

**2/10/11
PRESENTATIONS :
ALASKA' S
CITIZEN REVIEW
PANEL & ALASKA
CHILDREN' S
ALLIANCE UPDATE
ON CAC' S**

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>2-10-11 PRESENTATIONS
ALASKA'S CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL and ALASKA CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE UPDATE ON
CAC'S</SUBJECT><COMM>HHSS27</COMM></TARGET>

Alaska's Citizen Review Panel



Citizen Review Panel: Who

- The CRP is composed of volunteer members who are broadly representative of the state, including members who have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.
- Susan Heuer, Anchorage (Chair)
- Bonnie Edmondson, North Pole
- Dana Hallett, Haines
- Kristin Hull, Wasilla
- George Kirchner, Fairbanks
- Ralph Taylor, Eagle River
- Fred Van Wallinga, Willow



Citizen Review Panel: What

To provide oversight to the Office of Children's Services and gather public input on how well the child protection system is working. The Panel does this primarily by visiting different regions of the state and talking to OCS staff and partner agencies about how well the system is working. The Panel produces an annual report for OCS which is also distributed to all members of Legislature.



Citizen Review Panel: Where

Statewide! Since 2008 we're been to the following communities.

- Anchorage
- Aniak
- Barrow
- Bethel
- Cantwell
- Chitina
- Copper Center
- Delta Junction
- Dillingham
- Fairbanks
- Gakona
- Glennallen
- Healy
- Hooper Bay
- Juneau
- Kenny Lake
- Ketchikan
- King Salmon
- Kodiak
- Kwigillingok
- Naknek
- Northway
- Nuquisut
- Palmer
- Petersburg
- Point Hope
- Saint Mary's
- Sitka
- Tok
- Unalaska
- Valdez
- Wainwright
- Wasilla
- Wrangell



Citizen Review Panel: When

The Panel has been active in Alaska since 2002.



Citizen Review Panel: Why

The Citizen Review Panel is mandated by state and federal law. The Panel was created through the federal Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (CAPTA); Keeping Children & Families Safe Act of 2003 and through Alaska statute Sec. 47.14.205.



Benefits of CRP

- Seven volunteer members all contributing a minimum of 250 active hours annually
- We're the eyes and ears of the public for the Legislature and OCS
- Unique function of identifying and advocating for ancillary services that OCS cannot request
- Jointly we can achieve a vastly improved child protection system for the children of Alaska



Overview of presentation

- Last year's recommendations
- OCS' response
- This year's site reviews
- This year's recommendations



CRP recommendations from our work last year

Recommendations to OCS

1. The discrepancy between rural, bush and urban child protection be acknowledged and addressed.



CRP recommendations from our work last year

Recommendations to OCS

2. OCS front line workers have adequate support staff to allow them to focus on social work, not paperwork.



CRP recommendations from our work last year

Recommendations to OCS

3. Training for new OCS workers be modified to better reflect the on-the-ground reality of the job.



CRP recommendations from our work last year

Recommendations to the Legislature

1. The discrepancy between rural, bush and urban child protection be acknowledged and addressed.



CRP recommendations from our work last year

Recommendations to the Legislature

2. Fiscal responsibility for transportation of children to a child advocacy center be clarified.



CRP recommendations from our work last year

Recommendations to the Legislature

3. That a capital budget be formed to fund housing and facility work for OCS and its workers.



CRP recommendations from our work last year

Recommendations to the Legislature

4. That the State standardize resources available to all state agencies (internet, housing).



OCS Response to CRP Recommendations

1. Discrepancy of child protective services between urban and rural areas
 - "Safety is safety" regardless of location - same expectations, resources have been allocated to accomplish this
 - Acknowledged staff retention problems as a barrier - used staff from other areas when local staff could not be hired



OCS Response to CRP Recommendations

2. Lack of adequate support staff

- Request updated workload study to determine additional staff requirements and what could be picked up by support staff
- Undertaking in-house data study to examine caseload and resource distribution within the state
- Commission a study to determine the best ratio of support staff to social workers



OCS Response to CRP **Recommendations**

3. Training for new workers

- Updated training curriculum
- Created supervisory strategic plan



CRP: This year's report card

- Overall, OCS doing a good job addressing the most pressing agency-wide issues
- It is a huge, ponderous, bureaucratic agency with a very challenging mission
- They are working hard to comply with the requirements from the federal Program Improvement Plan
- Those changes are reflected in better child protection policies and evolving practices



Visited Bethel & Wasilla

- Our mandate is to collect input from recipients of child protection services - families, foster families, community partners - and let legislature know what the grass roots perception is.
- This year we did that through two site visits.
 - Bethel and four surrounding villages
 - Wasilla, Palmer and Glennallen
- In May, Bethel was at a critical place because of staffing and administrative issues. The Western Region was funded and it is slowly becoming a reality. Staff recruitment and retention remains the biggest barrier.
- We did two site visits to Wasilla in August and December. Wasilla continues to struggle with its own unique set of challenges.



Site Visit Feedback on the Impact of Poor Worker Retention

- Our overall impression from the visiting communities is that the worker retention problem continues to affect child protection delivery and frustrate families and affiliated community agencies that partner with OCS.
- The shortage of workers in the field has been exacerbated due to vacancies and new workers out for training.
- There is a problem retaining experienced workers.
- There are continued complaints about lack of basic social work - returning phone calls, scheduling family visits, etc.
- There are frustrations in the court system because of continuances, late reports, detrimental court rulings, and children remaining in custody for too long.



2011 CRP Recommendations

1. Staff retention and allocation

- Support OCS's efforts to evaluate staff ratios - PCN locations, social worker workload ratios, and ratios for social worker/support staff
- Resources are scarce; they need to be spent as effectively as possible (e.g. not paying social workers to transport children, etc.)
- Once the studies are completed, OCS will need financial support to implement the recommendations.



2011 CRP

Recommendations

2. We renew our request from last year for legislative changes to standardize resources between state agencies
 - The Internet connection speed has certainly improved in the Bethel region, but needs to be on par with the Troopers, schools, etc. in other areas.
 - Housing is critical to retain staff in rural areas. No matter how excellent the policies and practices of OCS are, they will fail without staff to implement them.



2011 CRP Recommendations

3. External audit of Wasilla office
 - We support an external audit of the Wasilla OCS office
 - Should find opportunities to be more efficient; examine why cases stay open so long
 - There are staffing dynamics that are not successful, the audit will look for ways to resolve the problems



Most importantly

There is a widespread and consistent impression that the safety of children in Alaska remains compromised and is getting worse. This impression comes first and foremost from the line workers themselves in both regions. Community partners echoed this concern.

Alaska does not want to be a state that will not make changes until a child dies.



Alaska's Citizen Review Panel



For more
information,
please visit our
website
www.crpalaska.org



Alaska Children's Alliance Update on CACs 2011

- ▣ **Pam Karalunas**
Chapter Coordinator, Alaska Children's Alliance
- ▣ **Brian Messing**
Program Manager, S.A.F.E. CAC – Juneau
- ▣ **Jessica Lawmaster**
Program Manager – Kenai Peninsula CACs


Alaska Children's Alliance



The mission of the Alaska Children's Alliance is to promote a culturally appropriate multidisciplinary response to child maltreatment throughout Alaska

ACA - State Chapter of National Children's Alliance which:

- ▣ Sets minimum standards for CACs
- ▣ Sets minimum standards for State Chapters
- ▣ Provides
 - ▣ Limited funding for Chapters
 - ▣ Support, Training and Technical Assistance
 - ▣ National recognition
 - ▣ Accreditation



Alaska Children's Alliance provides:

- ▣ **Technical assistance & support to existing and developing:**
 - ▣ Children's Advocacy Centers
 - ▣ Multidisciplinary Teams
 - ▣ Child Protection Teams
- ▣ **State representation at the regional and national levels**
- ▣ **Limited funding through national grants**

Alaska Children's Alliance provides:

- ▣ **Statewide Projects to enhance services**
 - ▣ TeleCam Medical Peer Review & Consultation – based at CARES
 - ▣ Biennial Alaska Child Maltreatment Conference
 - ▣ Forensic Photography Equipment & Medical Training for each CAC
- ▣ **Coordination of statewide efforts**
 - ▣ Data Collection in collaboration w/CJA & SCAN (Suspected Child Abuse & Neglect)
 - ▣ Statewide protocols to ensure high & consistent level of service

Alaska Children's Alliance provides:

- ▣ **Development of Alaska specific projects**
 - ▣ Pilot Project: *Honoring, Protecting & Nurturing Our Children* Community Outreach Project
 - ▣ Specialized training for natural support people in villages served by CACs (in development in collaboration with Western Region CAC)
 - ▣ Training for Tribal entities on use of Child Advocacy Centers in their Regions (in development)
 - ▣ Training on development of satellite CACs (in development in collaboration with Western Region CAC)

Alaskan Child Advocacy Centers

- ▣ Anchorage – Alaska C.A.R.E.S.
- ▣ Bethel – TWC The Children's Center
- ▣ Copper River Basin – Copper River Basin CAC
- ▣ Dillingham – Nitaput Child Advocacy Center
- ▣ Fairbanks – RCPC Stevie's Place
- ▣ Kenai Peninsula – Kenai Peninsula CAC
- ▣ Juneau – S.A.F.E. CAC
- ▣ Kodiak–Kodiak Area Native Assoc. CAC – *Developing*
- ▣ Mat-Su – The Children's Place
- ▣ Nome – Kawerak CAC

Anchorage:



Est. 1996
served 8,854 children through FY10

- ▣ A program of the Children's Hospital at Providence
- ▣ Co-located with state & local law enforcement, OCS
- ▣ Part time mental health services on-site
- ▣ Alaska Native Unit on-site
- ▣ Serves children 0-18
- ▣ Re-accredited by National Children's Alliance
- ▣ Serves 27 communities

Bethel:



Est. 2001
served 1,063 children through FY10

- ▣ A program of the Tundra Women's Coalition
- ▣ Yupik name: "Irniamta Ikkayurviat"
- ▣ Recently moved to a new building funded by the State of Alaska, the Rasmuson Foundation & the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation
- ▣ Serves children 0-18
- ▣ Serves 35 communities

Copper River Basin



Est. 2009
served children 29 through FY10

- ▣ Independent non-profit
- ▣ Housed in a recently closed rural school
- ▣ Co-located with OCS
- ▣ Serves children 0-18
- ▣ Serves 17 communities
- ▣ Have Polycom capabilities for mental health services

Dillingham:



Est. 2003
served 222 children through FY10

- ▣ A program of Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
- ▣ "Nitaput" – We hear them
- ▣ Serves children 0-18
- ▣ Serves 32 communities

Fairbanks:



Est. 2003
served 1,105 children through FY10

- ▣ A program of Resource Center for Parents & Children
- ▣ Co-located with the ABI Crimes Against Children Unit
- ▣ Serves children 0-18
- ▣ Serves 83 communities
- ▣ Community Care contract with Fairbanks Memorial Hospital to provide services on-site at Stevie's Place
- ▣ Community presentations done by MDT

Juneau:



Est. 2001
served 1,047 children through FY10

- ▣ A program of Catholic Community Services
- ▣ S.A.F.E. – Southeast Alaska Family Evaluation
- ▣ Accredited by National Children's Alliance
- ▣ Serves children 0-18
- ▣ Serves 19 communities

Kenai Peninsula:



Est. 2008
served 210 children through FY10

- ▣ A program of South Peninsula Haven House, Homer
- ▣ Satellite CAC in Kenai is co-located with the Sexual Assault Response Team in the Health Center
- ▣ Satellite CAC developing in Seward
- ▣ Serves 30 communities with 3 locations

Kodiak:



Developing – to open in 2011

- ▣ A program of Kodiak Area Native Association

Mat-Su:



Est. 1999
served 1,678 children through FY10

- ▣ Independent non-profit
- ▣ Recently expanded building to co-locate Alaska State Troopers ABI Child Abuse Investigation Unit
- ▣ Serves children 0-18
- ▣ Re-accredited by National Children's Alliance
- ▣ Serves 11 communities

Nome:



Est. 2002
served 219 children through FY10

- ▣ A program of Kawerak Native Association
- ▣ "annaktuq" – is sheltered, is safe
- ▣ Serves children 0-18
- ▣ 3 CAC Educators fly to villages in the Region to provide education on child sexual abuse and support services to victims
- ▣ Serves 17 communities

Child Advocacy Centers provide:

- ▣ **A child and family friendly environment for coordination of investigative process in child abuse cases, specifically child sexual abuse**



"nice people, cozy, homey, - I felt safe here"

Child Advocacy Centers provide:

Specialized Forensic Interview



"They said I'm not in trouble and I did do the right thing on telling someone what my uncle was doing."

Child Advocacy Centers provide:

Multidisciplinary response/investigation reduces duplicative interviews



MDT "Watching Room"

The best part was:

- "Telling what my dad did to us."

- "Talking to people I trust and that care for me."

Child Advocacy Centers provide:

Specialized, Non-traumatic Medical Exam



"My favorite part (of being at the CAC) was finding out my body is OK"

Child Advocacy Centers provide:

On-going support and follow up for family throughout the system process and beyond



"Everything was well explained-you guys are doing a great job. Thank you."

"I am happy there is such a place as the CAC, for me as a child I did not have anyone or anywhere to go for my experience."

Child Advocacy Centers provide:

Culturally competent services

"I am so thankful for this place, where my grandchild is safe to talk to familiar people in a familiar language."

"Thank you so much for your help in the start of our long battle."



Child Advocacy Centers provide:

- Collaboration with mental health services for earlier response to referrals
- Identification of risks and assessment of needs of child and family and referrals to address those issues



"(The CAC) added to our healing. They didn't add to our hurt."

Child Advocacy Centers provide:



- ▣ **Case review:**
 - ▣ to ensure the well-being of the children and family
 - ▣ to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the MDT

Child Advocacy Centers provide:



- ▣ **Case Tracking**
 - ▣ CACs in Alaska use a uniform data collection system, NCATrak
 - ▣ Provides essential demographics, case information & investigation outcomes
 - ▣ Useful for program evaluation

"All the caring personalities was very comforting. Everyone kept us apprised of what was happening and were giving us very helpful information. It was nice to be treated so respectfully and I think everyone here helped my daughter find a little peace in this temble situation."

Child Advocacy Centers provide:

Community Awareness, Education, Outreach:

- ♥ presentations
- ♥ Classes
- ♥ Radio shows, interviews, etc



Did you know?

- ▣ **History of child sexual abuse is linked with increased risk for:**
 - ▣ alcoholism and alcohol abuse
 - ▣ suicide attempts
 - ▣ intimate partner violence
 - ▣ chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 - ▣ depression
 - ▣ fetal death
 - ▣ illicit drug use
 - ▣ ischemic heart disease
 - ▣ liver disease
 - ▣ multiple sexual partners
 - ▣ sexually transmitted diseases
 - ▣ smoking
 - ▣ unintended pregnancies

Did you know?

- ▣ 2007 Study of the Economic Impact of Child Abuse by Prevent Child Abuse America and funded by the Pew Charitable Trust conservatively estimates the annual cost of child abuse in the US as **\$103.8 billion**

Why the CAC Model? Cost

▣ NCAC Cost-Benefit Analysis

- ▣ Per Case – traditional investigations were 36% more expensive than CAC investigation. Average cost: \$2,902 compared to \$ 3,949, more than \$1,000 savings per case.



Why the CAC Model? Prosecution Timelines

How long to prosecute child sexual abuse for a community using a CAC and two comparison communities? Walsh, W.A., Lippert, T., Cross, T.E., Maurice, D.M., & Davison, K.S. (2008) *Child Maltreatment*, 13(1), 3-13

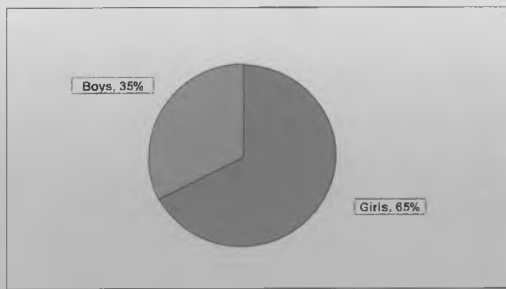
- ❑ **Charging decision in child sexual abuse cases:**
Cases seen at the CAC had a significantly faster charging decision
- ❑ **Case Resolution Time**
 - CAC 20% were resolved within 180 days
 - Comparison 30% took more than two years after indictment or were still pending

Why the CAC Model?

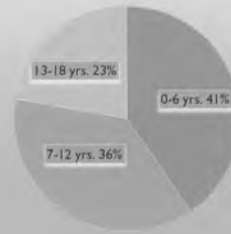
OUR CHILDREN DESERVE NOTHING LESS!

Research suggests that one in four girls and one in seven boys will be the victim of some type of sexual abuse/assault before age 18

Gender of children seen at Alaska CACs in FY10



Ages of children seen at Alaska CACs in FY10



Numbers of children served

Location of CAC & year opened	# of communities	FY 05	FY06	FY 07	FY08	FY 09	FY10	Total seen since open
Anchorage 96	27	601	756	740	921	823	837	8,854
Bethel 01	35	131	161	137	184	121	128	1,063
Copper River Basin 09	17					12	17	29
Dillingham 03	32	15	28	40	45	28	40	222
Fairbanks 03	83	126	163	140	142	213	225	1,105
Juneau 01	19	102	89	100	90	87	99	1,047
Kenai Peninsula 08	30				37	47	126	210
Mat-Su 99	11	142	98	152	145	167	199	1,678
Nome 02	17	16	37	24	23	29	23	219
TOTALS	271	1,133	1,332	1,333	1,587	1,527	1,694	14,427

HELP!

The number of children seen at CACs in Alaska has increased by 49.5% over the last six years – the funding for the CACs has not increased!

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING
US MAKE ALASKA A
SAFER PLACE FOR
CHILDREN!**

