressure counseling would not be appropriate for them.

Case Example: "Willa", age 16, entered care at age 13 as incorrigible, truant, and involved in a breaking and entering incident. She was placed at the Youth Development Center. Willa has an IQ of 80. After 16 months at the YDC, she was given an administrative discharge, although her counselors did not feel she had "worked through the program". Willa was returned to her mother where she ran away and was truant from school. Her parole was revoked and she was returned to the YDC. Willa has spent an additional 7 months at the YDC and is progressing slowly. The Review Board expressed concern that Willa's low IQ was hindering her progress in the YDC program and that if the program could not be adjusted to meet her special needs, this low-functioning child would continue to grow up in this restrictive placement.

The Foster Care Review Board is concerned that youth placed at the Youth Development Centers as a result of gang activities might also be inappropriate for peer pressure counseling. These young people must learn to be responsible for their own behaviors rather than relying on the opinions and actions of the group. One of the reasons they participate in gangs is because of peer pressure.

The Foster Care Review Board recommends that the Youth Development Centers explore alternate methods of changing behaviors and use the methods that are beneficial and appropriate as determined on an individual basis.

2. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that interim and post services be provided to juvenile offenders and their families to help successfully reunite the youth with the family.

The Department of Correctional Services is responsible for a very difficult youth population. Because of recent overcrowding conditions, the youth placed at the Youth Development Centers remain for a short period of time, sometimes only 5-6 months. In spite of this, juvenile offenders are expected to make considerable behavioral changes by the time they return to their families.

The Foster Care Review Board has been concerned for some time that many juvenile offenders are not receiving appropriate services at the Youth Development Centers to address their immediate and severe problems. Frequently the situation that caused the placement at the YDC, such as car theft, stealing, running away, or the youth's substance abuse is only a symptom of a more serious problem, such as sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, or alcoholism in the home.

Case Example: "Sharon", age 16, was placed in foster care in 1986. She had been physically and sexually abused by her stepfather, had unresolved grief issues over her father's death, had a history of 10 suicide gestures, and is suffering from an eating disorder. Sharon has had 24 placements since November, 1986. She was placed in the Youth Development Center in 1988 as a result of a breaking and entering incident. Dictation indicates Sharon is withdrawing from reality. The Review Board has questioned whether the YDC is an appropriate placement for Sharon. In view of the multiple problems Sharon exhibits, the Board feels an inpatient psychiatric facility prepared to deal with Sharon's multiple grief issues, sexual abuse victimization, and eating disorder might be better able to provide the services Sharon needs.

Steps must be taken at the Youth Development Centers to evaluate and address the youth's problems when the peer pressure milieu is not sufficient. In addition, services must be made available to the family of the juvenile offender to effect changes within the family so situations do not reoccur that would cause the youth to be returned to care. Finally, post services should be offered to the youth so he or she can move forward with his or her life.

3. The State Foster Care Review Board recommends that transitional foster and group homes be established to assist troubled youth in their return to the home and community.

Youth who have been sentenced to one of the State's Youth Development Centers frequently need a transitional placement before returning home. Many of these young people come from dysfunctional families. The problem or problems that caused them to be sentenced to the YDC (breaking & entering, stealing, truancy) often is a symptom of more serious problems in the home (physical or sexual abuse, lack of supervision, parental substance abuse).

Because of the growing number of youth being sentenced to the Youth Development Centers, these facilities have been forced to reduce the length of the sentence. At the Kearney YDC, the average stay is 5 months. The YDCs do not have the time nor resources to provide all of the services the young people need, such as counseling or independent skills training; and, while the youth is at the YDC, the family does not receive services. Under some circumstances, the Department of Corrections and the Department of Social Services are able to work together to provide a transitional placement; however, in most instances, the youth is returned home.

Case Example: "Calvin", age 13, first came to the attention of authorities at age 5 for stealing. He was placed on probation in 1984 for property damage. In 1986, he was placed in foster care. He returned home in 1987 with home-based services provided to the family. He violated the rules of his home placement, and was sent to the YDC.

The Court, Department of Social Services, and Department of Corrections are working together to develop a specialized foster home for Calvin, including home-based services and family therapy. Calvin will visit the family and then be furloughed there. The eventual plan is reunification with Calvin's mother.

Cooperation between agencies in situations such as the above case is commendable and the Review Board would like to see more efforts like this made to assist children and families. Troubled children need a structured environment where they can re-establish study skills and receive vocational training, take advantage of counseling and therapy to address their specific problems, and learn independent living skills. This can best be accomplished away from the disruptive family, negative peer group or non-supportive community.

This recommendation also holds true for young people leaving mental health facilities such as the Lincoln Regional Center.

Transitional foster and group homes would reduce the recidivism rate and save the State money in the long run by preventing re-entry into care and allowing the youth to go on to lead a productive life. Funding must be found to provide this resource to our troubled youth.

TO PRIVATE AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES

1. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that permanency planning be developed and/or redefined.

The Foster Care Review Board is concerned that many private agencies and institutions are not doing an effective job of long-range permanency planning for the children in their care. For that reason, the Board again makes the above recommendation.

Since the advent of the Foster Care Review Act, agencies have initiated some planning for their children. The Board, however, cannot accept a long range plan of "group home until the age of majority" for a young child when other options are available. A child needs stability, continuity, and family relationships. Placement in a group home or institution can address many of the problems in a child's life, but it cannot be a substitute for a real home and real family. Each child needs a stable relationship with an adult, and this function cannot be supplied by an ever-changing staff of group home parents and shift workers.

Case Example: "Brad", age 10, was voluntarily placed at a private agency by his mother when he was age 7. The mother was very young when Brad was born and blames him for ruining her adolescence. She lives in another state and has agreed to have more contact with Brad, but hasn't followed through. The grandmother thinks she might like Brad to live with her at sometime when he's older. Brad has spent 28% of his life in out-of-home care. The plan for Brad is to remain at the private agency.

The Board urges the private agencies to explore methods of bringing needed services to the families of privately placed children so the children can return home. The Board also recommends the development of smaller, family-like placements for young children and transitional homes for those who have completed the institution's program but can't go home for whatever reason. Alternate methods of involving the child in family life should be developed. Finally, independent living skill training should be required for every child over the age of 16.

TO ALL AGENCIES

1. The Foster Care Review Board recommends all agencies document caseplans for children that reflect programs and services being provided which will help the child prepare for the transition from foster care to returning home, being adopted, or independent living.

It is extremely important that all courts and agencies document the caseplan for the child so everyone involved will be aware of what the long range plan is and what services will be necessary to accomplish the plan. The plan should be in writing.

The Foster Care Review Board is aware that sometimes plans change. When the change is clearly documented and everyone is aware of the change, then all parties can work to accomplish the new goal.

The Review Board is concerned when there appears to be no plan for the child or when there are several plans. Of the 1,439 children reviewed during 1988, 48 (3.3%) had no written plan and 169 (11.7%) had only a partial plan.

It is also very important that services be clearly documented, along with information on the child and parents' progress. Of the 1,439 children reviewed, 83 (5.8%) had no written description of services. 142 (9.9%) had a partial description of services and 72 (5%) were receiving services but the services were not in writing. This information can be used to justify the child's return home or, if progress is lacking, termination of parental rights.

Children need and deserve a stable, loving, permanent home and a relationship with at least one caring adult. When there is permanency planning, children move through the foster care system more rapidly.

2. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that new programs be evaluated thoroughly and continuation funding be sought when needed.

The Foster Care Review Board first made this recommendation in the 1987 Annual Report and directed it to the Department of Social Services. The recommendation is being expanded this year and directed to all State and private agencies that seek grants to develop programs for children.

Grants are very beneficial to agencies because they allow for the creation, development, and implementation of a wide range of new programs. The Board is concerned that many good programs are begun, then dropped when the funding ends. When a good service for children is discontinued, the void in the community is considerable.

An example of a program that was lost when funding ended but is badly needed foster and group homes for children leaving the Youth Development Centers. Many of the young people leaving these facilities need a transitional placement before returning to their homes.

The Board urges agencies to include a strong evaluation component in their grant applications to validate the need and results if the program proves worthwhile and to discontinue the program if it is ineffective. Evaluations can also identify weaknesses in a program so corrections and modifications can be made.

A vast number of grant-sponsored programs are currently being conducted, in such areas as sexual abuse training, home-based service provision, parent training, family preservation teams, and respite care. The Board recommends these be carefully evaluated as the grants come to an end and special attention be given to locating continuation funding for those programs that are making a difference in the lives of children and their families.

TO THE TRIBES

1. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that Tribal Courts that take jurisdiction over Indian children handle the cases in a timely manner.

The Indian Child Welfare Act was passed by Congress in order to protect the rights and heritage of Native American children placed in foster care. It permits the Tribal Courts of the various tribes to take jurisdiction over cases of families who have membership in the tribe. The county and juvenile courts, the Department of Social Services and other agencies, and the Foster Care Review Board are aware of the Indian Child Welfare Act. Unfortunately, some Tribal Courts and tribal social services do not have the financial resources or foster care ability to handle all Indian children's cases.

Case Example: "Rodney", "Rosa", and "Rebecca", ages 8, 4, and 2, were placed in foster care after Rebecca received a spiral fracture to her leg. The children had been living with an aunt and physical abuse was suspected. The children were born in South Dakota where their mother was thought to be still living. Records from South Dakota, when finally received, revealed the mother had a long history of Child Protective Services involvement. Parental rights to an older sibling had been terminated years ago; and a younger sibling had been placed in foster care in South Dakota. Records showed that Rodney had been in foster care 6 times between 1980 and 1986.

A petition was filed in County Court on behalf of the children, but before the case was adjudicated, the tribe filed a motion that it wished to transfer the case to tribal court, which was granted. The children were ordered to remain in the custody of the Department of Social Services until custody could be transferred to the South Dakota tribe. Eighteen months have elapsed. The tribe has not assumed custody and there has been no Tribal Court hearing. The caseworker has been unable to complete the transfer. Meanwhile, the county court terminated its jurisdiction and there have been no court reviews of the case since mid-1987. The case remains in limbo. Recently, the social worker requested the county attorney to refile a petition on behalf of the children.

The Foster Care Review Board respects the tribe's right to assume jurisdiction over Indian children and supports the premise that Indian children should be placed with Indian families whenever possible.

The Board expresses extreme concern, however, in situations like the above. Indian children, and indeed all children, need and deserve a permanent home. Systemic delays such as described above cannot be allowed to continue to be a barrier.

2. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that alternate methods be investigated to solve the underfunding of Tribal Courts.

Tribal Courts have been created to serve members of the various Indian tribes throughout the country. Funding for these courts comes from the Federal Government through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Foster Care Review Board has learned that many of these courts are badly underfunded. This results in tribes not having the financial resources to provide a guardian ad litem for its children or, at times, to pay the board rate to foster parents who care for Indian children. The case in the previous recommendation demonstrates the difficulties that occur as a result of this lack of funding.

The Federal government provides Indian Child Welfare competitive grants to carry out the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act. Not every tribe receives these grants. The Winnebago and Omaha did not receive grants for the coming year. As a result, both tribes will be losing one full time and one part time Child Protective Services Worker.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides Social Services grants, but not Child Protective Services grants. The tribes themselves could provide funding; however, they have many programs that need funding and few dollars to spend. Another option is the State could pick up these programs. The Department of Social Services has funded CPS for the Omaha tribe and is looking for ways of contracting with the Winnebago tribe to assist them with Child Protective Services.

The Foster Care Review Board commends the Department of Social Services for taking this position and encourages the Federal Government to study this serious problem.

The Foster Care Review Board urges child welfare agencies, the communities, and the tribes to work together to acquire additional funding so Indian children can have regular court reviews, adequate legal representation in court, and stable placements if they must be in out-of-home care.

TO THE COMMUNITIES

1. The Foster Care Review Board recommends the media withhold the names of juvenile victims and offenders, particularly in incest cases.

This recommendation first appeared in our 1987 Annual Report. The Review Board continues to be concerned about the effects on child victims and offenders when their name is published in the newspaper or broadcast over the radio or television. This is particularly true in incest and sexual abuse cases.

The damage publicity can do to the self esteem and confidence of a young victim can be long lasting. In some small communities, the publicity will follow the child and be discussed for life or as long as the child lives in the community.

Case Example; "Heather", age 13, made allegations that she had been sexually assaulted by her stepfather. Authorities believed Heather and charges were filed. During the trial, Heather was harrassed by relatives, became frightened and refused to testify. While the newspaper reporting the story did not disclose Heather's name, the name and address of the stepfather were published. As a result, Heather was teased and taunted at school.

Each newspaper, radio station, and television station has its own policy regarding publishing the names of juveniles. The Board urges the media to review its policies giving special attention to protecting the confidentiality of young victims and offenders.

2. The Foster Care Review Board recommends communities develop and support primary prevention projects.

Communities can take a major role in assisting children and families by developing and supporting community based services for children and families. Projects should be determined according to the specific needs of the community and might include parenting classes, independent living skill training, counseling services, or home-based services.

Early referral to locally available services facilitates keeping the family together. Early prevention also saves money over the long run.

The Foster Care Review Board would like to commend Beatrice, Lincoln, Grand Island, Broken Bow, and Scottsbluff-Gering for developing Family Preservation Teams. These teams consist of representatives from a variety of service agencies. In Beatrice, a Family Resource Center has been developed consisting of 10 service agencies in one location. Lincoln has created a "Welcome Baby" program to assist new parents and improve parenting skills. Scottsbluff-Gering has started a "Health Line" that people can call for service information. In Broken Bow, a step family support group has been formed and home management seminars have been conducted. Grand Island's team has focused on parent education and has been instrumental in bringing the Boys Town Midplains Shelter to Grand Island.

Other communities are working on bringing needed services to their areas. North Platte is working to provide a shelter for runaway children and children in need of temporary assistance.

Child Guidance of Lincoln has hosted training seminars to help professionals who work with sexually abused children and youth.

Boys Town has provided a number of training sessions across the State to help foster parents and workers understand and appropriately handle sexually abused children in foster care. This program has been expanded and is being presented in other states. Boys Town is also recruiting and training therapeutic foster homes in Lincoln and has developed a shelter for youth in Grand Island. Boys Town is in the process of developing a National Hotline (1-800-448-3000) which will include a service referral for troubled families. Future plans include a National Training Center on Violent and Aggressive Children and Youth.

The majority of children in out-of-home care are from the Omaha area. The Department of Social Services has introduced new programs in this area to recruit and train foster parents. Support groups are being formed and respite care services are being developed.

Whether they are large or small, community involvement in projects to help families demonstrate what can be done when people work together and show how much they care. The Foster Care Review Board supports these projects and encourages other communities to become involved in programs and services to assist children and their families.

3. The Foster Care Review Board recommends communities support and value foster parents by making parent training available at reduced rates, providing respite care for foster children, and developing support groups for both foster parents and children in foster care.

Foster parents provide an extremely valuable service to the community. It is very important that the community support and respect its foster parents. This can be done in a number of ways.

Beneficial conferences, workshops, and parent training classes can be offered to foster parents at reduced rates. Nursery and babysitting assistance can also be provided.

Foster children can be very difficult children to handle. Many foster children are developmentally disabled and/or behaviorally impaired. It is vital that respite care be provided to allow the foster parents some time away from the children to prevent "burn out". The Foster Care Review Board commends the Department of Social Services, Nebraska Psychiatric Institute, and the community volunteers who have been working together on a grant to provide statewide respite care training and support.

Foster parents and foster children can benefit from support groups. It is always helpful just to know that others have similar problems and to work together to solve problems.

The Foster Care Review Board commends the communities that have developed programs for foster families and encourages others to provide the services and support these families may need.

TO THE LEGISLATURE

1. The Foster Care Review Board recommends grounds for termination of parental rights be amended to include length of time in care after diligent efforts have been made to rehabilitate the family.

In its reviews of children placed in out-of-home care, the Foster Care Review Boards have been concerned about the amount of time some children spend in foster care while their parents are given chance after chance to make necessary changes. Currently, parental rights can be terminated for one or more of the following reasons:

- a. Abandonment for 6 months or longer;
- b. Continuous or repeated neglect;
- c. Failure to provide or pay for subsistence, education, or other care when financially able;
- d. Unfit by reason of debauchery, habitual use of alcohol or drugs, or repeated lewd and lascivious behavior to be detrimental to the health, morals, or well-being of the child;
- e. Inability to discharge parental responsibilities because of mental illness or mental deficiency with reasonable grounds that such condition will continue for a prolonged period;
- f. Failure to correct conditions leading to a court determination that the child is a juvenile under 43-217(3a).

The Foster Care Review Board recommends that length of time in out-of-home care after diligent efforts have been made to rehabilitate the family be added to this list. A child cannot be made to wait indefinitely for changes to occur so he or she can return home. All children need and deserve a stable, permanent family. According to the Child Welfare League of America, if a parent has not rehabilitated within 18 months, it is unlikely that the parent will ever rehabilitate. Dr. Alexander Zaphiris of the University of Denver Graduate School has stated that no child should remain in foster care over 9 months. By adding a specific time length during which reasonable, documented efforts have been made to rehabilitate the family to the reasons parental rights can be terminated, children won't be made to wait for years for families.

2. The Foster Care Review Board recommends legislation be drafted to clarify a father's parental rights.

In its 1987 Annual Report, the Foster Care Review Board noted the problems that can occur when the father's parental rights are unclear. An adoption was overturned by the Court because a father did not receive due process. The Board continues to feel that Legislation should be drafted to address this problem.

Each year, many children are born to unwed mothers. Statute requires the father to take legal steps to establish paternity within a very short time; however, this is rarely done. In addition, many divorced fathers disappear from the scene only to reappear at a later date.

Various courts take care of the parental rights issue in different ways. Sometimes the parental rights of the father, if not previously terminated, are terminated at the time of the adoption.

The effects, both positive and negative, that these fathers have on their children must be taken into consideration by the agencies that place the children.

3. The Foster Care Review Board recommends training be mandatory for all foster parents and that proposed legislation funding the training be approved.

The Foster Care Review Board identified the lack of required foster parent training as a problem in its First Annual Report in 1983 and has made this recommendation in successive Annual Reports.

The Department of Social Services has an excellent training program available for foster parents; however, this program is not a requirement to receiving a child in a home. The program explains how to handle children under a number of predictable circumstances, such as grief, "acting out" behaviors, testing, etc. The training also gives the foster parent a better understanding of what foster parenting is all about and what the foster parents' role is. The Review Board continues to recommend that this optional training become mandatory.

A properly trained foster parent will have a better chance at appropriately guiding a truant adolescent by instilling new values with enough flexibility to prevent the child from running away, skipping school, or rejecting what is being taught. A trained foster parent will not be shocked by the behaviors of a sexually abused child, but rather can help redirect the child's behavior and understanding of sexuality.

There is no doubt that a foster parent with proper training is better able to cope and less apt to ask that the child be moved. Training also allows the foster parent to meet other prospective foster parents, thus setting up a built-in support system. Finally, training allows the agency to evaluate prospective foster parents and eliminate those with poor motivation or questionable parenting philosophies.

Case Example: "Bruce", "Katie", and "Tami", ages 6, 4, and 2, were placed in foster care by their father who was unable to care for them. The family had a long history of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect with frequent CPS involvement. Bruce and Katie exhibited inappropriate acting out and aggressive behaviors. In spite of his history, Bruce was placed in a first-time foster home with foster parents who had little training. The placement disrupted when the foster parent, frustrated with Bruce's behavior and unable to cope, stopped the child.

Training will prevent placement disruptions that can be extremely harmful to the child. Each change in placement has an effect on the child because the child must adjust to a new family, new set of rules, and often a new school. Numerous placement changes can cause a child to become distrustful of adults, withdrawn or depressed, and/or a failure in school.

Foster parents need adequate compensation for caring for children. The ages of the children and the level of care required need to be studied and adjustments made to the current payment system. Feeding and clothing a teenager is much more expensive than caring for a very young child, but foster care rates in Nebraska are the same for both. The rates for caring for physically and emotionally handicapped children also need to be standardized.

The Foster Care Review Board is also concerned that Nebraska appears to be losing foster parents faster than new foster parents can be recruited. Training and support are critical if this trend is to be changed.

4. The Foster Care Review Board recommends that the roles of State Agencies responsible for children and youth be defined and methods of cooperations be implemented.

The Foster Care Review Board is concerned about the changing priorities and agendas of State Agencies responsible for children and youth and fears that these will result in needless gaps and duplications in services. Because of this, the Review Board suggests that the roles and responsibilities of these State Agencies be analysed and clarified.

The Department of Social Services appears to be brokering services in some areas and delivering services in other areas. The Department of Public Institutions isn't placing children's mental health as a priority and appears not to want to serve children at all.

The Department of Social Services cannot accept delinquent youth due to regulation and statute. Services can't be delivered to the families of delinquent youth placed at the Youth Development Centers through the Department of Correctional Services.

Many children and youth leaving the Lincoln Regional Center or the YDCs need the services that the Department of Social Services can provide; however, the agencies aren't able to work together to provide these services.

APPENDIX

EVALUATION OF THE NEBRASKA FOSTER
CARE REVIEW BOARD

1987 - 1988

by

Ann Coyne, Ph.D.

All 1,269 children who were active anytime in 1987 and who were reviewed one or more times by the Foster Care Review Board during 1987 were selected as the reviewed sample. Some of these children had also been reviewed before 1987 and some continued to receive reviews in 1988. By December 31, 1988 when the data was analyzed 100 had been reviewed once; 188 had been reviewed twice; 243 had been reviewed three times; 178 had been reviewed four times; 145 had been reviewed five times; 130 had been reviewed six times; 107 had been reviewed seven times; 76 had been reviewed eight times; 56 had been reviewed nine times; 28 had been reviewed 10 times; 12 had been reviewed eleven times; 2 had been reviewed twelve times; and 4 had been reviewed thirteen times.

A comparison group was constructed of children who were eligible for review in 1987 but were not reviewed, either in 1987 or 1988.

A random sample of non-reviewed children was selected early in 1988, matched by age to the children who had been reviewed. By the time the data was analyzed on December 31, 1988, 338 eligible children who were not reviewed in 1987 had been reviewed in 1988 and had to be dropped from the comparison group.

Comparisons were made between the reviewed and non-reviewed groups to assure that they were similar in sex, race, agency, etc. They were found to be quite similar except for length of time in care, so that differences in outcome can be attributed to the fact that one group had been reviewed by citizen reviewers and the other had not.

Results

Comparisons were made between the 1,269 children active in 1987 who were reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board at least once in 1987 and the 918 similar children who were active in 1987, eligible for review, but not reviewed in either 1987 or 1988.

Current Placement Type

There were large significant differences between the two groups in terms of what type of placement the children were in on December 31, 1988.

Similar to the findings in the evaluations of 1985 and 1986, children who were reviewed were 3.5 times more likely to be in adoptive placements as children who were not reviewed. Reviewed children were also twice as likely to be placed with relatives as comparison children and were 1.8 times more likely to be in more homelike foster care settings than comparison children who were 2.6 times more likely to be in an institution. Comparison children, however, were 1.6 times more likely to be returned to parents than reviewed children. All these findings are similar to 1985 and 1986 data.

Closeness to Home

Reviewed children were more likely to be placed in their own county (52.1%) compared to the comparison group (37.8%). However, this is a decrease overall from 1986 when 57.8% of the reviewed children and 53.6% of the comparison children were placed in their own county. It is however the first time there has been a statistically significant difference between reviewed and comparison group children.

The 1985 data showed no differences in where children were placed, while the 1986 data showed reviewed children slightly more likely to be placed in their own county compared to comparison group children. In 1987 the differences were greater.

Current Plan

There were significant differences in the current plans between the two groups. The reviewed children were 4.7 times more likely to have adoption as their plan compared with the non-reviewed children. The reviewed children were 3.1 times more likely to have long-term foster care as their plan as well.

On the other hand, the comparison group was 2.2 times more likely to have "return to parents" as its plan. The percentage of children with plans of group home or institution were nearly the same between the two groups.

These findings may be due, in part, to the difference between the two groups in length of time in care. More of the comparison children had not been in care long enough for their plan to change from "return to parent", the typical first plan.

Plan Achievement Date

Again, the lack of a plan achievement data for many non-reviewed children (46.9%) is a concern. Additionally, some (13.6%) of the plan achievement dates were before 1987 and a few (1.1%) were after 1990 indicating lack of a clear time goal for over 60% of the comparison children.

Children who were reviewed seemed slightly more likely to have reasonable dates for achievement of their plan, although 15.7% had no targeted date, 16.4% had dates before 1987, and 12.4% had target dates after 1990 (a total of 44.5% lacking a clear time goal).

Number of Placements

There were significant differences between the groups in the number of placements the children had. Some 32.2% of the reviewed children had three or fewer placements while 52.2% of the comparison children had three or fewer. Forty-six percent (46.4%) of the reviewed children had 4 - 9 placements while 38.8% of the comparison children had 4 - 9. Twenty-one percent (21.4%) of the reviewed children had 10 or more placements and 2.8%, 36 children, had 20 or more placements. On the other hand, only 8.3% of the comparison children had 10 or more placements with only 0.3%, 3 children, having 20 or more placements. These differences are probably related to the reviewed children having been in out-of-home care longer.

Parental Rights Status

There were significant differences between the two groups in terms of the status of parental rights. Children in the reviewed group were 3.3 times more likely to have had a petition for termination filed or to have termination completed against their fathers than children in the comparison group.

Likewise, children in the reviewed group were 4.3 times more likely to have had a petition for termination filed or to have a termination completed against their mothers.

There were also differences between the groups in terms of the number of parents who voluntarily relinquished their children for adoption. Children who were reviewed were 3.9 times more likely to be relinquished for adoption by their mothers and 2.9 times more likely to be relinquished by their fathers than non-reviewed children.

Adoption Free Date

Children in the reviewed group were 6.6 times more likely to have been freed for adoption after January 1, 1987 than children who were not reviewed in 1987.

Court Review Results

The lack of information on court reviews is still a concern. While most of the children apparently had court reviews, only 27.6% of the reviewed children and 23.0% of the comparison children had reports of the results of their court reviews submitted to the Foster Care Review Board.

Number Terminated

Some 624 reviewed children (49.2%) and 578 comparison group children (63%) had been terminated from the system by December 31, 1988.

Reviewed children are significantly less likely to be terminated from care than children not reviewed by the foster care review process. However, much of this difference appears to be related to the fact that most of those children reviewed in 1987 had been in the system and reviewed previously but were still in non-permanent placements. These children are less likely to leave the system. Many children in the "eligible for review but not reviewed" group, tended to avoid review because they left the system soon after they become eligible and before the Foster Care Review Board could schedule a review of them.

As time has gone on, more of the children being reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board have tended to be the hard-core children with serious family problems who are unable to return home to their parent(s).

Reason Case Terminated

Thirteen percent (13.8%) of the reviewed children who were terminated from care were reported to have returned to their parents' custody while twenty-one percent (21.5%) of the non-reviewed children were reported to have returned to parents. More reviewed children (12.4%) left care through adoption or guardianship than non-reviewed children (3.6%). About the same percentage of reviewed children (9.3%) left care through emancipation (age, marriage, military) as non-reviewed children (9.6%).

These comparisons may not be valid, however, since 59% of the reviewed children who were terminated and 46.1% of the non-reviewed terminated children had no reason stated for leaving care.

Summary

Findings were very similar to the 1985 and 1986 evaluations, indicating that review by citizen review boards does have a consistent predictable impact on what happens to the children. Particularly significant is the continued difference between the two groups in adoption rates.

The fiscal impact of the adoptions and relative placements made in 1987-1988 is large. A conservative estimate of the net per year savings of the reviewed children who were adoptive or placed with relatives is \$249,480 (53 more than expected adoptions and 46 more than expected relative placements at \$210/mo. minimal foster care payment.)

Review by citizens apparently encourages the agency, the guardian ad litem and the court to work together to accomplish these very complex adoptions.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is Dr. Coyne's third evaluation of the Foster Care Review Board. Previous evaluations were done in 1985 and 1986.

The results of these evaluations has shown the real value of foster care review. The savings during the first year were estimated at \$236,880. Second year savings were \$277,200 plus the \$236,880 from the first year since most of the children would still be in care if the adoption or relative placement had not occurred. Savings for 1988 are estimated at \$249,480 plus the \$514,080 saved because children placed for adoption or with relatives in 1985 and 1986 were not still in care in 1988. This savings can be expected to continue for at least three more years, afterwhich it should decrease since some of the children adopted in 1985 will be approaching the age of majority.

The Review Board feels that its major contribution in increasing the number of adoptions has been the "push" it gives to the agency and court to get things done. As Dr. Coyne stated, "review by citizens encourages the agency, the guardian ad litem, and the court to work together to accomplish these very complex adoptions."

On the other hand, while the Review Board strongly supports reunification, the reviews stress the successful completion of services before reunification. This may account for the lower number of reunifications of Review Board reviewed children compared to children in the comparison group. Another reason might be the Review Board reviewed children who had been in care longer and the more difficult and problematic cases. These would be children you would not expect to return to their parents as readily.

This will be the final evaluation of this type to be done. As more and more children are reviewed, it is becoming difficult to find a comparison group of children who have been in care approximately the same length of time as the reviewed children. The Review Board is reviewing the majority of children who have spent several years in care.

The Review Board has received a grant from the Developmental Disabilities Council, Department of Health, to do a study, "Identifying Systemic Delays in the Adoption of Developmentally Disabled Children in Foster Care". As a result, children with the plan of "adoption", "permanency", "guardianship", and "long term foster care" will be intentionally selected for review during the early part of 1989. This selection process can be expected to disrupt the evaluation figures as they are presently set up.

The State Board wishes to express its sincerely thanks to Dr. Coyne for the time, effort, and expertise involved in doing the evaluations.

STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR
FY 1987-1988

Revenue

General Fund	202,533.36
Cash Fund (Donations & Contributions)	70.36
	<u>202,533.36</u>

Expenditures

Full time staff (6)	120,165.84
Contract staff (5)	41,958.92
Travel expenses	2,403.82
Rent	3,219.96
Data Processing	6,809.32
Postage	2,469.78
Publication & Printing	6,848.59
Telephone & Communications	7,894.26
Office Equipment & Supplies	2,859.45
Miscellaneous	<u>2,261.84</u>
	196,891.78

Carry-over for FY 1988-1989	5,641.53
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LOCAL BOARD APPLICATION
State of Nebraska
FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

LOCATION:

P.O. Box 94952
Lincoln, NE 68509

(402) 471-4420

3rd Floor, State Office Bldg
301 Centennial Mall South

Application for volunteers to serve on a Local Foster Care Review Board as set in Nebraska Statute, Sections 43-1301 to 43-1318, R.R.S. Employees of the State Foster Care Review Board or child welfare agencies are ineligible to serve on local boards.

Ms.
Miss
Mrs.
Mr.

Name Address Town Zip

Phone: Residence Office Occupation

If employed, where:

Neb. Stat. 43-1304 states: "The members of the board shall reasonably represent the various social, economic, racial, and ethnic groups of the county or counties from which its members may be appointed." In order to comply with the Act, please answer the following:

CHECK: Age 19-30 _____ 31-45 _____ 46 & older _____
Caucasian _____ Black _____ Hispanic _____ Indian _____ Asian _____ Other _____
Family income: \$4,000-\$10,000 _____ \$11,000-\$20,000 _____
\$21,000-\$39,000 _____ \$40,000-above _____

I am presently a foster parent: Yes _____ No _____ (This is not a requirement.)

Marital status:

Number of Children:

I am available: Weekdays _____ Saturdays _____ Evenings _____ exceptions: _____

List current and past activities:

Please give name, address, and phone number of three (3) references:

On the back of this form, please write a short paragraph on why you would like to serve on a Local Foster Care Review Board.

RETURN WITH LOCAL BOARD APPLICATION

Approved _____
Denied _____
Date _____
Initials _____

NEBRASKA STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD
P.O. Box 94952
Lincoln, NE 68509

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Current Address _____ Social Security No. _____

Previous Address _____
_____ How Long? _____
Current Employer _____ How Long? _____

RELEASE

I, _____, hereby apply to serve on the Foster Care Review Board. I hereby give my permission and authorize any law enforcement agency, child protective service agency, governmental agency, or court to release to the Nebraska Foster Care Review Board, its agents or representatives, any documents, records, or other information pertaining to me.

I understand that my refusal to authorize the release of the above-mentioned information may adversely affect my application to serve as a member of the Foster Care Review Board.

I hereby release, discharge, and exonerate the State Foster Care Review Board, its agents and representatives, and any agency, court, or person furnishing information from any and all liability of every nature and kind arising out of the furnishing or inspection of such documents, records, and other information or the investigation made by the Foster Care Review Board.

_____ signature _____ date

FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY:

___ No criminal history on file
with _____
___ Criminal history attached.

Processed by: _____
Date: _____

FOR DSS CENTRAL REGISTRY ONLY:

___ No history on Central Registry
___ Dates/types CPS contact attached.

Processed by: _____
Date: _____

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: Department of Administration
 Title: "An Act relating to citizen review panels for certain children in state custody..." BRU: Citizen's Review Panel
 Sponsor: Collins Components: _____
 Requestor: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES	355.0	471.9	485.1	485.1	485.1	485.1
TRAVEL	32.5	46.4	45.8	45.8	45.8	45.8
CONTRACTUAL	146.3	142.2	142.2	142.2	142.2	142.2
SUPPLIES	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1
EQUIPMENT	112.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	696.9	673.1	685.7	685.7	685.7	685.7

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	696.9	673.1	685.7	685.7	685.7	685.7
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	696.9	673.1	685.7	685.7	685.7	685.7

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	11	11	11	11	11	11
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Any FY90 costs to be absorbed by Department of Administration and Department of Health and Social Services.

see attached

Prepared by: James J. Fox
 Division: Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner's Office

Phone: 465-2200
 Date: 4/2/90

Approved by Commissioner: Frank S. Baxter, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Administration

Date: 4/3/90

Distribution (by preparer):

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

Draft CS HB 19 (Jud)

The function of the agency established under this bill is to provide for an additional, non-departmental, review of longer term out-of-home placements for children and youth in the custody of the Department of Health and Social Services. The individual review is to result in specific recommendations for services to the child. The overall process is to result in periodic summary reports of the placement activities of the division and recommendations for improvement of services to children in out-of-home placement.

In scope this program will provide about 1,500 local, individual reviews effecting about 1,000 children each year. The geographic area covered is equal to about 15% of the United States.

This fiscal note is based on several assumptions.

1. The service provided is to supplement, and enhance, services provided by the Division of Family and Youth Services.
2. To the extent possible DFYS social work staff should not have to assume additional administrative burdens.
3. If possible, the process should lessen current administrative activities of DFYS social work staff, permitting more time for direct service.
4. The review process should involve local individuals who receive some training in child welfare issues and who are knowledgeable of local social and cultural customs.
5. Local review panels are volunteers and receive no recompense.
6. The state panel reviews the service of the local panels, hires the agency director, and sets agency policy and procedure for carrying out statutory obligations including reports and recommendations.
7. The success of the panels will be contingent on maintaining credibility in recommendations and fostering a positive working relationship with the division. The subjective measure will be public acceptance of the process. The objective measure will be the implementation of recommendations and improvements in permanent placements for children.
8. Because the review process will require synthesis and summary from case files as preparation for panel review, it was

felt that panel professional staff should have knowledge of, and background in, social work. Hence the use of the Social Worker III classification for professional staff.

9. Staffing patterns were developed from an analysis of where the children were in placement, estimates from current staff as to the time required for different parts of the process and the level of support staff needed in similar activities.

10. As the panel members will be volunteers, an assumption was made that an effort would be made to appoint sufficient local panels to permit timely reviews to be provided without asking individual panel members to contribute more than one, or at most two full days per month.

11. The fiscal note provides for establishing 3 offices, with the largest office, and agency headquarters, in Anchorage and smaller offices in Fairbanks and Juneau.

12. As many as 11 local review panels are contemplated for areas remote from the 3 field offices. Some will meet monthly and some will meet only quarterly. The staff travel budget is predicated on providing on-site support for the panel meetings.

13. Local panel training assumes the participation of DFYS (at their expense). The delivery is at the local level and provided by agency staff (review panel staff and DFYS staff). Extra on-site days for staff are included in the travel budget for this training. \$2,500 per year is included in the budget for the purchase and/or development of training material. Initial training (orientation) is covered in the first two years and after that it is assumed about 1/2 the panels would receive further training each year.

14. Space needs are DOA standards for staff. Space needs include a large conference/meeting room for Anchorage. Local panels there would be meeting 1 to 3 days per week. If reliable donated space can be found for this purpose the space costs could be reduced accordingly.

15. Teleconference equipment is included for each office. This equipment is portable so as to be usable by local review panels in field location.

16. Recording equipment is included for use by the review panels in both office and field locations.

17. Equipment is included for a local area network in the Anchorage office and modems are included for each office location for transfer of data and reports. Also a fax machine is included

for each office. Each modem and fax machine will require a dedicated phone line.

Other one time equipment purchases include the ordinary office equipment needs -- desks, tables, chairs, bookshelves, storage cabinets, files, telephones, etc. A PC and dot matrix printer is included for all positions except the receptionist position in Anchorage. One good letter quality printer per office is substituted for one of the dot matrix printers.

18. \$20,000 is included for programming of off-the-shelf software for a data collection/information management system.

19. Prior experience indicates this agency will process a lot of paper. Very heavy duty copiers were budgeted for both Anchorage and Fairbanks. A lighter duty model was budgeted for in Juneau.

20. Budgeted amounts for postage, toll charges and supplies are a best guess based on prior experience and a review of other agency budgets.

21. The potential for donated, surplus or transferred equipment and furniture is unknown at this point. As with possible donated space -- receipt would lessen the fiscal requirements.

22. No ancillary costs are budgeted for local panel expenses. It is assumed space would be provided locally at no cost to the agency. No parking expenses, child care expenses or other possible out of pocket expenses for local panel members are budgeted.

23. Space requirements are figured at \$2.00 a square foot and occupancy is assumed by 10/1/90. Operation until that time will be from borrowed space (presumably DOA and/or DFYS).

24. It is assumed that nominations for the State Panel will be made early (upon passage of this bill) and that they will be able to meet in July and make the selection of an Executive Director who will be able to quickly select an assistant and begin hiring other agency staff. While the start time is ambitious, a considerable body of procedure and material has already been developed through existing internal review panels conducted by DFYS and through the Ketchikan pilot project.

cc

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

JAN 19 1990

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: Administration
Title: "An Act relating to citizen review panels for certain children..." BRJ: Office of Public Advocacy
Sponsor: Collins, Gruenberg, Ulmer, et al Components: _____
Requestor: Representative Collins

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
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
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REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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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 : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Will Be ZERO For 1990

Prepared by: Brant McGee, Public Advocate Phone: 274-1684
Division: Office of Public Advocacy Date: _____
Approved by Commissioner: Frank Baxter Date: 1/19/90
Agency: Department of Administration

Distribution (by preparer) :

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

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: Office of the Governor
 Title: "An Act relating to citizen review panels for certain children in state custody..." BRU: Commissions and Special Offices
 Sponsor: Reps. Collins, Gruenberg, Ulmer Components: _____
 Requestor: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES	636.1	684.8	1117.4	1291.7	1330.5	
TRAVEL	99.7	99.7	142.3	145.9	145.9	
CONTRACTUAL	94.6	57.9	104.9	101.5	80.6	
SUPPLIES	11.1	11.1	18.5	21.0	21.0	
EQUIPMENT	159.2	15.3	95.4	33.3	5	
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	1000.7	868.8	1478.5	1593.4	1587.5	

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	1000.7	868.8	1478.5	1593.4	1587.5	
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	1000.7	868.8	1478.5	1593.4	1587.5	

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	17	18	28	31	31	
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See attached analysis

Prepared by: Michael Nizich, Director Phone: 465-3616
 Division: Administrative Services Date: _____
 Approved by Commissioner: Garrey Peska Date: 1/22/90
 Agency: Office of the Governor

Distribution (by preparer):

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

HB 19 Analysis:

Fiscal note reflects phase-in of regional offices and local panels over a four year period. Personal Services assume step A for each initial position and includes one-step merit increases for subsequent years.

FY 91

PERSONAL SERVICES: 636.1

Request for New Position forms are attached; three position requests for Juneau Main Office, twelve positions for Anchorage Regional Office, and two positions for Ketchikan Regional Office.

TRAVEL 99.7

Assumes two annual meetings for the Statewide Panel and per diem costs only for local panel meetings.

Statewide Panel (5 members):

Public members:

Juneau:	travel @ \$400/person x 3 people	=	1,200	
	travel @ \$700/person x 1	=	700	
	per diem @ 80/day x 3 days x 4 people	=	960	
	per diem @ 80/day x 5 days x 1 person	=	400	3,260
Anchorage:	travel @ \$400/person x 3 people	=	1,200	
	travel @ \$700/person x 1 person	=	700	
	per diem @ 80/day x 3 days x 4 people	=	960	
	per diem @ 80/day x 4 days x 1 person	=	320	

Administrative travel:

	travel @ \$400/person x 2 people	=	800	
	per diem @ 80/day x 3 days x 2 people	=	480	4,460

Local Review Panels (5 members with 2 alternates each):

	total 5 panels minimum per caseload			
	meetings of three days/month, total per			
	diem expenses			72,000

Training travel/per diem - staff and panel members				20,000
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Total Travel:				99,720
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HB 19 Analysis:

CONTRACTUAL: 94.6

Assumes office locations of Juneau, Anchorage and Ketchikan.
 Telephone charges averaged from similar size division with
 comparable toll call usage.

Professional Services: 10,000

Communication:	Telephone (toll costs, base/local fixed costs, centrex network costs) 1000/mo x 12 months	12,000
	Telecopier charges -- 75/mo x 12 months	900
	Teleconference charges -- 2 @ 450	900
	Postage -- 750/mo x 12	9,000

Transportation:	Freight/express charges -- 225/mo x 12	2,700
-----------------	--	-------

Advertising, Printing & Binding:

	Subscriptions	75
	Advertising -- 2 meetings x 350	700
	Printing Annual report	2,500
	Forms, misc.	750
	Photocopy per caseload requirements	5,328

Minor Repair, Maintenance:	3,600
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Rental for Space:

Space requirements per Department of Administration standards:

Juneau	394.25 SF @ \$2.00/SF x 12 months	= 9,462	
Ketchikan	315.75 SF @ \$2.50/SF x 12 months	= 9,473	
Anchorage	1135.5 SF @ \$2.00/SF x 12 months	= 27,252	46,187

Total Contractual:	94,640
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SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS: 11.1

Office and library supplies, 900/mo x 12	= 10,800	
Data processing supplies	= 300	11,100

EQUIPMENT: 159.2

Equipment per office includes one PC per position, file cabinets,
 furniture and miscellaneous equipment, phones and photocopiers.

Juneau Main Office	= 28,850	
Ketchikan Regional Office	= 25,806	
Anchorage Regional Office	= 104,560	159,216

HB 19 Analysis:

FY 92

Reflects transfer of the Ketchikan Regional Office to Juneau and the addition of one position.

PERSONAL SERVICES: 684.8

Includes one-step merit increase for existing positions and one additional position in Juneau.

TRAVEL: 99.7

CONTRACTUAL: 57.9

Assumes transfer of furniture, equipment, etc. from Ketchikan Regional to newly established Juneau Regional Office.

Rental for Space:

Juneau Regional Office 395.75 SF x 2.00/SF = 9,498

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS: 11.1

EQUIPMENT: 15.3

For additional position in Juneau Regional Office.

HB 19 Analysis:

FY 93

Adds Fairbanks and Bethel Regional Offices and 3 additional local review panels.

PERSONAL SERVICES: 1,117.4

One-step merit increases for ongoing positions, six new positions for Fairbanks Regional Office and four new positions for Bethel Regional Office.

TRAVEL: 142.3

Includes per diem costs for three additional local panels, two at Fairbanks per diem of \$90/day and one at Bethel per diem of \$85/day.

CONTRACTUAL: 104.9

Professional Services: 10,000

Communication: Telephone (toll costs, base/local fixed costs, centrex network costs) 2000/mo x 12 months 24,000
 Telecopier charges -- 125/mo x 12 months 1,500
 Teleconference charges -- 2 @ 450 900
 Postage -- 1250/mo x 12 15,000

Transportation: Freight/express charges -- 375/mo x 12 4,500

Advertising, Printing & Binding:

Subscriptions 75
 Advertising -- 2 meetings x 350 700
 Printing Annual report 2,500
 Forms, misc. 1,000
 Photocopy per caseload requirements 7,718

Minor Repair, Maintenance: 6,000

Rental for Space:

Space requirements per Department of Administration standards:

Fairbanks 678 SF @ \$2.00/SF x 12 months = 16,272
 Bethel 492 SF @ \$2.50/SF x 12 months = 14,760 31,032

Total Contractual: 104,925

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS: 18.5

Office and library supplies, 1500/mo x 12 = 18,000
 Data processing supplies = 500 18,500

HB 19 Analysis:

FY 93 (continued)

EQUIPMENT: 95.4

Equipment per office includes one PC per position, file cabinets, furniture and miscellaneous equipment, phones and photocopiers.

Fairbanks Regional Office	=	55,156	
Bethel Regional Office	=	40,256	95,412

FY 94

Adds Nome Regional Office and 1 local review panel.

PERSONAL SERVICES: 1,291.7

One-step merit increase for ongoing positions, three new positions for Nome Regional Office.

TRAVEL: 145.9

Includes per diem costs for one additional local panel at \$90/day for eight 1-day meetings.

CONTRACTUAL: 101.5

Professional Services: 10,000

Communication:	Telephone (toll costs, base/local fixed costs, centrex network costs)	
	2900/mo x 12 months	34,800
	Telecopier charges -- 175/mo x 12 months	2,100
	Teleconference charges -- 2 @ 450	900
	Postage -- 1500/mo x 12	18,000

Transportation:	Freight/express charges -- 450/mo x 12	5,400
-----------------	--	-------

Advertising, Printing & Binding:

Subscriptions	75
Advertising -- 2 meetings x 350	700
Printing Annual report	2,500
Forms, misc.	1,150
Photocopy per caseload requirements	7,948

Minor Repair, Maintenance: 6,000

Rental for Space:

Space requirements per Department of Administration standards:

Nome 395.75 SF @ \$2.50/SF x 12 months	11,873
--	--------

Total Contractual:	101,446
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HB 19 Analysis:

FY 94 (continued)

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS: 21.0

Office and library supplies, 1700/mo x 12 = 20,400
Data processing supplies = 600 21,000

EQUIPMENT: 33.3

Equipment per office includes one PC per position, file cabinets, furniture and miscellaneous equipment, phones and photocopiers.

Nome Regional Office 33,306

FY 95

PERSONAL SERVICES: 1,330.5

TRAVEL: 145.9

CONTRACTUAL: 89.6

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS: 21.0

EQUIPMENT: .5

1.	POSITION TITLE Executive Director, State Children's Citizen Review			RANGE/STEP 26/A	BARG. UNIT	PAGE/LINE	GOV.	APPROV.	DISAPP
2.	TYPE OF POSITION PFT	STAFF MONTHS 12	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	BRU PRIORITY	LOCATION Juneau	ELECTION DISTRICT	LEG.	
3.	CONTINUATION LEVEL		ADDITION		JUSTIFICATION: Directs, manages and promotes statewide citizens foster care review. Primary liaison for agency with the Governor, legislature, public and State Children's Citizen Review Panel. Develops annual report to legislature; policies and procedures for Panel's consideration; training programs for Panel's consideration; ensures staff implementation of all actions passed by the Panel. Employs, discharges and supervises Admin. Assist., Research Analyst and regional Coordinators of the local Citizen Foster Care Review panels.				
4.	TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT					
	1	2	3						
	PERSONAL SERVICES								
5.	Salary	62.508							
6.	Benefits	18.349							
7.	Supplemental Benefits								
8.	Fixed Benefits								
9.	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	01	80.9						
10.	Travel	02	.9						
11.	Contractual	03	3.8						
12.	Commodities	04							
13.	Equipment	05	8.5						
14.	Other								
15.	TOTAL COST		94.1						
	RECEIPT CODE	FUNDING SOURCE							
16.		Federal Receipts 1002							
17.		G.F. Match 1003							
18.		General Funds 1004		94.1					
19.		I-A Receipts 1005							
20.		Program Receipts 1028							
21.		Other							
	FOR B&M USE ONLY								
	KEY NUMBER - - - - -								

REQUEST FOR
 NEW POSITION

AGENCY Office of the Governor

BRU Commissions and Special Offices

COMPONENT State Children's Citizen Review Panel

FY 91

Page 8 of 21

Revised Date _____

1.	POSITION TITLE Research Analyst II				RANGE/STEP 16/A	BARG. UNIT	PAGE/LINE	GOV.	APPROV.	DISAPP
2.	TYPE OF POSITION PFT	STAFF MONTHS 12	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	BRU PRIORITY	LOCATION Juneau	ELECTION DISTRICT	LEG.		
3.	CONTINUATION LEVEL				JUSTIFICATION: Under supervisor of the Executive Director, create management and data collection system for all children under review by SCCRP. Maintain data systems for agency; assist in production of annual report; preparation of required/requested statistical data and case review data.					
4.	TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT						
	1	2	3							
	PERSONAL SERVICES									
5.	Salary		32,580							
6.	Benefits		11,782							
7.	Supplemental Benefits									
8.	Fixed Benefits									
9.	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES		01	44.4						
10.	Travel		02							
11.	Contractual		03	2.0						
12.	Commodities		04							
13.	Equipment		05	8.8						
14.	Other									
15.	TOTAL COST			55.2						
	RECEIPT CODE	FUNDING SOURCE								
16.		Federal Receipts 1002								
17.		G.F. Match 1003								
18.		General Funds 1004		55.2						
19.		I-A Receipts 1005								
20.		Program Receipts 1028								
21.		Other								
FOR B&M USE ONLY										
KEY NUMBER - - - - -										

REQUEST FOR
 NEW POSITION

AGENCY Office of the Governor

BRU Commissions and Special Offices

COMPONENT State Children's Citizen Review Pane.

FY 91

Page 10 of 21
 Revised Date _____

1.	POSITION TITLE Citizens Foster Care Review Panel (CFCR) Coordinator				RANGE/STEP 17/A	BARG. UNIT	PAGE/LINE	COV.	APPROV.	DISAPP
2.	TYPE OF POSITION PFT	STAFF MONTHS 12	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	BRU PRIORITY	LOCATION Juneau/Anch.	ELECTION DISTRICT	LEG.		
3.	CONTINUATION LEVEL				JUSTIFICATION:					
4.	TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT	<p>One each position, Juneau and Anchorage Regional offices. (Juneau position transferred from Ketchikan) Supervise regional office of the State Children's Citizen Review Panel. Employ, discharge and supervise CFCR assistants and Clerk Typists. Recruit, screen and train local review panels; administer policies and procedures; substitute for assistants in emergencies; coordinate activities of local panels with agencies affected by review process. Review and approve written summaries and reports prepared by the CFCR assistants prior to distribution. Reports to the SCCRP Exec. Director.</p>					
	1	2	3							
	PERSONAL SERVICES									
5.	Salary		34,920							
6.	Benefits		12,296							
7.	Supplemental Benefits									
8.	Fixed Benefits									
9.	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	01	47.2							
10.	Travel	02	.8							
11.	Contractual	03	3.4							
12.	Commodities	04								
13.	Equipment	05	7.3							
14.	Other									
15.	TOTAL COST		58.7							
	RECEIPT CODE	FUNDING SOURCE								
16.		Federal Receipts 1002								
17.		C.F. Match 1003								
18.		General Funds 1004		58.7						
19.		I-A Receipts 1005								
20.		Program Receipts 1028								
21.		Other								
FOR B&M USE ONLY										
KEY NUMBER										

REQUEST FOR
NEW POSITION

AGENCY Office of the Governor
 BRU Commissions and Special Offices
 COMPONENT State Children's Citizen Review Panel

FY 91

Page 11 of 21
 Revised Date _____

1.	POSITION TITLE CFCRP Coordinator				RANGE/STEP 17/A	BARG. UNIT	PAGE/LINE	GOV.	APPROV.	DISAPP
2.	TYPE OF POSITION PFT	STAFF MONTHS 12	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	BRU PRIORITY	LOCATION Ketchikan	ELECTION DISTRICT	LEG.		
3.	CONTINUATION LEVEL				JUSTIFICATION:					
4.	TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT	Position transfers to Juneau in FY 92. Supervises regional office of the State Children's Citizen Review Panel. Employ, discharge and supervise CFCR assistants and Clerk Typists. Recruit, screen and train local review panels; administer policies and procedures; substitute for assistants in emergencies; coordinate activities of local panels with agencies affected by review process. Review and approve written summaries and reports prepared by the CFCR assistants prior to distribution. Reports to SCCRP Exec. Director.					
	1	2	3							
	PERSONAL SERVICES									
5.	Salary	34,920								
6.	Benefits	12,296								
7.	Supplemental Benefits									
8.	Fixed Benefits									
9.	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	01	47.2							
10.	Travel	02	.8							
11.	Contractual	03	4.2							
12.	Commodities	04								
13.	Equipment	05	7.3							
14.	Other									
15.	TOTAL COST		59.5							
	RECEIPT CODE	FUNDING SOURCE								
16.		Federal Receipts 1002								
17.		G.F. Match 1003								
18.		General Funds 1004		59.5						
19.		I-A Receipts 1005								
20.		Program Receipts 1028								
21.		Other								
FOR B&M USE ONLY										
KEY NUMBER										

REQUEST FOR
 NEW POSITION

AGENCY Office of the Governor
 BRU Commissions and Special Offices
 COMPONENT State Children's Citizen Review Panel

FY 91

Page 12 of 21
 Revised Date _____

NO. 1
 CSHB 19 (HESS)
 HOUSE 1/24/90

1. POSITION TITLE				RANGE/STEP	BARG. UNIT	PAGE/LINE	COV.	APPROV.	DISAPP
CFCRP Coordinator				17/A					
2. TYPE OF POSITION		STAFF MONTHS	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	BRU PRIORITY	LOCATION	ELECTION DISTRICT	LEG.	
PFT		12				Bethel/			
3. CONTINUATION LEVEL		ADDITION			JUSTIFICATION: Nome				
4. TYPE OF EXPENDITURE				AMOUNT	<p>One each position, Bethel and Nome regional offices.</p> <p>Supervises regional office of the State Children's Citizen Review Panel. Employ, discharge and supervise CFR assistants and Clerk Typists. Recruit, screen and train local review panels; administer policies and procedures; substitute for assistants in emergencies; coordinate activities of local panels with agencies affected by review process. Review and approve written summaries and reports prepared by the CFR assistants prior to distribution. Reports to SCCRP Exec. Director.</p>				
1		2	3						
PERSONAL SERVICES									
5.	Salary	47,688							
6.	Benefits	15,097							
7.	Supplemental Benefits								
8.	Fixed Benefits								
9.	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	01	62.8						
10.	Travel	02	1.1						
11.	Contractual	03	4.2						
12.	Commodities	04							
13.	Equipment	05	7.3						
14.	Other								
15.	TOTAL COST		75.4						
RECEIPT CODE		FUNDING SOURCE							
16.		Federal Receipts 1002							
17.		G.F. Match 1003							
18.		General Funds 1004		75.4					
19.		I-A Receipts 1005							
20.		Program Receipts 1006							
21.		Other							
FOR B&M USE ONLY									
KEY NUMBER									

REQUEST FOR
 NEW POSITION

AGENCY Office of the Governor

BRU Commissions and Special Offices

COMPONENT State Children's Citizen Review Panel

FY 91

Page 14 of 21
 Revised Date

1.	POSITION TITLE CFCRP Assistant				RANGE/STEP 11/A	BARG. UNIT	PAGE/LINE	GOV.	APPROV.	DISAPP
2.	TYPE OF POSITION PFT	STAFF MONTHS 12	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	BRU PRIORITY	LOCATION Juneau/	ELECTION DISTRICT	LEG.		
3.	CONTINUATION LEVEL				JUSTIFICATION: Anchorage					
4.	TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT	<p>One position Juneau, 6 positions in Anchorage</p> <p>Reports to the CFCRP Coordinator. Coordinates schedules of case reviews; notify parties of case reviews and coordinate telephonic accessibility by all parties to a review; coordinate access to and xeroxing of case files at appropriate agencies; review each case file and compile summary for panel's review; complete all data collection forms on each case; attend local panel meetings, record testimony, concerns and recommendations. Write and coordinate distribution of CFCRP report to Court and parties/agencies involved.</p>					
	1		2	3						
	PERSONAL SERVICES									
5.	Salary		23,580							
6.	Benefits		9,808							
7.	Supplemental Benefits									
8.	Fixed Benefits									
9.	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES		01	33.4						
10.	Travel		02							
11.	Contractual		03	1.9						
12.	Commodities		04							
13.	Equipment		05	7.0						
14.	Other									
15.	TOTAL COST			42.3						
	RECEIPT CODE	FUNDING SOURCE								
16.		Federal Receipts 1002								
17.		G.F. Match 1003			42.3					
18.		General Funds 1004								
19.		I-A Receipts 1005								
20.		Program Receipts 1028								
21.		Other								
FOR B&H USE ONLY KEY NUMBER - - - - -										

REQUEST FOR
 NEW POSITION

AGENCY Office of the Governor

BRU Commissions and Special Offices

COMPONENT State Children's Citizen Review Panel

FY 91

Page 15 of 21
 Revised Date _____

1.	POSITION TITLE				RANGE/STEP	BARG. UNIT	PAGE/LINE	GOV.	APPROV.	DISAPP
	CFCRP Assistant				11/A					
2.	TYPE OF POSITION	STAFF MONTHS	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	BRU PRIORITY	LOCATION	ELECTION DISTRICT	LEG.		
	PFT	12				Fairbanks				
3.	CONTINUATION LEVEL		ADDITION		JUSTIFICATION: Three positions Fairbanks regional office. Reports to the CFCRP Coordinator. Coordinates schedules of case reviews; notify parties of case reviews and coordinate telephonic accessibility by all parties to a review; coordinate access to and xeroxing of case files at appropriate agencies; review each case file and compile summary for panel's review; complete all data collection forms on each case; attend local panel meetings, record testimony, concerns and recommendations. Write and coordinate distribution of CFCRP report to Court and parties/agencies involved.					
4.	TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT						
	1	2	3							
	PERSONAL SERVICES									
5.	Salary		26,604							
6.	Benefits		10,471							
7.	Supplemental Benefits									
8.	Fixed Benefits									
9.	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES		01	37.1						
10.	Travel		02							
11.	Contractual		03	1.9						
12.	Commodities		04							
13.	Equipment		05	7.0						
14.	Other									
15.	TOTAL COST			46.0						
	RECEIPT CODE	FUNDING SOURCE								
16.		Federal Receipts	1002							
17.		G.F. Match	1003							
18.		General Funds	1004	46.0						
19.		I-A Receipts	1005							
20.		Program Receipts	1028							
21.		Other								
FOR B&M USE ONLY KEY NUMBER - - - - -										

REQUEST FOR
 NEW POSITION

AGENCY Office of the Governor

BRU Commissions and Special Offices

COMPONENT State Children's Citizen Review Panel

FY 91

Page 16 of 21
 Revised Date _____

No. 1
 CSHB 19 (HESS);
 HOUSE 1/24/90

1.	POSITION TITLE				RANGE/STEP	BARG. UNIT	PAGE/LINE	COV.	APPROV.	DISAPP
	CFCRP Assistant				11/A					
2.	TYPE OF POSITION	STAFF MONTHS	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	BRU PRIORITY	LOCATION	ELECTION DISTRICT	LEG.		
	PFT	12				Bethel/				
3.	CONTINUATION LEVEL	ADDITION			JUSTIFICATION: Nome					
4.	TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT	<p>Two positions Bethel regional office, one position in Nome.</p> <p>Reports to the CFCRP Coordinator. Coordinates schedules of case reviews; notify parties of case reviews and coordinate telephonic accessibility by all parties to a review; coordinate access to and xeroxing of case files at appropriate agencies; review each case file and compile summary for panel's review; complete all data collection forms on each case; attend local panel meetings, record testimony, concerns and recommendations. Write and coordinate distribution of CFCRP report to Court and parties/agencies involved.</p>					
	1	2	3							
	PERSONAL SERVICES									
5.	Salary		31,476							
6.	Benefits		11,540							
7.	Supplemental Benefits									
8.	Fixed Benefits									
9.	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES		01	43.0						
10.	Travel		02							
11.	Contractual		03	2.4						
12.	Commodities		04							
13.	Equipment		05	2.0						
14.	Other									
15.	TOTAL COST			52.4						
	RECEIPT CODE	FUNDING SOURCE								
16.		Federal Receipts	1002							
17.		G.F. Match	1003							
18.		General Funds	1004	52.4						
19.		I-A Receipts	1005							
20.		Program Receipts	1028							
21.		Other								
FOR B&M USE ONLY										
KEY NUMBER - - - - -										

REQUEST FOR
 NEW POSITION

AGENCY Office of the Governor

BRU Commissions and Special Offices

COMPONENT State Children's Citizen Review Panel

FY 91

Page 17 of 21
 Revised Date _____

No. 1
 CSHB 19 (HESS)
 HOUSE 1/24/90

1.	POSITION TITLE				RANGE/STEP	BARG. UNIT	PAGE/LINE	COV.	APPROV.	DISAPP
	Clerk Typist III /				8/A					
2.	TYPE OF POSITION	STAFF MONTHS	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	BRU PRIORITY	LOCATION	ELECTION DISTRICT	LEG.		
	PFT	12				Juneau/				
3.	CONTINUATION LEVEL		ADDITION		JUSTIFICATION: Anchorage					
4.	TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT	<p>One position Juneau, 5 positions Anchorage regional office. (Juneau position transferred from Ketchikan) Clerical and typing support for the CFCRP Assistants and Coordinators. Maintain files, typing needs of assistants and coordinator, photocopy and compile case files at various agencies related to cases subject to review.</p>					
	1	2	3							
	PERSONAL SERVICES									
5.	Salary	19,668								
6.	Benefits	8,950								
7.	Supplemental Benefits									
8.	Fixed Benefits									
9.	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	01	28.6							
10.	Travel	02								
11.	Contractual	03	1.4							
12.	Commodities	04								
13.	Equipment	05	7.0							
14.	Other									
15.	TOTAL COST		37.0							
	RECEIPT CODE	FUNDING SOURCE								
16.		Federal Receipts	1002							
17.		G.F. Match	1003							
18.		General Funds	1004	37.0						
19.		I-A Receipts	1005							
20.		Program Receipts	1028							
21.		Other								

FOR B&M USE ONLY
 KEY NUMBER - - - - -

REQUEST FOR
 NEW POSITION

AGENCY Office of the Governor

BRU Commissions and Special Offices

COMPONENT State Children's Citizen Review Panel

FY 91

Page 18 of 21

Revised Date _____

NO. 1
 CSHB 19 (HESS)
 HOUSE 1/24/90

1. POSITION TITLE Clerk Typist III /				RANGE/STEP 8/A	BARG. UNIT	PAGE/LINE	COV.	APPROV.	DISAPP
2. TYPE OF POSITION PFT		STAFF MONTHS 12	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	BRU PRIORITY	LOCATION Ketchikan	ELECTION DISTRICT	LEG.	
3. CONTINUATION LEVEL				JUSTIFICATION:					
4. TYPE OF EXPENDITURE				One position, transfer to Juneau Regional office in FY 92.					
1		2		3					
PERSONAL SERVICES									
5. Salary		19.668							
6. Benefits		8.950							
7. Supplemental Benefits									
8. Fixed Benefits									
9. TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES		01		28.6					
10. Travel		02							
11. Contractual		03		1.8					
12. Commodities		04							
13. Equipment		05		7.0					
14. Other									
15. TOTAL COST				37.4					
RECEIPT CODE				FUNDING SOURCE					
16.				Federal Receipts 1002					
17.				G.F. Match 1003					
18.				General Funds 1004					
19.				I-A Receipts 1005					
20.				Program Receipts 1028					
21.				Other					
FOR B&M USE ONLY									
KEY NUMBER				- - - - -					

REQUEST FOR
 NEW POSITION

AGENCY Office of the Governor

BRU Commissions and Special Offices

COMPONENT State Children's Citizen Review Panel

FY 91

Page 19 of 21
 Revised Date _____

1.	POSITION TITLE				RANGE/STEP	BARG. UNIT	PAGE/LINE	GOV.	APPROV.	DISAPP
1.	Clerk Typist III /				B/A					
2.	TYPE OF POSITION	STAFF MONTHS	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	BRU PRIORITY	LOCATION	ELECTION DISTRICT	LEG.		
2.	PFT	12				Fairbanks				
3.	CONTINUATION LEVEL		ADDITION		JUSTIFICATION:					
3.					<p>Two positions Fairbanks Regional office.</p> <p>Clerical and typing support for the CFCRP Assistants and Coordinators. Maintain files, typing needs of assistants and coordinator, photocopy and compile case files at various agencies related to cases subject to review.</p>					
4.	TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT						
4.	1	2	3							
PERSONAL SERVICES										
5.	Salary		22,140							
6.	Benefits		9,492							
7.	Supplemental Benefits									
8.	Fixed Benefits									
9.	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	01		31.6						
10.	Travel	02								
11.	Contractual	03		1.4						
12.	Commodities	04								
13.	Equipment	05		7.0						
14.	Other									
15.	TOTAL COST			40.0						
	RECEIPT CODE	FUNDING SOURCE								
16.		Federal Receipts	1002							
17.		G.F. Match	1003							
18.		General Funds	1004	40.0						
19.		I-A Receipts	1005							
20.		Program Receipts	1028							
21.		Other								
FOR B&M USE ONLY										
KEY NUMBER - - - - -										

REQUEST FOR
 NEW POSITION

AGENCY Office of the Governor
 BRU Commissions and Special Offices
 COMPONENT State Children's Citizen Review Panel

FY 91

Page 20 of 21
 Revised Date _____

1.	POSITION TITLE Clerk Typist III /				RANGE/STEP 8/A	BARG. UNIT	PAGE/LINE	COV.	APPROV.	DISAPP
2.	TYPE OF POSITION PFT	STAFF MONTHS 12	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	BRU PRIORITY	LOCATION Bethel/	ELECTION DISTRICT	LEG.		
3.	CONTINUATION LEVEL				JUSTIFICATION: Nome					
4.	TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT						
	1			2		3				
	PERSONAL SERVICES									
5.	Salary		25,740							
6.	Benefits		10,282							
7.	Supplemental Benefits									
8.	Fixed Benefits									
9.	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES		01		36.0					
10.	Travel		02							
11.	Contractual		03		1.8					
12.	Commodities		04							
13.	Equipment		05		7.0					
14.	Other									
15.	TOTAL COST				44.8					
	RECEIPT CODE	FUNDING SOURCE								
16.		Federal Receipts 1002								
17.		G.F. Match 1003								
18.		General Funds 1004			44.8					
19.		I-A Receipts 1005								
20.		Program Receipts 1028								
21.		Other								
FOR B&M USE ONLY KEY NUMBER - - - - -										

One each Bethel and Nome Regional offices
 Clerical and typing support for the CFCRP Assistants and Coordinators. Maintain files, typing needs of assistants and coordinator, photocopy and compile case files at various agencies related to cases subject to review.

REQUEST FOR
 NEW POSITION

AGENCY Office of the Governor

BRU Commissions and Special Offices

COMPONENT State Children's Citizen Review Panel

FY 91

Page 21 of 21
 Revised Date _____

STATE OF ALASKA
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: CSHB 19 (HESS)
 Publish Date: HOUSE 1/24/90

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date:	Agency Affected:	<u>Alaska Court System</u>
Title: <u>An Act relating to citizen review panels for certain children</u>	BRU:	<u>Trial Courts</u>
Sponsor: <u>Collins, Gruenberg, Ulmer, et al</u>	Components:	
Requester:		

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95
Personal Services		18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0

CAPITAL						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

General Funds	0.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0
Federal Funds						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0

POSITIONS:

Full-time						
Part-time		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See attached analysis

Prepared by: Robert G. Fisher, Manager, Fiscal Operations
 Division: Alaska Court System
 Approved by: Arthur H. Snowden, II, Administrative Director
 Agency: Alaska Court System

Phone: 284-8228
 Date: 01/12/90
 Date: 01/12/90

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

Alaska Court System

CS HB 19

Fiscal Analysis

Personal Services

	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pro tem superior court judge, PPT, 6 months	\$9,663	\$8,287	<u>\$17,950</u>

The court's preliminary analysis of this legislation indicates the 18-month review requirements will result in additional hearings. It is estimated that a half-time, permanent part-time, superior court judge will be required. The funding will be used to hire retired superior court judges in each judicial district impacted by this legislation.

The court will provide additional analysis of this legislation.

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: DHSS
 Title Review Panels for children in
Foster Care BRU: _____
 Sponsor: Collins and Gruenberg Components: _____
 Requestor: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
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-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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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	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Will Be ZERO For 1990

Prepared by: Russell Webb Phone: 465-3170
 Division: Family & Youth Services Date: _____
 Approved by Commissioner: Myra M. Munson
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services Date: Jan 15, 1990

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