

**OVERVIEW
ALASKA'S
CITIZEN
REVIEW
PANEL**

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REVIEW PANEL</SUBJECT><COMM>SHSS27</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
- Jeanne Evans, Bethel
- Dana Hallett, Haines
- Pat Hefley, Juneau
- Kristin Hull, Wasilla
- Steve McComb, Palmer
- Stella Schuchardt, Fairbanks



Citizen Review Panel: What

To provide oversight to the Office of Children's Services and gather public input on how well child protection is being delivered statewide. 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've been to the following communities.

- Anchorage
- Aniak
- Barrow
- Bethel
- Cantwell
- Chitina
- Copper Center
- Delta Junction
- Dillingham
- Fairbanks
- Gakona
- Glennallen
- Healy
- Hooper Bay
- Juneau
- Kenai
- Kenny Lake
- Ketchikan
- King Salmon
- Kodiak
- Kwigillingok
- Naknek
- Northway
- Nuqisut
- Palmer
- Petersburg
- Point Hope
- Saint Mary's
- Sitka
- Soldotna
- 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

- Eight 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



Issues CRP is monitoring

- Wasilla: Director Lawton is closely monitoring, Judges see improvement
- Bethel: Nearly fully staffed, we are returning next month
- In-home safety: struggling to acquire data to determine safety of children in-home



2012 CRP Recommendations to OCS

1. That OCS use the data they are collecting as a management tool.



2012 CRP Recommendations to OCS

2. When a report of harm is screened in for safety issues and a decision is made to work with the family and keep the child at home, OCS should evaluate the timeliness and effectiveness of referrals and services to ensure the safety of children receiving "in-home" services.



2012 CRP Recommendations to OCS

3. That OCS address
licensing issues.



CRP Recommendations to the Legislature

- That options be explored to obtain housing for OCS rural workers.
- That there be support for more licensing workers and support staff, pending the upcoming workload study.
- That there be support for an additional OPA CINA attorney in the Palmer office to continue recent court improvements.



Alaska's Citizen Review Panel



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



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The Alaska Children's Alliance



"Let us pray and work diligently,
and not take our ease,
until every Alaskan child
is safe, loved, and nurtured
every day of his or her life."

~ Senator Fred Dyson



A Chapter of the National Children's Alliance



What is the Alaska Children's Alliance?

The Alaska Children's Alliance (ACA) is a non-profit coalition of established and developing children's advocacy centers (CAC's), multi-disciplinary teams (MDT's), and child protection teams (CPT's) dedicated to improving community responses to child maltreatment.

ACA is a state chapter of the National Children's Alliance (NCA). NCA is a non-profit accrediting organization that was developed to support and sustain the continued evolution of the CAC model. NCA provided Chapter Grant funding for the development of ACA and its publications, such as this brochure.

The Mission of the 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.

What is a Children's Advocacy Center?

A Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) provides a child-friendly environment that allows law enforcement, child protection workers, prosecutors, medical providers, victim/family advocacy, tribal representatives, and mental health providers to work together when there are allegations of child abuse. Referrals are accepted from the Office of Children's Services, law enforcement agencies (Alaska State Troopers, local police departments) and medical providers.

Why does Alaska need Children's Advocacy Centers?

- Alaska continues to have very high rates of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse
- Child maltreatment is strongly linked to juvenile and adult crime, teen pregnancy, alcohol & drug abuse, suicide, and future family violence
- Child maltreatment has also been shown to be major contributors to poor adult medical and mental health
- Studies show that the annual economic impact of child abuse is \$182,000 per maltreated child.
- Children are less fearful when investigations are conducted using CACs
- Parents & caregivers are more satisfied with the investigations when CACs are used

What happens at a Children's Advocacy Center?

- Comprehensive, multidisciplinary evaluation for child abuse concerns
- Specialized forensic interview in a child-oriented interview room which is video-taped and monitored by other members of the team
- Thorough, non-invasive medical exam by specially trained medical professionals
- Support, referrals, and follow up for children and families

Goals of CAC's, MDT's, & CPT's

- Assure that children are not further victimized by the systems designed to protect them
- Assure the child is safe
- Reduce the long term affects associated with trauma for the child and family
- Enhance and coordinate the investigation so that the accuracy of the concern is quickly and reliably determined
- Promote successful prosecution of criminal child abuse
- Encourage support and treatment for abused children and their families

