



Alaska Citizen Review Panel

Members

Diwakar K. Vadapalli, Chair
Dana Hallett, Vice-Chair
Margaret McWilliams
Bettyann Steciw
Jen Burkmire
Donna Aguiniga
Rebecca Vale
Joshua Stein

Staff

Information Insights
admin@crpalaska.org
www.crpalaska.org

Alaska Citizen Review Panel evaluates the policies, procedures, and practices of state and local child protection agencies for effectiveness in discharging their child protection responsibilities. The Panel is mandated through CAPTA 1997 (P.L. 104-235), and enacted through AS 47.14.205

Alaska Citizen Review Panel Tuesday, March 1, 2016 12-1 pm

Teleconference Summary

Attendance

<u>Meeting Chaired by:</u>	Diwakar Vadapalli
<u>Panel members In attendance:</u>	Bettyann Steciw; Dana Hallett (Vice Chair); Jen Burkmire; Joshua Stein; Rebecca Vale
<u>Panel Members Excused:</u>	Margaret McWilliams, Donna Aguiniga
<u>Staff:</u>	Brenda Holden, Information Insights
<u>Guests:</u>	Ben Creasy, past CRP Panel member

Approve December Minutes: Approved and ready to post.

Suggested additional agenda items – Scheduling a date for discussing work plan goals.

Update from the Chair

- Everything is on track for the OCS employee online survey, having it go live for two weeks in March.
- The CRP budget clarification continues to be pursued. Dana is communicating with Senator Coghill's staff, who is looking into whether CRP funding was a legislative appropriation or an allocation within HSS. Diwakar emailed people within DHSS. Diwakar will keep the CRP apprised of any further information and hopes to discuss this on the teleconference with OCS on March 8th. If no more money is available, it could limit site visits for the remainder of this year and eliminate travel to national conference.

- Diwakar is actively involved on the National Citizen Review Advisory Board and planning committee for the national conference in Phoenix in June, with hopes for Alaska to host the national conference in 2017. National webinars will be offered every other month to share expertise from experience. Diwakar will present a webinar on how Alaska CRP functions.
- Panel members are asked to email suggestions for June meeting and email suggestions. Dana suggested two foster parents (Anchorage and Juneau) or someone that BettyAnn could suggest such as Francine Eddy (Tlingit Haida); or perhaps someone from CIP.

Update on Goals from Panel Members

- Goal 1 – BettyAnn and Donna had nothing to update on at this point. Diwakar reported on action steps. There is a summary of OCS services from 2014 available online. 2nd action is done. Diwakar’s report from the Providers Conference will include relationships. CRP did not write an open letter, however OCS is aware of our desire to attend one of the tribal state meetings held in Juneau mid-February. Last action step: Diwakar had official meetings with them during the Providers Conference. Diwakar met with one during a site visit, but not around tribal state relationships. Information from documents OCS was shared on their work to improve relationships. Diwakar called into one of the quarterly meetings between OCS and CFSP. Christy Swanson, ICWA Director in Juneau shared a few documents following that discussion on OCS work with tribes. Diwakar did not post on website yet but will.
- Goal 2 – Jen and Rebecca want to have a discussion on all work plan goals, although this teleconference provides a good update. There needs to be a larger CRP group discussion involving all panel members’ opinions and ideas to develop a sustainable framework for any panel members in the future, including weaknesses, gaps and how all members can have meaningful participation. The operational guidelines do not reflect how the CRP operates. They want to develop a board recruitment matrix and create a dashboard to present this spring. (Only 3 of 8 CRP responded to request.) It was also noted that the quarterly meetings may be too few to keep all members updated on all fronts.
- Goal 3 – Margie and Dana are leads and have not done any work on aligning policy with practices yet. CRP now asks the Alaska Center for Resource Families to suggest 2 or 3 foster parents on each site visit, however this method is still not fool proof.



- Goal 4 may be extended a few years. The state has not rolled out the initiative process throughout the state nor filled two QA positions that would use the new guidelines.

Juneau Visit on hold

The House cancelled all hearings until a budget is approved. CRP should try to meet legislators during site visits and outside of the session. Dana met with Taneeka Hanson for Representative Paul Seaton. Dana identified the need to make intentional and targeted contacts in our individual presentations so all give consistent messages. Diwakar stated that all site visits reports go to House HSS committees. Representative Seaton sends those to representatives from the regions visited. Diwakar will keep the CRP informed as more information becomes available.

Public comment period – no public comment

Other topics:

Site visit suggestions:

- Dana shared his ideas regarding site visits in light of CRP's tighter budget. The 4x4x4 template may need to be reconsidered to make the CRP a leaner operation without losing quality, using the recent southeast site visit as an example where individual CRP members did credible interviews. There is merit to partner with those who have less experience for training purposes.
- CRP wants to look at tighter control on scheduling, including who to interview and length of interviews. 30 minutes for police seems sufficient, and need to decide whether to interview a front line cop or leadership. Other federal agencies we could also look at. State at the OCS regional office could have talked longer than 90 minutes. Speaking with CAC is important.
- Dana saw benefit of having the same CRP members visit a region two years in a row. The familiarity helped.
- Having CRP members in each region do the site visits in their own region may be strategic but does not work in all situations.
- Lessons learned by CRP members will be useful. Rebecca had lessons learned from ANC. Dana will have same for SE region.
- Next site visit on the schedule is southcentral. Diwakar has asked Ellen to give some budget numbers to see if this will be possible.



Tribal state affairs update:

- BettyAnn participates in teleconferences, such as a recent call on ICWA State strategic plan for 2016-2020. BettyAnn will share information as she gets permission to share. Considerable discussion time is spent on how to best handle communication with OCS.

Website update tasks: Dana's profile description is needed. Diwakar asked for documents to be organized by work year instead of calendar year.

