

H C R

15

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FURTHER

FIN

4/20/89

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE

5/5/89

Mr. President:

HESS

Committee considered

CSHCR 15 (FIN)

citizen review boards for the foster care system

and recommended

- replace with _____ CS _____) same title
- or adopt _____ CS _____) new title
- attached amendment(s) and technical title change (HB only)
- _____ letter of intent adopted

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

FISCAL NOTE(S) zero fiscal impact appropriation no FN

new updated previous

same as previous fiscal note(s) published _____

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Loggins

Be Adams

Tim Kelly

Paul Frick (Do Pass)
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup attached

STATE OF ALASKA
1989 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: HCR
PUBLISH DATE: _____

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 3/31/89
Title: Relating to citizen review boards for foster care system.
Sponsor: HESS Committee
Requestor: HESS Committee

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

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL		0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL		77.5	80.6	83.8	87.1	90.5
SUPPLIES		0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT		0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	77.5	80.6	83.8	87.1	90.5

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

REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	77.5	80.6	83.8	87.1	90.5
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	77.5	80.6	83.8	87.1	90.5

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See Attached

Brant McGee

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

Phone: 274-1684
Date: 3/31/89

Approved by Commissioner: John Andrews
Agency: Department of Administration

Date: 3/31/89

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

CONTINUATION of FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

For Bill/Resolution No. HCR 15

This resolution will allow the Office of Public Advocacy to continue the Foster Care Review Board demonstration project in Anchorage which was previously funded through a private grant. This fiscal note will allow half of the children in foster care in Anchorage to receive reviews by the citizen Review Board.

<u>Personal Services</u>	\$ 0
<u>Travel</u>	0
<u>Contractual</u>	
Non-attorney contract position. \$25.00/hr X 40-hrs per week X 52 weeks = \$52,000.	52.0
Contract clerical support. \$10.00/hr X 40 hrs per week X 52 week = \$20,800.	20.8
Xeroxing (reimburseable copy charges) \$350.00 per mo. X 12 mos. = \$4,200.	4.2
Postage (reimburseable) \$500.00 per yr.	<u>.5</u>
TOTAL-----	\$77.5



Alaska Foster Parents Association

P. O. BOX 140651 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508



**POSITION PAPER
HCR 15
CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS**

The Alaska Foster Parent Association supports this measure only in lieu of passage of HB 19, Foster Care Review Boards.

The demonstration project in Ketchikan was funded by legislative appropriation in 1985. It has yet to hear its first review. The reason appears to be that impediments were implaced by an agency of the administration. In the meantime, an extremely valuable system of oversight has been denied to the client population receiving services from Health and Social Services.

It is our position that the greatest lesson we will learn from the pilot projects in Anchorage and Ketchikan is that we should have created a system of citizen review far earlier and that, since we have not, now is the time to do it.

We urge the passage of HB 19. Failing that, we will support this measure to keep the pilot projects alive while we continue to work toward a state-wide system of citizen foster care review, which provides quality assurance in the activities of the state dealing with children in state custody.

Miriam Sumner
President

Frank H. Wasmer
Vice President



Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

REPRESENTATIVE VIRGINIA COLLINS
District 10-B

Session:
P.O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-2828
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3111 C Street, Suite 412
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 561-2040

APR 24 1989

April 18, 1989

Senator Paul Fischer, Chair
Senate HESS Committee
Capitol, Room 508
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: HCR 15, relating to citizen review boards for the
foster care system

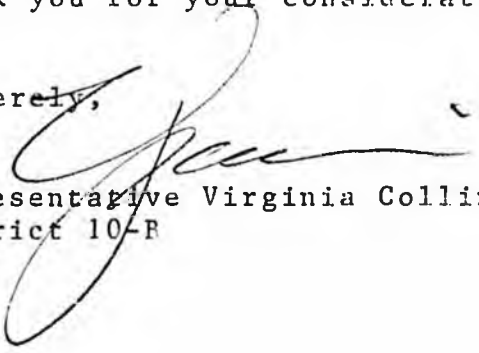
Dear Senator Fischer,

HCR 15 passed the House by a unanimous vote today. I feel this is an important piece of legislation since it continues funding for the one-year pilot projects in Anchorage and Ketchikan for another year. These citizen review panels provide the only mechanism for an objective review of children in the system. Because of these panels, children are less likely to be left to languish in the system, and problems are identified in a timely manner. Panels gather data which can help us to improve the way children in state custody are handled. This is a necessary piece of legislation this session.

I urge you to support this and to consider timely passage out of your committee. If you have any questions regarding this, I would be most happy to talk to you about it.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Representative Virginia Collins
District 10-B

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



P.O. BOX V, JUNEAU 99811
(907) 465-3759

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Paul Fischer, Chair, Senate HESS Committee
FROM: Rep. Johnny Ellis, Chair, House HESS Committee *JE*
RE: HCR 15
DATE: April 24, 1989

I would greatly appreciate if you could schedule House Concurrent Resolution 15 for a hearing in the Senate HESS Committee at your earliest possible convenience.

HCR 15 is a resolution sponsored by the House HESS Committee which explains the value of independent citizen panels to review the placement plans of abused and neglected children placed in state custody; describes the demonstration review panels now being conducted in Anchorage and Ketchikan; requests the legislature to continue the demonstration projects; and encourages the establishment of a permanent, statewide citizen review board.

This resolution is accompanied by a fiscal note which will enable the continuation of the demonstration project in Anchorage for another year.

HCR 15 was drafted in response to an interim HESS Committee project on foster care issues. It is one of several legislative measures being promoted by this committee to improve the lives of children in state custody. HCR 15 passed the House by a vote of 33 to 2.

Thank you very much.



Alaska Foster Parents Association

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We urge the passage of HB 19. Failing that, we will support this measure to keep the pilot projects alive while we continue to work toward a state-wide system of citizen foster care review, which provides quality assurance in the activities of the state dealing with children in state custody.

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HCR 15
By the House HESS Committee

Distributed by Rep. Ellis

WHAT DOES HCR 15 ACCOMPLISH?

HCR 15 is a legislative endorsement of the demonstration citizen foster care review boards currently operating in Ketchikan and Anchorage. It is accompanied with a fiscal note to continue the project in Anchorage.

WHAT ARE CITIZEN FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS?

Children placed in state custody, most often due to abuse and neglect, are temporarily placed in foster homes until they can be reunited with their families or placed in another permanent home. The state is required to have a plan for the permanent placement of these children. Citizen review boards provide oversight to insure that a plan is developed and followed, and that the system is operating in the best interests of the child.

WHAT ARE THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS?

Alaska currently does not have a citizen review system as do several other states. The demonstration projects will provide meaningful data for the implementation of a review system in Alaska. The funding will continue the demonstration project in Anchorage for one additional year. The Ketchikan project will be funded from a previous year's legislative appropriation.

Summary

ANCHORAGE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDOVERVIEW

March 4, 1989

In early 1988, the Office of Public Advocacy received a \$24,200.00 grant from the National Association of Foster Care Reviewers and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation to implement an early Foster Care Review project. Along with three other sites in the country, the Anchorage Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) was funded to demonstrate the impact of very early review of children in foster care.

Traditionally, case reviews have occurred, at the earliest, at 6 months after the child's case has been opened. In Anchorage a random selection of new Child In Need of Aid (CINA) case are reviewed one month, and again at three months, after the children have entered foster care. The focus of these reviews is on the efforts of the social worker, guardian ad litem, and Court to both prevent the foster home placement and to promote family reunification and/or an alternate permanent home for the child.

The Anchorage FCRB is guided by a Task Force consisting of staff from the Court, the Office of Public Advocacy (OPA), the Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS), the Attorney General's Office, the Municipality of Anchorage, and the private human services and legal community. This Task Force has developed policies and procedures, assisted in the training of Board volunteers which were drawn from the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program at the Office of Public Advocacy, and continues to revise and develop the project.

Presently, the Board meets monthly to review cases. Complete case histories, written by staff following a thorough analysis of the child's Court, OPA, and DFYS files, are distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting. The Board members review approximately ten cases per month. They discuss the case in depth and formulate a report of their concerns and recommendations. This report is subsequently distributed to the parties in the case.

Since August 1988, 65 children's cases have been reviewed by the Board in Anchorage. This represents approximately one-third of all new CINA cases opened in Anchorage during this time period. In addition to making case-specific reports, the Anchorage FCRB is collecting data to identify strengths and limitations of the Anchorage child welfare system.

The grant for this demonstration project ends June 10, 1989. Neither the Clark Foundation or the National Association of Foster Care Reviewers will be providing continuation funding. Other sources of revenue have not been found for the project. HCR 15 will allow for the continuation and partial expansion of the Anchorage FCRB so that in FY 91 the project will be able to review approximately half of the children in foster care in this community.

MODELS OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW

CITIZEN REVIEW

ADMINISTRATIVE
INTERNAL AGENCY
REVIEW

JUDICIAL REVIEW

CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS

3-5 Volunteers per panel;
most states also have a
state Advisory Committee
that performs oversight and
advocacy functions.

1. Administered by the
State Supreme Court (AZ)

2. Administered on a
County by County basis
under direction of
presiding Juvenile Court
Judge. (Oklahoma, Ohio)

3. Administered by separate
state agency in Executive
Branch (Iowa, So. Carolina,
Nebraska)

4. Administered by State Social
Services Agency. (Maryland)

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

Relating to citizen review boards for the foster care system.

The Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS) within the Department of Health and Social Services has responsibility to develop, implement, and administer services for children who cannot remain in their own homes due to problems of abuse and neglect. One of the primary services needed by these children is foster care to provide a nurturing environment through a family setting. Providing quality services to children, their natural family, and their foster family is of the greatest concern not only to state agencies mandated to provide service, but is also of the greatest concern to the broader "community" of each city and village in Alaska. The quality of service provided to children is indicative of the quality of life in a community. Developing Citizen Review Boards is one way for community members to be directly and positively involved in providing and improving the quality of service available to children and their families.

DFYS is in support of HCR No. 15, and has signed an agreement with the Anchorage and Ketchikan Demonstration projects to coordinate efforts in exploring different methods for reviewing the needs of children in foster care. Each of these projects has goals to improve the care of individual children as well as goals for improving the systems which determine program and service availability to children and families.

In Anchorage the purpose of the project is to provide an early review of children in foster care by examining the efforts of the professionals regarding family preservation and reunification. The project will specifically consider the "reasonable efforts" requirements of P.L. 96-272 in its review of each child's case. The project will also provide a vehicle for substantive research regarding the strengths and limitations of the present child protection services system.

The review panel makes recommendations regarding what the Division can do to assure early reunification; what the Division could have done to prevent the initial removal of the child from the home; and what services need to be available to accomplish the recommendations. This project also reviews the work completed by the attorneys involved in the case; the guardian-ad-litem; the court; and other aspects of services which would be relevant to the child's welfare.

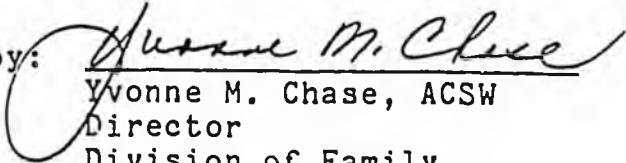
In addition to providing oversight and concrete recommendations for individual children, the project will also be collecting information which will be extremely useful for human service agencies in planning. By documenting what

services are available and what services need to be available for a child to remain safely in their home, the project will be able to provide the service community, the public, and the various governmental agencies with the data needed for planning and directing human service growth and improvements in Anchorage.

The purpose of the Ketchikan project is more closely related to the planning for the individual child. The project goal is to facilitate a permanent home for every child reviewed by the project panel. The panel will make specific recommendations with time frames for completion of each task necessary for implementing the permanent plan for an individual child. Reviews will be conducted once every six months for those children who have resided in foster care for more than six months. The purpose of the review will be to determine what efforts have been made by the Division and any other related agents or agencies to carry out a plan for the permanent placement of each child.

The Division's current review system is comprised of panels in each field office location which meet the requirements of P.L. 96-272. These projects in Anchorage and Ketchikan will demonstrate the pros and cons of external review as compared to the current internal administrative review system. The projects will provide critical information for the continued development of the case review system. Most importantly, these two projects are providing invaluable information and planning for individual children and for the service communities.


Recommended by:


Yvonne M. Chase, ACSW
Director
Division of Family
and Youth Services

Date:

3/7/89

Approved by:


Myra M. Munson
Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services

Date:

March 7, 1989